

Clifton, NJ Family Church: Passing of Our Dear Brother, Mr. Robert Schmitt

Naokimi Ushiroda
July 27, 2022



Memorial Service for Robert Schmitt

Service will begin at 11 until 12:30 with a refreshment break and then the wonjeon at 2pm at Crest Haven Memorial Cemetery.

The family has organized a [gofundme page](#) to help with expenses.

Cards may be sent to:
Schmitt Family
417 Cortlandt St.
Belleville, NJ 07109

Zoom viewing information for the Memorial Service next week will be shared soon.

In Memory of Robert Schmitt



Rhonda Schmitt is organizing this fundraiser.

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Robert "Bob" Leroy Schmitt was a loving husband, brother, uncle, father of four and grandfather of four. He left this world too suddenly on July 19, 2022.

Born on July 25, 1948 in Peoria, IL to Leroy Harlan Schmitt and Mamie Irby Black, Bob was the elder brother of Thomas Schmitt of Peoria, IL.

Bob's favorite memories of his childhood were playing cowboys and later playing army with his friends and brother. He spoke often of visits to his aunt in Marietta, OK, where he rode the famed Silver Chief train. In high school he ran track and field and was a pitcher for the baseball team. He participated in the Boy Scouts for many years and excelled in his studies. Bob went on to Wabash College and earned a bachelor's degree in English and psychology. During his college years, he met Rhonda at a summer job and they were married in June of 1970. This, however, was during the Viet Nam war and he was called to serve in the military. After basic training he was assigned to a medical unit and spent most of his service at Fort Riley, Kansas where he counseled soldiers returning from the war as well as their families. It was in Kansas in 1973 that Bob and Rhonda met members of the Unification Church and they were called to a missionary life. They received the marriage blessing in December, 1976. In the early days Bob pioneered in Idaho and would joke about days of fundraising with peanuts. He attended UTS in the second class and pioneered in England during the time their first daughter Mindy was born in New York, where they lived before moving to Belleville, NJ in 1982. He worked for Going Up Press and later as a pressman for Noticias del Mundo. Later, when the church began an elementary school, he moved on to teaching and summer camps, and finally got certified as a special ed teacher, employed for 13 years at Clifton High in New Jersey. He was a popular teacher who loved his students but had to retire early due to health problems.

Bob loved music, especially blues, rock and surf rock, and was a proficient blues guitar player. The neighborhood around the house would often ring with blaring blues riffs coming from inside his room. He loved his family and spent much time with his kids in their younger years playing outside, going to parks, riding bikes and having epic water- balloon fights. He had a great sense of humor and playful side that everyone loved. In later years, he enjoyed visiting with and playing with his grandchildren, who lovingly referred to him as "Grandpa" and "Pop-Pop".

Bob also had a great love of animals, and he became somewhat of an icon in the neighborhood where he cared for a colony of stray cats he dubbed "Kittyville". His own cats, Binky B and Sweet-Sweet, and dog, Sanders, also brought him much joy. He often remarked on the miracles of creation that his animals represented and couldn't understand how anyone could deny God's existence.

Bob is survived by his wife, Rhonda, four children, Mindy, Michael, Emily and Eric, and four grandchildren, Charlie, Luc, Ben and Cooper; his brother Tom, and family, as well as many extended family members and friends who he's touched over the years; and never to forget his furry children, who will no doubt miss him greatly.

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Belleville, NJ 07109

\$1,275 raised of \$10,000 goal

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Rhonda Schmitt

Organizer
Clifton, NJ

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