



## Stephen Paul Schmidt

March 16, 1953 - January 1, 2021

Stephen Paul Schmidt, 67, passed away January 1st, 2021 at his home after a long illness.

Born on March 16th, 1953 to John and Beryl Schmidt, Steve grew up in Aroma Park as one of ten children. A 1971 graduate of Bishop McNamara High School, he matriculated to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (by way of Kankakee Community College), where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1975. Though he liked to joke that he only majored in Accounting because those were the first classes in the course catalog, it was clear from the jump that this was what he was meant to do. He began working as a CPA at a local firm, Topping, Gianotti and Payne (now Groskreutz, Abraham, Eshleman and Gerretse), where, during his 30-plus year career, he would eventually become a managing partner. He was an active member of numerous professional (Illinois CPA Society and the AICPA) and civic organizations (Rotary Club and the Jaycees) where he held leadership roles. His strong ethical beliefs and desire to give back to the community in any way he could -- from coaching sports at the YMCA and Little League baseball to being an active PTO member and Bishop McNamara school board member -- eventually led him to serve on the Kankakee School District #111 school board as both member and president from 1993 to 2001.

Steve married the love of his life, Cassandra (Coffman), on October 30th, 1976 and the pair stood by each other's side through 44 years of marriage.

Steve is survived by Cassandra and their two children, Paul, and Carrie Leflar (James); his mother-in-law Ivy Coffman; his nine brothers and sisters Judy Ponton, Janet Hanson, Sue Harpin (Ron), Donna Schmidt, Dennis Schmidt (Margaret), Mary Prairie (Brian), David Schmidt (Jeanne), Randy Schmidt (Jane) and Cathy Betourne (Scott); four grandchildren (Eli, Ellie, Ewan and Ivy); and 16 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Beryl.

There will be a memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that

donations be made in Steve's name to support the Parkinson Disease Research Fund at Rush University Medical Center. Please send memorial gifts to Rush University Medical Center, 1201 W. Harrison St., Ste. 300, Chicago, IL 60607-3319 or visit <http://rush.convio.net/SSchmidt>.

May we meet again, in the clearing, at the end of the path.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.  
Please sign his guestbook at [www.clancygernon.com](http://www.clancygernon.com).

# Comments

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“ Steve graduated from St. Teresa in 1967, Bishop McNamara in 1971, and UIUC in 1975. So did I. The years from 1959 until 1975 and after contain a wealth of memories of school, sports, and great times lit by Steve's bright smile, warmth, and wit. Cassie, Paul, and Carrie, and Donna, Dennis, Judy, and all of Steve's siblings, please accept my deepest condolences on Steve's passing.

**Patrick Foster** - January 12 at 10:40 AM

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“ We were sorry to hear about Steve's passing. Our kids are around the same ages and we'd run into Steve & Cassie at various school events. It was always entertaining to share stories with them & Steve would be sure to find something amusing to say. Sending love & best wishes to the family.

**Janet Glidden** - January 10 at 12:13 PM

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“ Steve was great partner in our accounting firm and i enjoyed working with him for many years.

Larry Groskreutz

**Larry Groskreutz** - January 07 at 08:27 AM

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“ Steve West lit a candle in memory of Stephen Paul Schmidt



**Steve West** - January 06 at 08:58 AM

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“ Amanda West lit a candle in memory of Stephen Paul Schmidt



**Amanda West** - January 05 at 11:28 PM

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“ Carla Golowski Scheppler lit a candle in memory of Stephen Paul Schmidt



**Carla Golowski Scheppler** - January 05 at 12:57 PM

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**Carla Golowski Scheppler** - January 05 at 12:57 PM

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“ Steve- so respected and a wonderful gentleman. A true honest fiduciary to our family. A classmate and close friend of my brother. I had the privilege of teaching with Cassie and I could tell that Stephen found a gem for his wife. When our Dad passed, Steve made sure everything was handled properly. He was an advisor to my son, Paul. I am thankful for all he did for the firm, our family and all the clients he professionally represented. Stephen had that unique wit and humor that made you feel special. I know that for many years he suffered, but never complained. Blessings to Cassie, their children and to the big Catholic family of his.  
Francis “Chick” and Carolyn Gianotti and our family

**Francis and Carolyn Gianotti** - January 04 at 04:31 PM