



## Ray Mitchell

February 24, 1938 - November 28, 2022

Ray, age 84, passed away with the gentle care of family and Knute Nelson Hospice on November 28, 2022, at his home in Wadena, MN .

Ray was born to Carl and Arlee (Ferguson) Mitchell on February 24, 1938, in North Wilkesboro, NC. After graduating high school he entered the US Air Force on October 29, 1956, in Charlotte, NC. He was stationed at the Wadena Air Force Base in Minnesota until his honorable discharge in October 1960. During this time he met Judith “Judy” Jerde while at a dance in Detroit Lakes and they were married February 20, 1960, at the United Methodist Church, Wadena, MN.

Adept at fixing things, Ray became a favorite appliance repairman in Wadena and the surrounding area. Students and community members will remember Ray as the gentle and humble school bus driver. The kids loved his Christmas gift to them, full-size candy bars!

Ray and Judy made a great pair, doing most things as a team. Ray helped her with the gardening, and feeding the birds. His hands were busy tinkering in his workshop and making seasonal wooden crafts that Judy painted. Many became gifts for family and friends. On weekends they took long motorcycle rides on the back roads of central Minnesota. Ray was a member of the American Legion, and was a Boy Scout leader. They volunteered countless

hours at church events and at the Wadena Food Shelf, when he wasn't blowing snow or mowing the lawn!

Preceding Ray in death were his wife Judy (8-13-2022); son Scott (2011); parents, Carl and Arlee Mitchell; James Mitchell of Pennington, NJ; in-laws, Oscar and Margaret (Vogen) Jerde; and brothers-in-law, Roger and Terry Jerde.

Ray will always be remembered by his devoted sons, Trent of Wadena and Tim of Rapid City, SD; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; along with a host of friends, neighbors, and safely transported, grateful bus students.

A private burial will be held at a later date in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

# Tribute Wall

LU

“ Ray was a wonderful man. My bus driver as a kid. I really appreciated him.

Luke Uselman - January 21, 2025 at 09:49 AM

JD

“ Jerry Janice Denny lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Jerry & Janice Denny - September 21, 2023 at 11:42 PM



“ What an awesome man! He was so kind and loving to me when I was there hanging out with Scott. Came to our rescue when we had a bicycle mishap riding to Staples! At peace now reunited with his bride.

Cheryl Pickar - December 07, 2022 at 11:48 AM

JH

“ Ray was my bus driver from kindergarten to 12th grade. He was so kind and caring. A real gentle man. My deepest sympathy to Trent, Tim and your families.



Jodi Uselman Hackler - December 05, 2022 at 09:24 PM

JA

“ Good bless our memories of this good man.



Jerry & Di Anderson - December 05, 2022 at 03:07 PM

KS

“ Ray was such a sweet man. He was our bus driver all through school. He always had a smile on his face when he greeted you with his good morning.  
He always called me “Sis” not sure how it started but I always loved the pet name that only my family used.  
I have been out of school for 35 years and whenever I would run into Ray or Judy it was always “ Hi Sis, how are you doing?”  
Happy Ray and Judy are together again.

Karie ( Lawson) Steinke - December 04, 2022 at 09:24 PM

GA

What a loss to Wadena to a dear man! He will be greatly missed!

Gwen Anderson - December 10, 2022 at 11:03 PM

BR

“ Brenda Reger lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Brenda (Lee) Reger - December 04, 2022 at 07:30 PM

LB

“ *Lucille & Jack Belch lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Lucille Belch & Jack Belch - December 04, 2022 at 05:47 PM

BS

“ *Bruce Trish Steinkopf lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Bruce & Trish Steinkopf - December 03, 2022 at 09:30 PM



“ *Rocky Reese lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Rocky Reese - December 03, 2022 at 08:34 PM

DM

“ *Dale & Liz Miller lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Dale & Liz Miller - December 03, 2022 at 09:12 AM

PC

“ Ray and Judy were good friends of my parents. Ray always spoke with such a gentle voice and sincere kindness. Although I hadn't seen Ray for years, I remember how much I always enjoyed a big hug every time we met. He was truly one of the great ones. I am so very sorry for the loss of your dad, as well as your mom in August. Thinking of you-  
Pam (Miller) Carlson

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**Pam Carlson** - December 02, 2022 at 10:11 PM

PF

“ Oh, my. It seems I just said goodbye to Judy. Now I'm saying goodbye to Ray. They have found each other again, I'm sure. Like it should be. Trent and Tim - I'm thinking of you. Your parents are together again.

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**Paul Freer** - December 02, 2022 at 08:11 PM

MP

“ Morris & Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



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**Morris & Karen Priebe** - December 02, 2022 at 04:13 PM

GW

“ Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



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**Glen Donna Wood** - December 01, 2022 at 11:06 PM

PM

“ I graduated with Scott and Ray was our bus driver Ray you were one of the good ones. You always greeted us each more with the biggest smile and a good morning!! I sure do hope you knew how much you were loved and admired. RiP my freind



Penny (carlson) McManigle - December 01, 2022 at 10:24 PM

JD

“ Jerry & Janice Denny lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Jerry & Janice Denny - December 01, 2022 at 08:08 PM

JH

“ Ray was one great and kind man. Always enjoyed him and Judy coming into Boondocks. You'll be missed by many.

Jane Hieb - December 01, 2022 at 04:10 PM

JH

“ Jane Hieb lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Jane Hieb - December 01, 2022 at 04:07 PM

KL

“ Ken & Nancy Lawson lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Ken & Nancy Lawson - December 01, 2022 at 03:20 PM

DL

“ May you rest in peace Ray. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.



Dennis & Linda Loween - December 01, 2022 at 01:06 PM

TS

“ Ray was my kids' bus driver for 10 years. He, also, drove my preschooler "kids" for many years. He was so kind and caring to my special needs kids. He will be missed!!



Theresa Sievers - December 01, 2022 at 10:38 AM

GC

“ Greg Kim Carlson lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Greg & Kim Carlson - December 01, 2022 at 10:00 AM

HE

“ Ray was not only my favorite bus driver, but such a great and caring man. He will be greatly missed.



Heather - November 30, 2022 at 10:31 PM

SO

“ Ray was a awesome bus driver I remember the full size candy bars we got every Christmas. Sending prayers to Trent and Tim



Sharyl (Umland) Olson - November 30, 2022 at 07:54 PM

SB

“ Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Sharon boline - November 30, 2022 at 02:30 PM

PL

“ Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Pat Lorentz - November 30, 2022 at 01:18 PM

TH

“ *Tammie Hamlin lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Tammie Hamlin - November 30, 2022 at 12:27 PM

GC

“ *Gladys Chase lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Gladys Hansen Chase - November 30, 2022 at 11:37 AM

CB

“ *Carla Blashack lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Carla Blashack - November 30, 2022 at 11:22 AM

CB

“ *The BEST bus driver EVER!!! Prayers for Ray, and family!*

Carla Blashack - November 30, 2022 at 11:20 AM

PL

“ *Rest in peace Ray. You were the best friend and bus driver for our 3 kids back in the 70s-90s. Paul and Elaine Lorentz*

Paul and Elaine Lorentz - November 30, 2022 at 10:56 AM

JE

“ *Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



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**Judy Erdahl** - November 30, 2022 at 10:08 AM

KM

“ *Karen Munson lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



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**Karen Munson** - November 30, 2022 at 10:01 AM

DR

“ *David & Barb Rousslang lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



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**david & barb rousslang** - November 30, 2022 at 08:50 AM

JS

“ *Jim Tracey Stoneman lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



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**Jim & Tracey Stoneman** - November 30, 2022 at 07:19 AM

Ben  
Tellers

“ *Ben Tellers lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Ben Tellers - November 30, 2022 at 07:08 AM

DK

“ *Dan Kern lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell*



Dan Kern - November 30, 2022 at 06:55 AM

J(

“ *I don't know how many Uselman kids Ray drove to and from school. Ray would hand each of his bus riders a candy bar each Christmas. Not the little fun size, but a full size candy bar. That was a big deal for us. And every morning he greeted us with a warm "good morning". He was a gem. Praying for peace for his family.*



Jill Wanous (Uselman) - November 29, 2022 at 09:23 PM

RJ

*And Judy would tell us how some of his student riders would remember him with graduation and wedding invites years later. He was so loved.*

Rose Johnson - November 30, 2022 at 09:50 AM

AA

“ Arlys Andrews lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Arlys Andrews - November 29, 2022 at 09:15 PM

MS

“ Mike Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Mike and Lea Snyder - November 29, 2022 at 08:37 PM

JJ

“ Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ray Mitchell



Jon Johnson - November 29, 2022 at 08:26 PM

GM

What a great couple Ray and Judy were. We have so many fond memories and they are now together again. Rest in peace. Gwen and Gordy Macklerm

Gwen Macklem - December 02, 2022 at 03:54 PM