



Mr. Louis E. Schmidt

November 22, 1925 - October 27, 2013

Louis E. Schmidt, a retired Assistant Attorney General who became Acting Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and wrote the first Maryland state Medicare bill, died October 27th of congestive heart failure surrounded by his family at Gilcrest Hospice Care. He was 87 and lived in Sparks and Ocean City, MD.

The son of an architect and Maryland Institute faculty member and a homemaker, Mr. Schmidt was born in 1925. Following the death of his father and the stock market crash, his mother lost everything, and he and his sister were sent to live with different relatives. "This experience had a profound impact on his life," said his daughter, Robin Higgins, "he was a very devoted father and loving husband, who truly understood the meaning of family."

Mr. Schmidt, a native of Baltimore, was a 1943 graduate of Forest Park High School where he was a star athlete in lacrosse and track. After serving in the Air Force, he attended what is now Loyola University of Maryland on the GI Bill, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1948. While at Loyola, he also excelled in both track and lacrosse and worked as a model for Hutzler's department store.

Following graduation, Mr. Schmidt became an investigator for the State of Maryland while attending the University of Baltimore Law School at night. In

1951, he earned a J.D. and began a career in law with the State of Maryland.

From 1950 to the late 1970s, he served in a number of capacities, including General Counsel for the Department of Health, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Acting Secretary from 1970 through 1972. He retired from the state and started his own law practice in 1979.

Mr. Schmidt was President of the Father's Club at Loyola Blakefield from 1966 through 1968 and served as President of the Alumni Association at what is now Loyola University of Maryland in the early 1960s. "Lou Schmidt was a great listener and get-it-done kind of a guy," said Richard Schmidt, S.J., a former administrator at Loyola Blakefield. "He did such a wonderful job that the members of the Father's Club asked him to serve two terms as President."

In 1980, he and his first wife of 46 years, the late Angela Custy Schmidt, opened a small retail business in Harborplace, called Two Turtles. This enterprise would become their passion for the next 15 years and included the publication of a children's book as well as the production of a clothing line for kids and adults.

Retiring in 2002, Mr. Schmidt and his second wife, Bette Koontz, enjoyed tending to their beachfront gardens in Ocean City, and spending time with family and friends in Fort Lauderdale during the winter months. Both avid travelers, Bette and Lou enjoyed trips to China, Israel, Greece, Turkey, and the Caribbean. He was a former member of the Baltimore Country Club, Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club, and the Lago Mar Tennis Club in Fort Lauderdale where they both loved playing tennis and golf.

"Poppie" is survived by his second wife of 11 years, Bette M. Koontz; two daughters, Robin S. Higgins of Brooklandville and Kelly S. Townsend and

husband, Mark of Silver Spring; a stepdaughter, Susan K. Laber and husband Frank, and stepson, J. Michael Koontz and wife, Mae; five grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. A son, Louis E. Schmidt, Jr. died in 1971.

A Funeral Service for Mr. Schmidt will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 2 at St. James Episcopal Church, 3100 Monkton Rd. A Memorial Celebration will be held at his Two Turtles beach home in Ocean City this summer.

Memorial donations may be made to the Maryland Institute College of Art, c/o Development Office, 1300 W. Mount Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217, and directed to the Louis and George Schmidt Endowed Scholarship, in honor of his late father, who was a 1910 graduate and faculty member until his death in 1926.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Service

NOV 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal
My Lady's Manor
3100 Monkton Road
Monkton, MD 21111

Tribute Wall



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Louis E. Schmidt.*



October 31, 2013 at 12:49 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Louis E. Schmidt.*



October 31, 2013 at 07:51 AM