



# Carolyn Schmidt

June 16, 1936 - December 18, 2024

Connie Schmidt was born on June 16, 1936 in Lakewood, Ohio, to parents Harold Washka and Norma Lersch Washka. She passed from this life on December 18, 2024 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 88.

Connie grew up in Amherst Ohio, one of four children. She attended Heidelberg College and later transferred to Ohio State where she graduated with a BS in Home Economics. Her love of learning carried through the rest of her life as she participated in additional language, cultural and educational training throughout the years.

She married the love of her life, Armin Schmidt on June 9, 1957 and they had four children. Together they spent 8 years as missionaries to the Philippines. Traveling the world with Armin was a highlight of her life and they shared many adventures as they traveled the globe.

Connie loved to read and had a passion for making things. She was a talented seamstress, made toys and dolls and enjoyed knitting. She was most well known for her artisan teddy bears and called herself "The Bear Lady".

Most of all she treasured her family and her many dear friends around the country and across the globe. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. She will be greatly missed.

Connie is survived by:

Children: Debbie Strickland and Gary of Broken Arrow, OK

Amy Schmidt, of Minneapolis, MN

John Schmidt and Valerie of West Chester, PA

Fred Schmidt of Wenatchee, WA

Grandchildren: Hans Schmidt and Laura, Sarah Strickland and Chris Blevins, Grace Strickland-Demarco and Jordan, Alex Schmidt and Karen Hoffman-Schmidt

Great Grands: Arlo Mercer, Buster Blevins, Thea Schmidt

Sister: Mary Maerlander

She was preceded by her parents, Harold and Norma Washka, her husband, Armin Schmidt and brothers, Howard Washka and Bob Washka.

Services will be held on Saturday December 28, 2024 at 11 am at Fellowship Congregational, 2900 S Harvard Ave, Tulsa, OK

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Eden Seminary, Webster Grove MO, Heidelberg College, Tiffin Ohio or Fellowship Congregational Church, Tulsa OK

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Fellowship Congregational  
2900 S. Harvard Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74114

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ *She was the consummate godmother to our daughter, MARKI, and never missed an opportunity to send a gift, from birth to university graduation. Connie was my practical, liberal, understanding and level headed friend who talked me down from several ledges during my parenting journey. God's speed. The suffering is over.*



Barbara Clinton - December 28, 2024 at 11:20 AM

MH

“ *We planted a memorial tree in loving memory of our Aunt Connie. We have so many wonderful memories of times spent with her that we will treasure forever. Love, Sandy, Marilyn, Alex, and Mindy*

Marilyn Hanko - December 27, 2024 at 03:41 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carolyn Schmidt.*

December 27, 2024 at 03:32 PM

CW

“ *Aunt Connie! She was a beautiful person inside and out and such a big part of the glue holding our wonderful families together! I have such fond memories of her being in the area and sharing her awesome bears! Her work with Uncle Schmidty as missionaries in the Philippines always touched my heart! No doubt her Spirit Lives in all of our hearts! She's reunited with a lot of family in Heaven! Rest in Peace Aunt Connie!*



Craig Washka - December 27, 2024 at 02:57 PM

WM

“ *With Love, Your sister Mary planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Schmidt.*

With Love, Your sister Mary - December 26, 2024 at 03:13 PM

MH

“ Marsha, Bruce, Ben and Jessica Howard planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Schmidt.

Marsha, Bruce, Ben and Jessica Howard - December 26, 2024 at 02:42 PM

MH

“ Marsha, Bruce, Ben and Jessica Howard purchased the Red Poinsettia for the family of Carolyn Schmidt.



Marsha, Bruce, Ben and Jessica Howard - December 26, 2024 at 02:42 PM



“ Connie has been a dear friend since moving to Broken Arrow, where I met her through her daughter, Debbie, my best friend. It was always a joy to visit her and Armin and share in life's joys. She was a blessing to us as our children grew up, treating them as their own grandchildren. It is comforting to know she is with her der Armin now.



Marsha Howard - December 26, 2024 at 02:38 PM

MG

“ Marlene Gaige purchased the Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin for the family of Carolyn Schmidt.



Marlene Gaige - December 20, 2024 at 02:19 PM

MG

“ Marlene Gaige planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Schmidt.

Marlene Gaige - December 20, 2024 at 02:19 PM

MG

“ Connie was a good bear friend. Even driving up to Kansas City to help me with a show! I miss her. From a Minnesota friend. Marlene

m gaige - December 20, 2024 at 02:16 PM

HH

“ *It is our honor and privilege to serve the Schmidt family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Carolyn.*



---

Hayhurst Funeral Home - December 18, 2024 at 09:20 AM