



Fred Schmelzla

October 20, 1924 - November 3, 2016

Schmelzla, James Fredrick

“Fred”

passed away November 3, 2016, in Willcox, Arizona, where he lived since 1947. Fred was born October 20, 1924, to Dolfhus Jesse Schmelzla of Marion County, Arkansas, and Millie Lee Logan, of Indian Territory, Oklahoma. Fred lived in various places with his family but the majority of the time was in Flatrock, OK. The family then moved to Deming, NM to farm. Fred was drafted into the military where he served in the U. S. Marine Corps in Qinhuangdao, Bebei, China until his Honorable Discharge as a “China” Marine guarding railroad bridges against the Communist. After Fred’s discharge from the Marines he learned that his family moved to Willcox, AZ, where he soon joined them to farm in this valley.

Fred married Jean Foreman, with whom he had two children, a son Larry and a daughter Kevin.

Fred was an honest, hard-working man who led a robust life as a skillful farmer. Fred was fair and compassionate man touching many lives who crossed his path with a kind and generous spirit. Fred loved horses and team roping, especially the practice sessions with his step-son and friends at the farm near Bonita where he lived until 2007.

Fred married his second wife, Donna Creamer Ellis, in 1980, and helped raised her son Marty Ellis, a 3yr old at the time. Fred and Marty shared a love for team roping, and generally making the most fun of whatever they embarked upon. The family had fun in the summers at the lake water skiing and throughout the year with endless team roping matches and horsing around, mixed with a lot of hard work at the farm. Fred led a good life doing what he wanted to do with a fun loving playful spirit. We will not forget him.

Fred served as a Director of Arizona Production Credit Assoc. for several years, a member of the Willcox Elks Lodge, the Willcox Sheriff’s Posse, a former member of the PRCA, and a lifetime member of the USTRC.

Fred leaves behind his wife, Donna, a step-son, Marty Ellis, a son and daughter Larry Schmelzla (Willcox, AZ), Kevin Schmelzla (Tucson, AZ), brothers, Roger Schmelzla (Yolanda), Silver City, NM, Franklin Schmelzla (Jan), Chandler, AZ, grandson Jason Catano, granddaughter, Sheridan Ellis, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Fred is preceded in death by brother, Dolfhus Jesse Jr., sister, Helen (Carl Flippins), brother, Leon Schmelzla, brother, Herman Schmelzla, sisters, Leola (A.J.) Murdock, and Nadine Schmelzla.

A celebration of Fred's life is arranged by Westlawn Chapel Mortuary and Crematory, Inc., on November 9, 2016, at 10:00 AM. A private burial will be at Russellville Cemetery, Dragoon, AZ, where he wished to be buried by "a good a friend as a man could have" – his old friend, Mr. Smith.

Memorials may be made in Fred's name to a charitable or educational organization of your choice, or take an extra moment to love your family or be challenged by a new adventure.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 9. 10:00 AM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.

105 S Arizona Avenue

Willcox, AZ 85643

(520) 384-2413

westwx@vtc.net

<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fred Schmelzla*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM

WB

“ *Wes Brown lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla*



Wes Brown - November 20, 2016 at 12:29 PM

SP

“ *Fred would always tell me stories that I would believe! Then I would figure it out that he was just pulling my leg. Thinking of all of you.*



Susan Poire - November 15, 2016 at 04:28 PM

VM

“ *Vicki Motes lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla*



Vicki Motes - November 12, 2016 at 05:08 PM

LS

“ *I have waited on Fred for many years in different restaurants around Willcox one of the last of many coffee drinkers, I looked forward to seeing theses guys every morning, when one of them did not show up I ask where is so and so is he ok worried about them just like they were my father or grandfather . Rest In Peace my dear friend*

lucille seney - November 12, 2016 at 05:49 AM

KK

“ Fred and Donna were customers of Preas Welding & Construction for the 23 years we were in business. More importantly, they were good friends. Fred was so kind, and giving, a true gentleman in every way. My late husband , Terry, always loved working for Fred, and Donna was one of Terry's Metal Art lovers. The world needs more people like Fred. He will be sorely missed.

Kittie Preas Koukalik - November 10, 2016 at 12:37 PM

BR

“ I want to send my condolences to Donna, Larry, and Kevin on Fred's passing. I just found out this afternoon. I was privileged enough to talk to Fred 3 years ago at Rex Alan Days at the Elks. I expressed my gratitude to him on giving a young man a chance to prove himself in business. He saw something in me that I didn't see, and believed in me. I thanked him 3 years ago for that opportunity which has propelled me to where I am. I wouldn't be working for a national company without his wisdom. I will miss ya Fred. A great man with few words. I love the pic.

Brad Reusch
Tucson AZ

Brad Reusch - November 09, 2016 at 08:50 PM

WB

I knew Fred from way back Shirley and myself taught Nadine in training when she was a teenager great people.

Wes Brown - November 20, 2016 at 12:33 PM

WB

Sorry about the taught.

Wes Brown - November 20, 2016 at 12:36 PM

DT

“ David & Tina Thompson lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



David & Tina Thompson - November 09, 2016 at 09:26 AM



“ *With our love.*



Jennifer Regensberg - November 08, 2016 at 01:40 PM



“ *With our love.*



Jennifer Regensberg - November 08, 2016 at 01:39 PM

AT

“ *Anselmo&Bertha Torres lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla*



Anselmo&Bertha Torres - November 07, 2016 at 12:40 PM

DF

“ *Dennis & Jo Rachel Thwaits & Family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Fred Schmelzla.*



Dennis & Jo Rachel Thwaits & Family - November 07, 2016 at 12:04 PM

KS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kevin Schmelzla - November 06, 2016 at 02:18 PM

LW

“ Louise Walden lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Louise Walden - November 06, 2016 at 09:18 AM

KK

“ Fred was a great man. When Terry died, Fred sat on my sofa and wept. Terry loved him dearly...a kinder man never was. My love and sympathy goes to you Donna.

Kittie Preas Koukalik - November 05, 2016 at 08:28 PM

LG

“ Linda Gilcrease lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Linda Gilcrease - November 05, 2016 at 04:45 PM

NC

“ Nick & Lynn Cleckler lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Nick & Lynn Cleckler - November 05, 2016 at 01:20 PM

ES

“ Edna Scott lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Edna Scott - November 05, 2016 at 10:54 AM

CC

“ He was one of a kind, I have so many memories with him, I will cherish forever! My condolences to Donna, Larry and Kevin.



Carol Case - November 05, 2016 at 08:20 AM

LB

“ From farming to roping, Fred left his mark as a pillar in our valley. My prayers to his family. May his memories continue to bring you comfort!



LaDonna Burgess - November 05, 2016 at 01:33 AM

PA

“ Our love and prayers go out to all of Fred's family.

Paul - November 04, 2016 at 08:46 PM

PL

“ Paul & Jackie Lee lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Paul & Jackie Lee - November 04, 2016 at 08:43 PM

SH

“ Scott & Jeannie Harris lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Scott & Jeannie Harris - November 04, 2016 at 05:49 PM

SH

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Scott & Jeannie Harris - November 04, 2016 at 05:48 PM

JA

“ John And Susan Arbuthnot lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



John and Susan Arbuthnot - November 04, 2016 at 05:37 PM

NF

“ Noel And Arlene Forsyth lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Noel and Arlene Forsyth - November 04, 2016 at 02:01 PM

LR

“ Lawrence & Angela Rodriguez lit a candle in memory of Fred Schmelzla



Lawrence & Angela Rodriguez - November 04, 2016 at 11:01 AM

 Samantha Hawkins

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family from the Hawkins family



Samantha Hawkins - November 04, 2016 at 12:39 AM