



John Howard Schere, Jr., native of Burwell, passed into eternal life on January 17, 2021 at the age of 93. He was born January 29, 1927 at the hospital in Ord to John Sr. and Esther (Lots) Schere and grew up on the family farm in the North Loup River Valley. He attended elementary school about 1 ½ miles from home at District 14 and graduated from Burwell High School.

At the age of 17 he began work in Omaha at a meat packing house and then worked as an airplane inspector at the Glen L. Martin plant where airplanes were built during World War II. At age 18, upon receiving notice of deferment because of the nature of his work, he quit, saying, "No one is going to keep me from serving my country!" John then joined the army and received training as a medic in Denver, CO. He was shipped to China in 1946. Upon separation from the service in 1947, he returned to Burwell to farm with his dad.

At age 20, in order to marry, he had to have written permission from his parents. He and high school sweetheart, Margaret Walker of Burwell, were wed in September, 1947. They moved to Lincoln where John took advantage of the GI Bill at the University of Nebraska. Their daughter, Linda, was born in 1948. After receiving a B.S. in education in 1951, John accepted a teaching position at Lexington High School. Daughter Julie and son, John David, were born the following two years. John eventually left teaching and co-owned and operated a store, The Scotch Shop in addition to selling life insurance.

John's love for farming brought the family back to the farm in Burwell in 1958, much to the delight of grandparents Olive and Ralph Walker and John Sr. and Esther. When Burwell High School offered John a teaching position, he agreed on the condition that he could continue to farm. He taught English and History during the day and farmed into the night when necessary. While farming and teaching, he studied for his master's degree in library science, receiving it in 1971. Lincoln East High School in Lincoln offered him a position as media specialist. He remained at Lincoln East until he joined the Nebraska Library Commission as assistant director in 1973. Not long after, he and Margaret divorced.

John said his dad always thought his son was "fiddle footed" because of his many varied work experiences. After the Library Commission, John left the Nebraska state system and bought and operated a Dairy Queen in Lincoln. He also became a real estate agent for Austin Realty, and later returned to life insurance sales before retiring. Then, as a part time job, he was plant manager for Amaize, a dog food supplement.

John's children were always a top priority in his life. He liked to expose them to new foods and new places whenever possible. When the kids were older and relocated to other parts of the country or the world, he arranged to visit them. Trips to Arizona, California, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., and Singapore were all on the agenda. Visiting Grandpa Schere and Aunt Roma in Cedar Bluffs and Aunt Billie and family in Omaha were very important. Keeping in close touch with family, having church affiliation and singing in the church choir were high on his agenda. He also enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, dancing, and various types of music.

In Lincoln, John was a choir member at First Plymouth Congregational Church and a singer in the Abendmusik Chorus for several years. One trip took the chorus to Austria and Italy. Through a special arrangement, they sang at the Catholic Mass at St. Peters in Rome and a small group (including John) met Mother Theresa.

Through work, he and Mary (Ketelsen)Noyes met and married and he became a stepfather to her son, Dan Noyes, and a member of a family of four brothers and two sisters and their families. The many family reunions were another facet of entertainment and provided more “new places to visit.”

In 2000 John and Mary began their RV travels full time. In 2005 – 2006 they remodeled the farmhouse where John grew up.

John was an active member of the Masonic Lodge in his younger years, a member of the American Legion Post #298, and a member of the Congregational Church for many years. He was a Benedictine Oblate of Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, South Dakota. He joined the Catholic Church in 2008.

Survivors:

Wife Mary (Ketelsen) Schere

Children include Linda (Steve) Gilbert, Julie (Michael) Graves, John D. (Melissa) Schere, Daniel (Sandy Barnhart y Chavez) Noyes, and Trudy (Brian) Thompson.

Grandchildren: Sabrina (Tylr) Naprstek, Jayme (Manuel) Acuna, Shannon Marie Gilbert, Jeffrey (Sara) Gilbert, Sonya Meiling Noyes, Kristi (Kevin Bradley) Graves, Julie (Scott) Mann, Alan Thompson, Ashley Kalinda

Great Grandchildren: Isaac and Tyson Naprstek, Maeve and Annabelle Bradley, Kelan and Carson Mann, Eliza and Rosalind Gilbert

Many nieces and nephews east to west, from Guam to London, from Alaska to Belize

The rosary will be prayed at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 28 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Burwell followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. by Father Scott Harter. Both will be streamed on the Burwell, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Facebook page. Because of COVID, there will not be a gathering after the service. Burial of John’s ashes will be at a National Cemetery at a later date.

In his memory, donations can be made to: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Burwell Veterans Memorial Park, Burwell, American Legion Post #298 Building Fund or Burwell Wounded Warrior Project.