

Obituaries . . .

JULIE (ZIGLER) SCHMIDT

June 12, 1951 - April 14, 2023

With great sadness, we share that on April 14, 2023 Julie (Ziegler) Schmidt unexpectedly crossed over to the next world. She passed peacefully and quickly, as she always hoped she would.

Julie was born on a dairy farm in Spencer, to Dale and Helen (Crotty) Ziegler on June 12, 1951. As a young girl, she found her first passion: horses. Legend tells that her first horse was a cow she tried to teach how to ride. When it kicked her, she ran home crying, but was back the next day (and many days after) to try and try again. This stubbornness in the face of impossible odds was her blessing as well as her curse.

During high school, she found her second passion: art, which led to a career in teaching. As a teacher, she held a particular spot in her heart for students who needed extra support to be successful in school. She hated the word CAN'T and always said, "You CAN do anything, you've just got to believe in yourself." She was the type of person who believed in people even when they didn't believe in themselves. She believed we were all artists, though few were able to draw as well as she could.

Julie's pursuit of a teaching career led her to the third great passion in life: family. In the beginning days of her first teaching job at Deep River-Millersburg, she walked into the superintendent's office for an advance on her paycheck to buy groceries.

There she met another first-year teacher, Juan Schmidt, who also needed an advance to buy groceries. Such humble beginnings created some wonderful riches: They were married December 27, 1975 and raised 4 children together: Lacianna (Lacey), Kyle, Joel and Jadrien (Jadee).

Motherhood provided Julie with a number of superpowers: She was always right (even when she wasn't) and always knew what was going on (even when she didn't). But these powers paled in comparison to her greatest strength: her ability to love completely and unconditionally. We'll miss her hugs, her hare-brained ideas, her feats of strength, and her no-bake cookies. She left the world with wild stories and beautiful memories.

Those carrying on her legacy include her husband of 47 years, Juan, and her children, their partners, and their children: Lacey (children Miles and Jack); Kyle; Joel (Heather and children Ryder, Harper, and soon-to-be baby #3);

and Jadee (Mark and child Bidi). A celebration of her life will be held in August in Montezuma, Iowa, details to be shared in the future.

Because Julie loved having the last word, we'll end with something she wrote nearly 37 years before her death:

"I've always wondered what my "mark" on the world would be. Since I'm an artist, I felt maybe someday my artwork would be viewed and realized as a piece of my soul. Somehow this doesn't seem enough. Then when I first became pregnant with Lacey, and the first time I touched her and held her to my heart, I realized I was holding my immortality. When I'm gone, I will live on through my children, my children's children."

-Julie Schmidt, April 12, 1986