



## Edward Schwerdt

May 11, 1924 - February 5, 2024

Edward George Schwerdt, 99, Topeka, Kansas, diminutive in stature but giant of heart, passed away peacefully Monday, February 5, 2024.

Ed was born May 11, 1924, to George and Mary Melchior Schwerdt. He graduated from Capitol Catholic High School (Hayden High) in 1941 and attended Strickler's Business College. On January 1, 1943, Ed enlisted in the US Navy serving in WWII at the Advanced Amphibious Repair Base in Plymouth, England through 1944. He was honorably discharged as a Yeoman 2nd class in 1946. Ed earned a degree in Economics and Accounting in 1947 from Central Missouri State College.

Ed's career was with Santa Fe Railway, beginning in 1941, just out of high school, later as personal secretary to the President in Chicago, and ending with his retirement in 1984 as Assistant Superintendent of Car Accounting in Topeka with 43 years of service.

On June 7, 1948, Ed and Loretta Manhart were united in marriage at Assumption Catholic Church enjoying almost 74 years together prior to her death May 19, 2022.

Ed and Loretta were founding members of St. Matthew Catholic Church and he was currently a member of Christ The King Catholic Church. He was a

member of Knights of Columbus Council No. 534 since 1942 holding all council offices and chairs; he was an honorary life member of the James W. Gibbons Fourth Degree Assembly, a member since 1959, having served as Faithful Navigator, State Secretary of K of C, as well as many other state offices.

Ed was a life member of the American Legion, past president of the German American Club of Topeka, member of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Republican Precinct Committeeman for more than 25 years and volunteered at St. Francis Hospital, the VA, and Let's Help.

Ed enjoyed his German traditions, afternoon cribbage and beer with friends. He also enjoyed trips to Chicago and Notre Dame football with his sons, grandsons and best friend, Ed Rooney. Ed led a full and active life dedicated to his faith, family, friends, country and the Topeka community and all were better for it. Friends recognized his car by the bumper sticker "Life's too short to drink cheap beer."

Grateful to have shared Ed's life are his children, Barbara Schwerdt, Greg Schwerdt, Mark Schwerdt (Cindy), Chris Schwerdt (Candy) and Kent Schwerdt (Julie); 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; and sisters, Mary Katherine White and Rita Barnett.

Ed was also preceded in death by his daughter, Marcia Schwerdt, grandson, Corey Schwerdt, granddaughter, Hanna Schwerdt and siblings, George Schwerdt III and Florence Leiker.

The James W. Gibbons Fourth Degree Assembly will present the Chalice Ceremony at 5 p.m. Thursday, February 15, at Christ the King Catholic Church followed by the rosary led by the Knights of Columbus. Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. that evening at the Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at noon Friday, February 16, at Christ the King Church. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Let's Help and Christ the King Catholic Church sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Chalice Ceremony and Rosary

FEB 15. 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th St  
Topeka, KS 66614-1973  
(785) 273-0710

## Visitation

FEB 15. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th St  
Topeka, KS 66614-1973  
(785) 273-0710

## Mass of Christian Burial

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FEB **16**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th St  
Topeka, KS 66614-1973  
(785) 273-0710

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward Schwerdt*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - February 13, 2024 at 05:15 PM

TM

*Our condolences to the Schwerdt family. Ed was a great man and was very proud of his family. Sorry for your loss.  
Tim & Natalie Moranz*

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**Tim Moranz** - February 15, 2024 at 03:32 PM

MB

“ *My sincere sympathy to the Schwerdt Family. I remember when Ed and Loretta would come over to our house and take our Dad and Mom to the Knights of Columbus meetings. Ed would tell us we could call him Grandpa. Your Dad and Mom were very sweet people. When I would see them out, they were always hand in hand. God Bless!!!*

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**Michael Browne** - February 16, 2024 at 11:24 PM

JG

“ Great families come from great parents, and from my vantage point this gentleman was a great husband, father and person, and the patriarch of a great family of folks. Whenever I had the few interactions with Mr. Schwerdt, he was always very kind and thoughtful. To all his family, enjoy the memories of a life well lived.

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**John Gragson** - February 16, 2024 at 11:10 AM

JS

“ Schwerdt family,

*I'm sorry to hear of your dad's passing. After reading the obituary, it's clear he was a blessing to many. That includes my mother Agnes, who worked with and for Ed for many years at Santa Fe. My mother had nothing but good things to say about Ed, who was a source of good advice and some funny stories.*

*Our family was enriched because of your dad.*

*Jeff Stein*

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**Jeff Stein** - February 16, 2024 at 12:47 AM

KU

“ Dear Greg and family: My condolences to you for the loss of your father. His expression says a lot! I hope all the shared tears and laughter lead to more good memories! God bless you and your family. Very best, Kathleen Urbom

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**Kathleen Urbom** - February 15, 2024 at 06:34 PM

PP

“ In condolence of the Schwerdt families-Kent, Chris, Mark with the passing of your dad (Der Vater) Ed. Always enjoyed seeing Ed down at McDonells Tavern and the Ginza Club and at the old Russian Stomps on a Friday or Saturday night!  
Pat Pfeiffer.

Pat Pfeiffer - February 15, 2024 at 01:20 PM

RR

“ They don't make people like Ed anymore. Super guy. Ron Redmond

Ronald Redmond - February 11, 2024 at 11:49 AM

JA

“ So sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Your Mom and Dad were regulars at the Hanover Pancake House we enjoyed them so much. Your dad always had a joke to say and he teased your mom all the time they are both greatly missed.  
Scott and Jean Albrecht  
Hanover Pancake House

Jean Albrecht - February 11, 2024 at 09:54 AM

LV

“ Rest in Peace, Ed. We have been friends w/Ed and Loretta for many years. Ever since my son Larry came home from first grade at St. Matthews and said he had a new friend Mark Squirt; they are friends to this day.  
Love and prayers to the Schwerdt family at this time.

Lavon Vossen - February 10, 2024 at 02:14 PM

RG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all the Schwerdt family

Robert grace - February 10, 2024 at 09:22 AM

NM

“ I am sorry to read of your fathers passing. My mother died last February and she was in the class behind him in High School and worked in the same department for Santa Fe. I am sure they knew each other. Having both of your parents pass has left a void in all of your lives that can never be filled. May healing and comfort come your way. Nancy Parry Muret

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**Nancy Muret** - February 10, 2024 at 03:09 AM

LW

“ Schwerdt family,  
We are saddened to learn of the passing of your dear Father & patriarch Ed. Both Ed & Loretta were great examples of good friends, great family & lifelong mentors. May God bless and comfort you during this difficult time. Cherish the great memories you have. Hugs. Corwyn & Linda

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**Linda & Corwyn Wenke** - February 10, 2024 at 02:32 AM

JG

“ Ed was a grand exemplar of faith and family. He was a cousin I always had the deepest respect. Our family has wonderful memories of Ed and Loretta. May they both rest in peace.  
Joe E. Geist

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**Joe Geist** - February 09, 2024 at 05:49 PM

BS

“ You won't find better people than Ed and Loretta Schwerdt. We were so honored to call them friends. Loretta graciously volunteered often at the Blood Bank and Ed and Loretta were long time clients of Jim's at the accounting office. I became friends with Greg while working at Porterfields. His smile lights up a room. So very sorry for your loss. Prayer and love, Jim & Bobbi Showalter

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**Bobbi Showalter** - February 09, 2024 at 03:33 PM

RI

“ Ed and Loretta were great people, Used to love to run into ed at Terrys he and my dad would talk together forever, May he rest in peace

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**Richard** - February 09, 2024 at 12:14 PM