



Walter Martin Schmidt

August 1, 1923 - January 24, 2017

Walter M. Schmidt, 93, of Corvallis, passed away peacefully of natural causes Tuesday, January 24, at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Walt was born August 1, 1923 in Corvallis, Oregon to Walter and Maria Schmidt. Walt and his five sisters were raised in Corvallis on 9th Street at the site of the current Shari's restaurant. While eating at Shari's, he enjoyed trying to figure out which room of his old house he would have been sitting in. Growing up, he attended Corvallis schools, Zion Lutheran School, and graduated from Corvallis High School in 1941. His father owned Schmidt's Red & White Grocery Store; Walt and his sisters worked in the store. When he was old enough to drive, his father bought a new truck for Walt to use for delivering groceries which he did until he was drafted by the Army in 1943, serving in the Army Air Corps. He served his country until 1946. When he returned home, he worked at Whiteside Hardware as a clerk, and then he and his cousin, Norman Beck, bought a TD14 cat and started logging. Walt took the money from the sale of the cat and started Schmidt's Hardware Store on 29th Street. The store eventually became Schmidt's Garden Center which Walt ran for over 50 years.

Walt married Paula Beikman in 1948. He helped build the house on 29th Street where they lived. They had two children, Patricia and Susan. Paula passed away in 2007. In 2008, Walt married Wilma Spees.

Walt had great fondness for the City of Corvallis, even serving on the Corvallis City Council, as a volunteer fireman, and as a member of the Zion Lutheran Church. Walt was a Master Gardener and his yard was always a showpiece. He also took great pride in his Christmas yard decorations. Many will remember the Model T with Santa sitting inside. His outside decorations made the newspaper many times. He also loved telling stories about his childhood in Corvallis, his military training, and his travels.

Walt was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Maria, his sisters, Gertrude Riess, Esther Warneke, Renata Riess, Ruth Wulfers, and his wife Paula Schmidt.

Walt is survived by his wife Wilma Schmidt, sister Marie Grossnicklaus, daughters Patricia Schmidt (Dan McCabe), Susan Yaukey (Tim), step-daughters Cheryl Marshall (Larry), Linda Kline (Stan), grandchildren Jill Bemrose (Bob), Brian Wacker (Adriane), Todd Marshall (Jenn), Kim Brown (Jeff), and nine great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 2745 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, February 4th at 2:00 with burial to follow at Zion Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church.

Events

FEB Funeral Service 02:00PM

4

Zion Lutheran Church

2745 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, OR, US, 97330

FEB Graveside Service 03:00PM

4

Zion Lutheran Cemetery

Corvallis, OR, US, 97330

Comments



“ As a police officer for Corvallis from 1994 to 2014 I came to know Walt both due to incidents related to his Garden Center as well as personally chatting with him regarding our love of agriculture/gardening. I admired him for his great stories as well as his charm and strong moral character. In the latter years I would even stop by and visit with him in the yard, garden, store, and his living room. I was blessed to know both Paula and Wilma as well, both godly women and great compliments to Walt. I regret having moved out of the area and not having been able to see him the last three years but he will always have a place in my heart and memories, and I know that from my time spent with him a small part of the best of him remains in me and has made me a better man. My heart and prayers are with Wilma and the rest of the family in this time of loss. As to Walt, I know I will see him again for sure in the company of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lee McColly, Jacksonville, Oregon

Lee McColly - February 08, 2017 at 12:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Linda Kline - January 30, 2017 at 10:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Linda Kline - January 30, 2017 at 10:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Walt



Linda Kline - January 30, 2017 at 10:14 PM



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Linda Kline - January 30, 2017 at 10:11 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Lisa Carlson - January 30, 2017 at 10:28 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Lisa Carlson - January 30, 2017 at 10:25 AM



“ Also born and raised in Corvallis I enjoyed conversations with Walt over the years each time I visited the store, and usually left with some new nugget of information. What a kind and generous man. He will be missed.

Judy Jacob McCann
CHS class of 1964

Judy Jacob McCann, Sisters, OR - January 29, 2017 at 11:34 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Walt's passing. I knew him as an always cheerful fount of horticultural knowledge. I enjoyed his reminiscing about the earlier days of truck gardening in Corvallis, and he seemed to get a kick out of hearing stories about the travails of the next generation of clod-kickers.

We have a sign on our garden gate which reads:

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth.
One's nearer God's heart in a garden
Than any where else on earth.

Walt certainly knew the wisdom of these words and did so much to help the rest of us in Corvallis discover the peace and joy to be found poking around in the dirt. Such a lovely man.

- Herb Crew

Herb Crew - January 27, 2017 at 07:31 PM



“ As so many others have, I have fond memories of Walt, starting in the '60's. I have no green thumb but Walt was always helpful to me. Wilma, I am so sorry for your loss.

Eileen Langton from Hallmark. - January 26, 2017 at 04:24 PM