



Karry A. Schurke

March 30, 1971 - November 8, 2019

Karry Allen Schurke was born March 30, 1971, in Carroll, Iowa, the son of Karen Schurke. He passed away Friday, November 8, 2019, at the age of forty-eight as the result of an automobile accident west of Schleswig, Iowa.

Karry was baptized into Christ May 2, 1971, at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, Iowa, and later confirmed his faith on March 31, 1985. He received his education in the Denison Community Schools and graduated from Denison High School with the class of 1989. He furthered his education at DMACC, Grantham University and through the military.

At the age of seventeen, Karry enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard and continued serving his country through his service in the National Guard, retiring in 2014 as a Master Sergeant. During his service, he was a recruiter, NCOIC and Operations Sergeant Major. He trained in several educational courses that include: Non Commissioned Officer Course, First Sergeant Course, Master Resilience Trainer Course, Pre-Command Course, Recruiting Course and the Commissioned Officer Course. Throughout his military career, Karry was decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal, Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Guard Recruiter Badge, and Career Counselor Badge. After completing his military career, Karry then began his six- year employment at Godbersen-Smith Construction Company in Ida Grove, where he was Human Resources and Safety Director.

Karry was united in marriage to Jennifer Campbell June 2, 1998, in Hawaii. The couple made their home in Denison and was blessed with the birth of twin daughters, Emma and Gracie. For Karry, it was all about family and his girls. He loved traveling, especially as a family, visiting such places as the Dominican Republic, New York City, Florida, Canada and Alaska. He was also able to travel to England and Panama with the Guard. Karry also enjoyed attending his daughters' school events. Sports played an important part in Karry's life as well. He enjoyed golf, bowling and NASCAR and watching the games on television. He was a fan of the Denver Broncos and Iowa State, holding season tickets for Iowa State

basketball. A friend to everyone, respectful but playful, Karry was a jokester and loved to "stir the pot".

Karry was preceded in death by his grandparents, Alvin and Emily and his father-in-law, Jerald. Survivors include: his wife, Jennifer; two daughters, Emma and Gracie; his mother, Karen and significant other, Bill; special uncles: Kenny, Al, Keith, Rick, Jerry and Mark; mother-in-law, Debbie; sister-in-law, Jessica and her husband, Jacob; two brothers-in-law, John, and David and his wife, Sarah; other relatives and friends.

Cemetery

Crawford Heights Memory Gardens

Denison, IA, 51442

Events

NOV 17 Visitation 04:00PM - 07:00PM
Huebner Funeral Home - Denison
1437 Broadway, Denison, IA, US, 51442

NOV 18 Memorial Service 10:30AM
Zion Lutheran Church
1004 1st Avenue South, Denison, IA, US, 51442

Comments



“ Not a day has gone by that I don't think about my friend. Sometimes I still look at my phone to see if I have a missed call from him. I first met Karry when I was probably like 7 years old as our families knew mutual people. When I joined the NG he was my squad leader and our relationship blossomed quickly. I read all of these stories and I realize that he wasn't just my best friend lol but he was so many other people's best friend as well. He had a way of having time for absolutely everyone. He has many many accomplishments but I know the what that he loves his mom, his wife Jen and Gracie and Emma were his greatest. I think Jen made him grow up so to speak lol and then the twins shaped him in to the man that he was. I miss Jen and the girls and Karen. Lol even though I hardly ever saw any of you he was always fast to tell me about each and every one of you. I could hear his glow and admiration through the phone when he spoke of the four of you. As good of friends as we were, I could barely even talk to him during football season. If the Cowboys were playing he was always fast to give score updates.... only if they were losing. Many times I had to block his number for a few days after a Cowboys loss. Lol he would have to do the same after a Broncos loss..... which were many. I miss you everyday "Schurk" Prayers to your four girls!!!

Jody Hayes - July 01 at 09:29 PM



“ I didn't know Schurke until I got in an argument in high school. Someone who just joined got in an argument with me and said he had the army behind him to back him up. Me not letting down I said I'd join the army too just so he could face me like a man. Low and behold that night I got a phone call from Schurke telling me he heard I wanted to join the army. Thought never really crossed my mind but just like any army recruiter he suckered me into joining... one of the best decisions in my life that wasn't really mine, but his. Since that day, we were great friends. Life, family, engagements, friends, drinking, vacations home, he had a piece of everything I did moving forward in life. He and Jen even drove 5+ hours to stop by my wedding for just an hour. He shaped my manhood in many more ways than one. A forever friend that even after 5 yrs of not chatting, we could pick right back up. The clouds above gained a true hero, and I'll hug I'm again soon.

Shaun Waldemer - December 07, 2019 at 02:36 AM



“ Shurke stated, when all of us returned from basic, he would buy us a keg. That was in 1996. Low down trick to get me in and stay for 20 years. When we meet again I'll get the keg brother. You instilled knowledge and gave all of us your friendship. We will pass on those gifts to others. Love and miss you dearly. CCO 1/168....

Paul Whitenack - November 18, 2019 at 02:29 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Todd Jacobus - November 17, 2019 at 10:57 PM



“ I am very saddened to know that a terrible accident claimed the life of Karry Schurke. Such a good person – gone way too soon, and leaving behind a wonderful family. Another reminder that life's not fair.

I met Karry when he was working as an Iowa Army National Guard Recruiter, and I worked as the Recruiting & Retention Battalion Commander. Then, I was able to work more closely with him when he was a Recruiting & Retention Area Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge, along with Mike Dieger, Matt Cooper, Joel Nastruz, Vince Wilson, Al Paulding, Paul David, and Dan Skirvin, and Gary Waters. Later, I was thrilled to see Karry selected to serve as the Recruiting & Retention Operations Sergeant Major. He was exactly the person whom the organization needed as the senior enlisted leader of the battalion – someone who was successful as both a Recruiter & Team Leader, someone who had an incredible work ethic, who led by example, had empathy, and exuded professionalism. That was Karry Schurke, and it was so nice to see him achieve the Sergeant Major position in the battalion.

Serving as a Recruiter is challenging. Those who have worked in this challenging environment know this better than anyone. I saw some really good recruiters NOT be successful leading a team of recruiters. Karry made the transition very well. The recruiters on his team were inspired to work hard and achieve mission because they knew that their boss worked harder than all of them. He demonstrated compassion for his team, and advocated aggressively for his recruiters when they earned his advocacy. I respected Karry greatly, and I know that Dave Wetzberger, Cyle Geertz, and Mike Dieger shared great respect for him, as well.

Karry Schurke seemed to do an outstanding job of balancing all aspects of his life, and all of the roles that he was expected to fulfill, including husband, father, family member, soldier, leader, etc. His retirement only a few short years ago no doubt provided him more time at home to spend with his family, and he had an outstanding opportunity to transition to a position in Human Resources and Safety, which sounded like a great fit. I was very happy for Karry and his family that this opportunity presented itself.

As I reflect back on the man that Karry Schurke was – to me anyway – I see a person who loved being around people, enjoyed camaraderie, was an incredibly hard worker and focused on mission accomplishment, while at the same time having fun

with those around him. Karry was loyal to his subordinates, peers, and superiors. I ran into so many Soldiers who were recruited by Karry Schurke over the years; every one of them talked very highly of him as a professional. He was a great example, and no doubt will be remembered for a lifetime by those whose lives he touched.

My deepest condolences to Karry's family – his wife, Jennifer, and daughters, Emma & Gracie, and to Karry's extended family, as well.

Todd Jacobus - November 17, 2019 at 10:55 PM



“ He initially got me enlisted into the military. I used to hang out after high school with him and a few other soldiers at the armory. He always freaked me out when he drove with his knees lol. Prayers for his family.

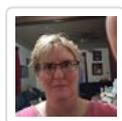
Amanda McNeese - November 17, 2019 at 10:47 PM



“ Karry, Jen and the girls used to live across the alley from us. Great neighbors! And when Karry was in high school he played the tuba and/or baritone. Back in those days when I'd be getting together a Zion instrumental brass group, he never turned me down. Sending our prayers that our Lord will comfort and give you strength.

Renee and Butch Miller
Your Zion Family

Renee and Butch Miller - November 17, 2019 at 01:09 PM



“ Larry was a child hood friend. Always had a smile and a smart comment he will be missed by all that knew him.



Sharon Irwin - November 17, 2019 at 08:41 AM



“ Retired SGM Karry Schurke was more than a boss. He was a Leader, Mentor, Coach, and a Friend. Prayers go out to Jennifer and the girls during this time. He will be missed by a lot of Soldiers.



John Stuart (Bob) - November 16, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. He enlisted my eldest brother Spc. Marshall Lantz. He was so excited when he found out my youngest brother Matt was joining. He insisted on being there when he signed up. he said " I won't miss Lantz's little brother joining the National Guard. He will be missed.

Elizabeth Nelson - November 16, 2019 at 12:37 PM



“ My thoughts and love to Jennifer, Emma and Gracie. Any time spent with Karry was time well spent. He was a truly a good man and so fun to be around. I feel blessed to have been his friend. He left great memories and a lot of smiles.

Karla Erickson - November 16, 2019 at 09:10 AM



“ To a man who has touched so many lives and made so many memories with so many people that will be talked about and cherished forever. We miss you and love you Karry!
Our thoughts and prayers to your Family!!



Aaron Nippert - November 15, 2019 at 01:19 PM



“ Rachel Jean Kreutz lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Rachel Jean Kreutz - November 15, 2019 at 10:02 AM



“ We are sending heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Jenn and the girls during this difficult time. We will miss Kerry's smile and laughter. May God wrap his arms around you and surround you with his love.

Verlyn and Sue Kraayenbrink

susan kraayenbrink - November 15, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers to Karry's family! I grew up with his mom, Karen and his uncles. They were such a great family. God Bless!

Karen Wiebers



Karen L Wiebers - November 15, 2019 at 09:08 AM



“ Nancy Waldemer lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Nancy Waldemer - November 14, 2019 at 09:51 PM



“ Robin Mordhorst lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Robin Mordhorst - November 14, 2019 at 07:49 PM



“ Rest In Peace young man Rest In Peace



charlie "tuna" Schnirring - November 14, 2019 at 06:33 PM



“ Russ And Mary Wulf lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Russ and Mary Wulf - November 14, 2019 at 05:21 PM



“ Renee Lutz lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke





“ Delaine Nelson lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Delaine Nelson - November 14, 2019 at 08:46 AM



“ Shawn Rhoades lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Shawn Rhoades - November 14, 2019 at 07:56 AM



“ Bill Pat Wendt lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Bill pat wendt - November 14, 2019 at 07:52 AM



“ Love ya Schurke. I have great memories of you that I'll cherish forever. A game of horse I. The Denison armory in your skivies which surprises no one most likely. The time you nearly killed me with alcohol poisoning. That was a good night. I was green in the face for days. Wouldn't trade the memories for anything. You'll be missed brother.



“ You will be missed my friend. My thoughts and prayers to Jennifer and the girls.



chris klink - November 13, 2019 at 11:01 PM



“ Karry was an outstanding Soldier that was a joy for all to be around. He will be missed by many! Sorry to hear of his passing.

Kyle Obrecht - November 13, 2019 at 09:28 PM



“ LeeAnn sent a virtual gift in memory of Karry A. Schurke



LeeAnn - November 13, 2019 at 09:22 PM



“ Tony Hill lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Tony Hill - November 13, 2019 at 09:17 PM



“ Sherry Kohnekamp lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Sherry Kohnekamp - November 13, 2019 at 09:12 PM



“ Chris And Erin Cook sent a virtual gift in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Chris and Erin Cook - November 13, 2019 at 09:04 PM



“ What a sweet young man, will miss him, even If I did not get to see him often. Karry grew into a wonderful man. Will miss him, we have a lot of fond memories of Karry.



Sharon Hopper - November 13, 2019 at 07:31 PM



“ Karry recruited my son was such a great guy ... prayers to his wife and daughter's ...and the rest if his family...

Denise - November 14, 2019 at 07:29 AM



“ We have so many fond memories of "Schurke" as we knew him by! A great recruiter for our son! He loved his family as he shared stories and pictures! Hugs to all of you!

Glen and Chris Macumber - November 13, 2019 at 06:52 PM



“ Misty And Jim Hikins lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



misty and jim hikins - November 13, 2019 at 04:14 PM



“ Randy And Jacki Anthony lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Randy and Jacki Anthony - November 13, 2019 at 04:06 PM



“ Connie Doudy lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Connie Doudy - November 13, 2019 at 04:02 PM



“ Jill Miller lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke





“ Janice Tietsort Calhoon lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Janice Tietsort Calhoon - November 13, 2019 at 03:57 PM



“ 2 files added to the album 1SG Schurke



James Dinville - November 13, 2019 at 03:53 PM



“ Bob And Sandy Wulf lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Bob and Sandy Wulf - November 13, 2019 at 03:21 PM



“ Hugs and prayers for Karry's family!!!!

Bob and Sandy Wulf - November 13, 2019 at 03:22 PM



“ Darwin & Deb Landgraf lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Darvin & Deb Landgraf - November 13, 2019 at 02:53 PM



“ Jerry Boger lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Jerry Boger - November 13, 2019 at 02:08 PM



“ I met Schurke at the beginning of my military career. He was a good man and a great leader.



Zach - November 13, 2019 at 02:07 PM



“ Dean & Joleen Lafrentz lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke





“ Prayers to all of Karry's loving family. Your pain is very deep and hard to understand why, but he is in God's hands.



Lana - November 13, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ Todd And Christine Briggie lit a candle in memory of Karry A. Schurke



Todd and Christine Briggie - November 13, 2019 at 01:43 PM