



## Francis Gary "Fran" Schaaf

November 6, 1934 - March 10, 2023

Francis Gary "Fran" Schaaf

88 of Hall County, passed away Friday, March 10, surrounded by his loving family.

Celebration of Fran's life will be 11:00 A.M. Friday, March 17 at Trinity United Methodist Church in the Sanctuary, with Rev. Kelly Karges officiating. Burial will be at the Grand Island City Cemetery with military honors conducted by U.S. Navy and United Veterans Honor Guard. Visitation will be 5:00-7:00 P.M. Thursday at All Faiths Funeral Home. Memorials are designated to Trinity United Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, or St.Jude Children's Hospital. Condolences may be left online at [www.giallfaiths.com](http://www.giallfaiths.com).

Francis, or "Fran" as he was known by most, was born on November 6, 1934, to Elmer J. and Ella Mae (Moore) Schaaf of Grand Island, NE. Fran attended Seedling Mile Elementary School for grades one through eight. As a freshman he entered Grand Island Senior High School. He was on the GISH football team and played the tuba in the marching band. During his senior year he was honored as, "Mr. Happy New Year" by his classmates and teachers when he was voted, "The Senior Boy of the Year" for Class of 1953.

Following graduation Fran enlisted for active duty military service in the United States Navy as a fixed wing flight engineer. He was stationed at Norfolk Naval Air Station, Virginia and was selected for special duty as a member of VR-22 for Admiral Jerauld Wright, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Commander and NATO Supreme Commander in the Atlantic. While serving under Adm. Wright, Fran

flew to many overseas locations to include the Mediterranean and European countries, as well as Cuba and other ports of call in the Caribbean and South America. Following his military service Fran's love of flying led him to pursue his private pilot license. He enjoyed taking his family on vacations in his plane. In 1960 Fran married his sweetheart Constance "Connie" Elizabeth (Sherrill) of Lexington, NE on May 29, 1960. Fran and Connie were blessed with the births of two healthy baby girls: Sherrill in 1961, and Sheila in 1963. One of Fran's many joys was teaching his girls the art of horsemanship, archery and shooting. He served as their 4-H Leader for the Trail Dusters Horse 4-H Club and enjoyed watching his girls compete at the Hall County Fair, the Nebraska State Fair and Ak-Sar-ben in western pleasure with their quarter horses. Fran's hobbies included: hunting, fishing, boating, and camping, as well as wood carving and remote control model airplanes and model trains. One of Fran's proudest legacies is continuing the tradition of farming in Hall County. He was the fourth generation to farm the family homestead, which was originally settled by his great grandfather, Heinrich Schaaf, one of Hall County's first permanent settlers who arrived on July 5, 1857. Fran is preceded in death by his parents and infant sister Betty Jean. He is survived by his wife of over 62 years, his two daughters, their spouses, and a granddaughter, Elizabeth Mae Yonkers. He also leaves behind a brother in-law, two sisters in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

# Cemetery Details

## Grand Island City Cemetery

Grand Island, NE

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home  
2929 S Locust St  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 398-2929  
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com  
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
511 N Elm St  
Grand Island, NE 68801-4599  
(308) 382-1952

## Burial

MAR 17 (CT)

Grand Island City Cemetery  
Grand Island, NE



# Tribute Wall



“ Francis Gary "Fran" Schaaf

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October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM

RT

“ I want to share a wonderful moment we had with Fran AND with his family. I did not know, when I was a child that we shared such a kindred spirit.

*I remember Fran, Connie, and their family stopping at our house with their pick-up, camper/boat on their adventures to amazing family memories . I was in awe. But, I was oblivious to depth and history of the relationships with my parents, and the depth of love these “adventures,” meant to his family.*

*On a side note, I do remember Fran, taking a moment to teach a young boy how a pick-up could pull both a camper and a boat. It was amazing. It also revealed the perceptive awareness of a man who recognized that the “younger” just needed a little more patience to understand as this boy asked those “dumb” questions. Sincerely, thank you.*

*Flash forward..., 2022. My oldest daughter and I were able to get reacquainted with “House Schaaf.” It was glorious and a blessing. Thank you Sherry. So, in your honor Franny, I am smoking some de-boned chicken thighs and, at the last (but perfect moment), I will add some “thumb-thick asparagus,” lightly doused with garlic, pepper, lemon, and Parmesan cheese, in YOUR honor. And, finally, I will make it my final mission to properly educate the state of Arizona of the glorious-ness of a “red beer.”*

*I wish one final hug from the 2nd son and 4th child of house “Twe,” to you as a welcome into paradise from the 2nd daughter and third child of house WmFayeVogel.” YOU have a special place in HER heart. Please give her a hug for me. May you rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon you. Until we meet again...,*

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**Rich Twehous** - March 17, 2023 at 01:01 AM

LB

“ *Lorraine Barnes lit a candle in memory of Francis Schaaf*



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**Lorraine Barnes** - March 16, 2023 at 01:43 PM

LB

“ *Connie and girls, Sorry to learn of Frans passing. I remember you when we met at the old West Lawn school when my children attended school. My daughter Michelle still remembers you as one of her wonderful teachers. I was at the program that was held at the Burlington Station by the Hall County Historical Association. I so enjoyed his talk. Learned many things about Harmony Hall. I wanted to talk to you that day, but the crowd had grown and as I walk with a cane ; I am aware there are things I can not due any more. Prayers for you and your family. Lorraine Barnes*

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**Lorraine Barnes** - March 16, 2023 at 01:42 PM

KB

“ Fran was my wife Lori's second dad coming to Grand Island and boarding her precious palamino Pedro on the Schaaf farm. Throughout high school and beyond riding Pedro along the Wood River near the farm brought her countless hours of pleasure due to the kindness of Fran and Connie.

It was all about 4-H for her with guidance throughout from Fran. When daughter Nikki needed a horse for poles and barrels the Schaafs had Joy who helped win many ribbons and trophies throughout the years.

Later in life Joy returned to the Schaafs providing many more years of riding experiences and 4-H shows.

Fran would stop in occasionally at Boughton Equipment on Highway 30 and my dad Floyd and I would share his contagious laugh as he told long drawn out hunting stories.

One of a kind does not describe this great man. Fran Schaaf was much more than that!!!

*Kent Boughton*

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**Kent Boughton** - March 16, 2023 at 01:36 PM

JB

*Schaaf Family,*

*I was sad to hear of the passing of Franny. I first met Franny when he was an Elk and then had the pleasure to get to know him better as we both worked at Aurora Coop. Franny would swing by my location to grab a cup of coffee and then some gab time. Eventually he would jump and tell us what he needed for product so he could be on his way. We both loved history and firearms so we would visit a lot about those subjects.*

*RIP my friend.*

*Jeremy M. Brandt*

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**Jeremy Brandt** - March 18, 2023 at 09:26 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Francis Gary "Fran" Schaaf.*



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March 16, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis Gary "Fran" Schaaf.*



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March 15, 2023 at 01:21 PM



“ *Roger Carol Mueller lit a candle in memory of Francis Schaaf*



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**Roger and Carol Mueller** - March 13, 2023 at 02:17 PM