



## Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr.

October 24, 1935 - July 5, 2019

Leonard "Len" J. Schmidt, Sr. age 83 of Valparaiso, passed away suddenly on Friday, July 5, 2019. He was a graduate of Merrillville High School, class of 1954 where he lettered in football, baseball and track. He was a Gary Golden Gloves boxer for the Gary All Stars in 1951-1952. Len went on to attend Western Michigan University where he played football and baseball and graduated in 1958. After college he was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers but declined. Instead he pursued a teaching and coaching career at Calumet High School until 1970. Subsequently he became Athletic Director at Merrillville High School from 1970-1974. In 1975 Len switched his talents to the retail and wholesale sporting goods service when he opened his first store "The Athlete's Foot" in Merrillville. For the next 20 years he owned and operated 23 stores across the Midwest. He sold his retail stores and became the Director of Occupational Health for St. Mary Medical Center in 1995. He left St. Mary's to open an occupational Health and Wellness Clinic in 2004. Currently he was the Director of Business Development at Community HealthNet Health Centers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Goldie, and brother Raymond. Len is survived by his wife of 60 years, Filomae (nee Traina) of Valparaiso; 2 sons – Kevin (Lori (nee Krueger) Schmidt of Chesterton and Len (Dana (nee Jansen) Schmidt of Munster; 5 grandchildren – Ryan, Courtney, Kyle, Zack and Alexis Schmidt; 2 brothers – Donald Schmidt of FL and Bernard (Joanne) Schmidt of Lowell; several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 10 a.m. at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 509 W. Division Rd., Valparaiso. Interment at Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville. Friends are invited to visit with Len's family at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway on Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. and at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of Mass. Prayer service at 4pm at the funeral home on Tuesday Contributions may be made to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in Donaldson, IN ([poorhandmaids.org](http://poorhandmaids.org)). [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 9. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Prayer Service

JUL 9. 4:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Visitation

JUL 10. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
509 W Division Rd  
Valparaiso, IN 46385  
(219) 464-1624

## Mass of Christian Burial

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JUL 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
509 W Division Rd  
Valparaiso, IN 46385  
(219) 464-1624

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Always enjoyed my cousin as a youth (and the family's farm!) and as we both ventured out into the business world. Fond memories of his visits to Naples to break bread with my wife and I. May eternal rest be granted onto him. lord.

David J Bradach, CPA  
Naples, FL

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David J Bradach - July 10, 2019 at 08:26 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



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July 10, 2019 at 01:55 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



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July 09, 2019 at 01:26 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



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July 09, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ *Mr Schmidt was a larger than life personality. He was always welcoming and loved to talk. I remember many trips to the store for bathing suits and tennis equipment and he and my Dad talking, laughing and sharing stories. My deepest condolences to the Schmidt family. May you find comfort knowing his life was full, touched many and well lived.*

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**Felice Arredondo** - July 08, 2019 at 11:37 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



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July 08, 2019 at 06:36 PM



“ *Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



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July 08, 2019 at 06:06 PM

RT

“ Robert, Chrissy and Vince Traina purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



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Robert, Chrissy and Vince Traina - July 08, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



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July 08, 2019 at 01:44 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



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July 08, 2019 at 11:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



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July 08, 2019 at 10:52 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



July 08, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



July 07, 2019 at 03:51 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



July 07, 2019 at 03:14 PM



“ *It was a pleasure to reacquaint with Len a few years ago when he was in the health and wellness business. We really enjoyed talking about the old days. He was still sharp as a tack. My condolences to the family.*  
*Art Yagodnik*

**art yagodnik** - July 07, 2019 at 12:28 PM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss praying for your family. Dave Schaetzel class of 76.

Dave Schaetzel - July 07, 2019 at 09:15 AM

 Dave Satka

“ Mr. Schmidt was always known as "Big Len" (BL) by Junior's friends more for his larger than life presence than obvious reasons. He was a big part of our hometown growing up in Merrillville. Everyone knew his legend of athletic prowess which carried over to being a highly driven and successful businessman. My sincerest condolences to Len Jr., Kevin and the woman behind every great man, Mrs. Schmidt.

Dave Satka - July 07, 2019 at 09:13 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..



July 07, 2019 at 08:00 AM

PK

“ filomae and sons i send my deep condolences to you for your loss of Len my thoughts are with you. phyllis harrigan keller



phyllis keller - July 07, 2019 at 06:30 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Leonard "Len" J Schmidt Sr..*



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July 06, 2019 at 10:40 PM