



Bennet Christopher Schmidt

February 14, 1961 - June 10, 2024

It is with great sorrow that the family of Bennet Christopher Schmidt announces his passing on June 10, 2024. Ben's life was one of service to others, characterized by genuine kindness, acceptance, and joy in the simple things. Born in the historic village of Elsah, Illinois, on February 14, 1961, Ben spent much of his childhood exploring with his two older siblings the woods and bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, as well as Lake Michigan's sandy beaches. His love of nature, earth, sky, and all living things never left him. Ben's parents, the late Mary Elizabeth Loraine Schmidt of London, England, and James Kirbye Schmidt of Chicago, Illinois, fostered in Ben from an early age a deep appreciation for the fine arts and the written word, eclipsed only, perhaps, by his passion for horses. A graduate of Principia College (BA) and Washington University (MA), Ben spent the early part of his career writing for periodicals, and later taught school in St. Louis. He was a keen equestrian, and practiced dressage with his beloved bay Brigalow whenever he could. He helped his aunt Joan Loraine tend Greencombe Gardens in England, volunteered at 5A's in Alton, and mucked horse stalls at Beverly Farms in Godfrey. Ben never ceased learning, giving, sharing, and laughing. He touched countless lives, and is deeply loved in return by many, including his daughter, Hannah P. Schmidt of St. Louis; sister, Penelope L. Schmidt of Alton; brother, Robert K. Schmidt of Porlock, England; and former spouse and friend, Sarah Ware, of Alton; and much-loved cousins. Lauren Robinson, Julie Edwards, Denny Scarborough, and Autumn Brown provided Ben with selfless

care and endless support over the past years, and Ben's family is deeply grateful. Memorials maybe made to 5A's in Alton. Additional information and online guest book may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

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“ Within all of the memories I have of Ben, I find I remember most his endearing smile and quiet laughter. Everything about Ben was gentle and kind. His love of family and friends was evident at every gathering. His focus was not of himself but of others. I was blessed and welcomed to many meals at the Schmidt home in Elsah. Jim, Mary Anne, Penny, Rob and Ben have made an indelible impression on me. They are truly a family all about Love. I will always remember Ben and I will smile...

Dennis Scarborough - June 14, 2024 at 03:32 PM

DG

“ My deepest condolences to the family! I believe for Bennet when he was a small child! I babysat for the Schmidt children in Elsah that lived in the first house entering the town, across the little bridge at the base of the old road to Principia College! I am so sorry to hear of his passing on to the Golden Gates of Heaven! RIP and Love, and Fly High With the Angels and God!

Donna Gent - June 14, 2024 at 11:14 AM

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“ We send our love to Ben's family, friends and loved ones. What a lucky person he was to be so deeply loved and cared about by so many. May he rest in the deepest peace. Lissa Olson and Peter Sanstead Taylors Falls, MN

Elisabeth Olson - June 13, 2024 at 08:22 PM