



## Wayne W. Schmidt

March 31, 1945 - October 1, 2023

Wayne W. Schmidt, 78, of East Alton, IL, passed away on October 1, 2023, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL, after succumbing to injuries he received as the result of a tragic auto accident.

Wayne was born March 31, 1945, in Chicago, IL to Walter and Gloria (Schoenfeldt) Schmidt. He graduated from Amundsen High School, Chicago, and Northeastern University, Chicago.

His great passion for naval history led him to secure the U.S. Silversides SS236, which was a retired Navy Reserve ship moored at Navy Pier, Chicago. He and a team of volunteers worked to restore this historic submarine, creating an onboard overnight program for Boy Scouts. It is now moored as a national museum in Muskegon, Michigan.

Wayne is survived by his brother, David (Gayle) Schmidt; niece Kerri; nephew, Brian (Jody) and their children, Bennett and Liberty; and his sister-in-law, Kathy Schmidt. He is also survived by his former wife, Margaret; his two stepdaughters, Jessica (Jason) Young, Samantha (Joel) Larson, and their children; and stepson, Robert Anderson (Nereyda) and their son. He leaves behind an uncle, aunts, cousins and numerous caring friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Ray Schmidt; and former wife, Kathleen.

Wayne retired as a substitute teacher at Alton School District and as the civilian Chief of Plans and Programs at the U.S. Air Force base in Warner-Robbins, GA. His prior employment included Director of Strategic Air

Command Museum, Omaha, NB; National Museum of Transportation, Manchester, MO; the USS Intrepid Museum, NYC, and as the Director of the Air Force Museum also located at Warner-Robbins GA.

Prior to his accident, Wayne was returning home from his birthplace in Chicago after attending the 60th reunion from Amundsen High School where he was able to reconnect with not only his former high school graduates but also students from Chappel Elementary. He had the opportunity to visit aunts, cousins, his 102-year-old uncle who was a World War II B24 bomber pilot, and many of his nieces and nephews.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, Illinois is assisting the family. A Memorial Service is pending, with the location to be determined. Interment will be at All Saints Polish National Catholic Cemetery, 9201 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631.

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Polish National Catholic Cemetery

9201 W. Higgins Rd  
Chicago , IL 60631

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

RG

“ Wayne was the director of what was then called the Museum of Transportation near St Louis in 1995 when I retired from the Air Force and began volunteering there. We were both from Chicago and railroad fans. He was a very competent manager who improved the museum during his tenure. At his suggestion I headed up a group to cosmetically restore a small steam locomotive from the Lake Street Elevated in Chicago and took it home to Chicago for the centennial of the Loop Elevated in 1997 at the invitation of the Chicago Transit Authority. He will be missed.

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**Ron Goldfeder** - October 24, 2023 at 12:26 PM

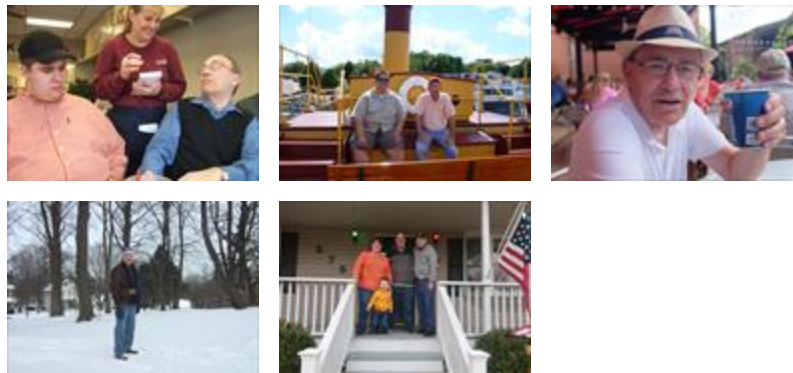


“ Wayne W. Schmidt

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October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM

JL

“ I've had the privilege of knowing Wayne for the past 20 years. He had such an incredible wealth of knowledge on so many subjects. I have many great memories of fun times and great conversations I had with Wayne. He will be missed.



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**Joel Larson** - October 07, 2023 at 10:02 PM

TL

*RIP Mr.Schmidt.*

**Tom and Eileen Lynch** - October 08, 2023 at 03:56 PM

BF

“ *So sorry for your lost. I will miss Wayne at our breakfast outings. I will miss his phone calls and all the stories he had shared with us.*

**Bill Francis** - October 07, 2023 at 04:07 PM

BS

*Thanks for the kind words about my Uncle. I'll definitely miss him too.*

**Brian Schmidt** - October 07, 2023 at 07:58 PM

AM

*Wayne was a special friend to my husband Scott and I. His wisdom and humor were always a treat. His positive outlook on life, whether things were good or bad, was inspiring to me. I will miss our talks and his encouragement. Wayne knew the meaning of friendship and showed you how much he cared. We were truly blessed to have him in our lives. Thankful for his love of God and knowing his happy and entertaining everyone in Heaven.*

*Amy & Scott Maberry*

**Amy Maberry** - October 08, 2023 at 02:03 PM

CS

*Got great memories of working with Tom Goss on the Silversides under Wayne's leadership. He was my kids Andrew and Jon's hero! We sure will miss him.*

**Charlie Shabica** - October 09, 2023 at 11:41 AM