



Joel H. Schmidt

May 15, 1926 - February 27, 2021

Joel Heylmann Schmidt, Age 94, of Hamilton died Saturday morning, February 27, 2021 at Fort Hamilton Hospital. He was born May 15, 1926 in Noblesville, Indiana, the son of Jacob J. and Caroline (Heylmann) Schmidt. Joel grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where he met his wife of 70 years, Marilyn. He graduated from Indiana University and while working for Shell Oil Company, moved to Hamilton in 1953. In 1969, their good neighbors, Chuck and Charlotte Posey, offered them a chance to join in partnership with a new McDonald's Restaurant on Washington Boulevard in Hamilton. Joel and Marilyn became McDonald's Operators for the next 23 years. A veteran, Joel served in the U.S. Marine Corp in 1944 - 45. He had the privilege of being on a landing craft bringing supplies to shore when the flag was raised on Mt. Surbachi in Iwo Jima, and could hear cheers going up from the island. Joel loved his community and devoted much of his time to civic, charitable and business organizations. He was past chairman of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Economic Development Corp., Hamilton Community Foundation and the board of Fort Hamilton Hospital. He served as president of many community organizations including The Boys and Girls Club, Junior Achievement, The Fitton Center, and Hamilton-Fairfield Arts Council. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton. Joel is survived by his wife, Marilyn (Orr) Schmidt whom he married in 1951, a daughter, Debbie (Pat) Pawling, a son, George (Rhonda) Schmidt, 5 grandchildren, Leslie Purdy, Valerie (Ryan) Haynes, Joel (Krista) Schmidt,

Kyle (Tiffany) Pawling, Kara (Derrick) Tafur and 15 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Susan Schultz and brother, John Schmidt. Private services for the family were held with Pastor John Lewis officiating. Interment will be in Rose Hill Burial Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Ronald McDonald House of Greater Cincinnati, 341 Erkenbrecher Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

BS

“ I’m not sure why this stuck with me for over sixty years but when I was in elementary school I struggled with reading. I guess my mom shared her concern with her big brother, Uncle Joel. On one of our gatherings with the Heylmann/Schmidt clan, Uncle Joel, who was not as goofy as the rest of the clan, sat with me and taught me some reading tricks. I sat there reading while he patiently moved his finger across each line in the book. I remember my mom glancing at me and Uncle Joel and proudly smiling. He was such a good man.

Bill Schultz - March 09, 2021 at 07:37 PM

DH

“ *The Schmidt Family* -

I am so truly sorry to hear of the loss of Joel. Please accept my sincere condolences and I hope that my prayers for your family in this time will help to comfort all of you. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

- David Helton, Jr.

David Helton - March 04, 2021 at 10:14 PM

CH

“ *I remember working at the Fairfield McDonalds. I learned how to give great customer service. Thanks for teaching me how to work hard.*

Carol Heitzer - March 04, 2021 at 08:46 PM

AN

“ At meetings or conventions I would always seek out Joel. Not only to discuss McDonald's and family but to hear his wisdom about life. Our prayers are with the Schmidt family. Carole and Allan Nahra

Allan Nahra - March 04, 2021 at 02:21 PM

GK

“ My condolences to Joel's Family. I fondly remember the years that I spent working on Erie Highway and learned many life lessons that I carry with me today. Joel's restaurant's were always some of the best run anywhere because of his high standards. I especially remember working in the store when there was a "Joel sighting" as he pulled onto the lot. The store would immediately become a flurry of activity as everyone would do their best to insure their work station was Joel appropriate. Big Hugs to you all!

Greg Ketterer - March 04, 2021 at 06:06 AM

MB

“ Joel hired me as a part-timer for my first "real" payroll job in 1973 as a high-schooler at the Erie location. Having worked for different farmers off and on through the years, this new adventure helped me develop team and cooperative skills as an employee. Although I was there for a few months until taking a summer job in a factory before I started at Miami, I would see Joel out in the community at different times throughout the years, he always spoke to this "grill boy" and made him feel like a remembered acquaintance, and had a kind word. That is the Joel that I remember and have always appreciated. He always had a kind and encouraging word, and I am a better man for it.

Michael Braun, Attorney

Michael P Braun - March 03, 2021 at 03:14 PM

JB

“ I worked for Joel from 1970-72. My first job. Joel was a tough but fair boss and a perfectionist. He always stressed that we provide the best experience for all patrons. High quality fresh hot food in a clean environment. I remember that early morning he had someone scout the neighborhood for several blocks in all directions to pick up litter, not just from McDonalds, to pick up waste. He even paid me for a couple of years after I left for college to "shop" his restaurant and take notes on service, food quality, cleanliness and even light bulbs.

His son, George, worked there when I was there. Only 15 or 16 at the time. My condolences to George Jr and his family.

Like many, I believe that my early work experience at McDonalds prepared me for a very successful career in other industries.

Most famous quote "If you have time to lean, you have time to clean"!

John Bonner - March 03, 2021 at 12:51 PM

JT

“ I'm so sorry to hear that Joel passed away. He was such an incredible man and always had a kind word to say. Hamilton will miss this smart, handsome man! Sending hugs and prayers to Marilyn and the rest of the family. Sincerely, Julie Thurman

Julie Thurman - March 03, 2021 at 12:30 PM

BN

“ *B. Gayle Niehaus*

The name Joel Schmidt will resonate in the community for years to come. He was such a gentleman and friend to all. Joel led by example and he and Marilyn were wonderful role models for how to live a life “ well- lived. “ My sincere condolences to Marilyn and his beautiful family.

B. Gayle Niehaus - March 03, 2021 at 12:15 PM

GB

“ *There is much that will be said about Joel and his Life. The words that come to me are, THANK YOU. Joel, thank you for a life of caring and sharing. You and Marilyn are life's example that we all strive to become.*

Gary and Kathy Brown

Gary Brown - March 03, 2021 at 11:52 AM

KT

“ *Joel and Marilyn were wonderful neighbors for many years. Not a day goes by that my family doesn't think of them and miss them. Joel was kind, sweet, humble and one of the classiest people I have ever met. He will certainly be missed by many.*

The Tegeder's

Kris Tegeder - March 02, 2021 at 08:31 PM

GR

“ So sorry to hear of Joel’s passing. As teens working for him he taught us work ethic and showed us how leaders lead. Truly an inspiration to us as we started our careers.

Gary and Stephanie Roberts

Gary Roberts - March 02, 2021 at 08:01 PM

GH

“ Joel Schmidt...a good friend.
A gentleman who displayed a winning combination of character and wisdom.
The loss is great.

Glen House

G House - March 02, 2021 at 01:09 PM

TW

“ Mary and I are so saddened to hear this news. Joel was a great gentleman and fantastic neighbor. Always a smile and kind word. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marilyn and the entire Schmidt family.

Tim Webster - March 02, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ I worked for the man for many years. To this day (I own several businesses), I use his advice and wisdom

David Lingler - March 02, 2021 at 10:30 AM

JS

“ IT WAS A PRRIVLEGE TO HAVE MET JOEL AND BECOME HIS FRIEND. HE WAS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO LIVE A CHRISTION LIFE. OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO HIS ENTIRE FAMILY, JERRY AND CAROL SUEDKAMP

JERRY & CAROL SUEDKAMP - March 02, 2021 at 09:18 AM

FS

“ *Pat and Debbie,*
Our condolences, Joel was the perfect example of our greatest generation. Chatted with him several times at the Hanover Township veterans service when I was still a trustee. Most recently we had a nice talk at the West Side Barber Shop a year ago, just before it closed for COVID. We always talked about you guys and kids. Our thoughts and prayers.
Fritz and Barb Stitsinger

Fritz Stitsinger - March 02, 2021 at 09:14 AM

SS

“ *So sorry to hear of Joel's passing. He was someone I always looked up to. A successful businessman, a tremendous community leader and a true gentleman. He will be missed. Steve Sullivan*

Steve Sullivan - March 02, 2021 at 06:11 AM

MB

“ *Joel was one of the nicest people that I have ever met. I enjoyed the conversations I had with him in recent years. I always thought he dressed so well -- he always looked sharp!*
The members of the "McDonald's Adult Daycare Center (MADC) will miss him greatly.
R.I.P., my friend.

Mel Brown - March 01, 2021 at 06:24 PM

RL

“ I had several conversations over the years with him, and while we did not know each other well, during those conversations he always made me feel like I was the only person in the room. A fine gentleman, and a gentle man. The community will miss him. My condolences to Marilyn and the Schmidt family.

Bob Lowery

Robert Lowery - March 01, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joel H. Schmidt.*



March 01, 2021 at 03:26 PM