



J. Edward Schwenke

September 19, 1945 - December 13, 2020

On Sunday, December 13, 2020 J. Edward Schwenke, loving husband, father, and papa, passed away at the age of 75.

He was born on September 19, 1945 in Chicago, the son of Richard & Leota Schwenke.

Ed was a proud graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in Physical Therapy. After graduation, he served his country as a Physical Therapist in the United States Army treating many of the wounded veterans coming home from Vietnam.

Ed came to Kankakee in the early 1970's as one of the first physical therapists in our area. He ran the sports medicine clinic at the hospital helping many young athletes.

Ed was also the athletic trainer at Bishop McNamara for many years. He was the best coach and fan to his nine grandchildren.

Ed lived a life that made a difference, full of empathy and compassion. Surviving are his wife, Cathy (Zinanni) Schwenke of Bourbonnais; two children, Christina (Mike) O'Connor of Bourbonnais and Doug (Stephanie) Schwenke of Colorado Springs, CO; one daughter-in-law, Barbara Schwenke-Waken of Ladera Ranch, CA; one brother, Bob (Linda) Schwenke of Jamestown, OH; one sister, Janet Schwenke of Kansas City, KS; two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law, Joe & Sue Zinanni and Rich & Jane Zinanni, all of Bourbonnais; nine grandchildren, Megan O'Connor, Mallory O'Connor, Michael O'Connor, Drake Schwenke, Caleb Schwenke, DJ

Schwenke, Logan Schwenke, Adin Schwenke, and Ellie Schwenke. He was preceded in death by his son, Matthew Schwenke; his parents; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mario & Elaine Zinnani.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, private services will be held.

Inurnment will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

PL

“ *Pari Livermore lit a candle in memory of J. Edward Schwenke*



Pari Livermore - August 28, 2021 at 07:18 PM

PL

“ *Ed was my Prom date and later he gave me his class ring. I was so proud of him and even more so hen he pitched the Maine West State Championship baseball game.*

He was strong and steady. At age 14 he told everyone he planned to become a physical therapist.

Ten years after we went our separate ways, my Mom was still saying, " Whatever happened to that nice Ed Schwenke." He was kind and patient and a wonderful wonderful guy. I remember he was the "Son of A Preacher Man" and a Great kisser!

Pari Livermore - August 28, 2021 at 07:13 PM

MO

“ Ed was the most selfless man I’ve ever met. We first met on the athletic training table at BishopMac and he would later become my father in law.

Ed was a fierce competitor but loved watching his kids and grand kids play even more. Ed was always at Megan, Mallory and Michael’s games and he was well known by the area’s umpire and referees. 🙏

Ed we miss you everyday. Your wisdom, devotion, and example of how to live life is unforgettable. ❤️

Michael P. O'Connor - June 10, 2021 at 07:37 AM

KA

“ Kathy lit a candle in memory of J. Edward Schwenke



Kathy - December 20, 2020 at 06:38 AM

TT

“ My deepest condolences to Cathy and family. Ed was my supervisor at the hospital, many fond memories of working with him. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Toni Timm - December 19, 2020 at 01:18 PM

CB

“ Such a great loss. Ed was an awesome “boss” and mentor. Many special memories at St. Mary’s. He will be missed. My sympathy to Cathy and the rest of his family.

Cathy Bauer-Grossklaus - December 16, 2020 at 07:12 PM

JF

“ It is very difficult for me to grasp that Ed is no longer with us. I first met Ed when he began caring for our athletes at McNamara in the 70's. We spent innumerable hours together and became friends. I admired Ed's skill, his patience, his ability to keep perspective and focus in crisis and his openness. No one ever gave more of their time and talent and when Ed made a promise, it was gold. He cared about our students he ministered to and they could feel it. Whether you were the most talented player on our roster or the least, Ed saw you as a valued individual. Kids need that kind of adult presence in their lives and Ed gave that freely.
In a person's life there are always a small number of individuals who have a true impact, who change the way you see and react to the world. Ed was one of those people for me. He is irreplaceable.

Jim Frogge - December 16, 2020 at 04:35 PM

JP

“ Our deepest sympathy to Schwenke family.



Jon P Posing - December 16, 2020 at 02:33 PM

KS

“ Condolences to the family. I remember Ed when he worked at St.Marys. He was a kind man. Prayers
Kathy Sullivan

Kathy Sullivan - December 16, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Jerry and I always enjoyed visiting with Ed and Kathy while watching Michael and Sevin at their games. Prayers for all the family. Jerry and Brenda Walter

Brenda Cromwell Walter - December 16, 2020 at 10:46 AM



“ Cathy and family. We are so sorry for your loss. We will always have our memories of Ed at Michael and Luke's baseball games. We are sending our prayers to everyone during this time. Gary Weber and Nancy Ruel

Nancy Ruel and Gary Weber - December 15, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ It's hard to believe that this gentle giant of a man is gone. We were neighbors for 10 years, coached baseball together, shared good times with our families and friends. I knew him to be a great husband, father and friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you Cathy, Tina and Doug as well as the rest of the Schwenke and Zinanni family. Ed's was a life well lived. He made a difference. Goodbye my friend and thank you for the impact you had on my life.

David Selph - December 15, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ A true servant who was always there for support and kindness. Anyone who was privileged to be around Ed has a lifetime of memories. I will never forget our fun times and he will always be in our hearts. Rest in Peace my friend.

Gerald Krieg - December 15, 2020 at 11:09 AM