



Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber

November 20, 1933 - November 17, 2020

Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber, age 86 of Highland, IL, died Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at Cedarhurst of Highland in Highland, IL.

He was born on Monday, November 20, 1933, in Highland, IL, the son of Rupert and Helen (nee Geismann) Schwarztrauber, Sr..

On Saturday, June 10, 1961, he married Joanne M. Wick at St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL, who survives.

He was a member of Saint Paul Catholic Church; (Past President of the St. Paul Parish Council; St. Paul Board of Education; Director of the St. Paul Adult Choir for 50 + years and St. Paul High School "Small Society" singing group); Knights of Columbus Council #1548; Charter member of Highland Jaycees; International Claims Assoc.; United Way of Greater St. Louis; Board Member of the Faith Countryside Homes and the Louis Latzer Memorial Library..

Born at Highland, IL; graduated from St. Paul Grade School in 1947. He attended Pontifical College Josephinum at Worthington, OH, for high school and 3 1/2 years of college. He graduated from St. Louis University in 1956 with a BA in History. Mr. Schwarztrauber served in the US Army from 1956 to 1958 with the 158th Army Band-Ft. Knox, KY. In 1958 he began working at

General American Life Insurance Company in administration. He became a manager of the Individual Claim Department, then a consultant and finally the first team leader for the company in the individual underwriting and service area. He was a member of the International Claims Association and served on several committees for that organization. As a member of the Education Committee, he helped author several textbooks for claims handling. During his years at work, he also served as a Loaned Executive for the United Way of Greater St. Louis for many years. He retired after 37 years in 1995. In retirement, he enjoyed being with family and friends. He enjoyed volunteering. He was a charter member of the Jaycees and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He served on the board of directors for Faith Countryside Homes and the Louis Latzer Memorial Public Library. He was a past president of the St. Paul Parish Council and the St. Paul Board of Education. He also directed the St. Paul Adult Choir for more than 50 years. In the 60's and 70's he directed a St. Paul High School singing group called the Small Society. He enjoyed reading, flower gardening, playing the piano, traveling and attending sporting events.

Survivors include:

Wife - Joanne M. Schwarztrauber, Highland, IL

Son - Craig J. Schwarztrauber, Mascoutah, IL

Son - Alan G. (Jennifer) Schwarztrauber, Dittmer, MO

Former Daughter In-Law - Catherine Schwarztrauber, Mascoutah, IL

Grandchildren - Five

Great Grandchild - One

Great Grandchild - One on the way

Brother-in-law - Donald Frey, Florissant, MO

Sister-in-law - Marilyn Wick, Highland, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Rupert John Schwarztrauber, Sr.

Mother - Helen Claudine Schwarztrauber
Sister - Joan E. Frey.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Private Funeral Mass will be Saturday, December 19, 2020, at Saint Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul School Educational Foundation or Faith Countryside Homes.

Tribute Wall

WK

“ I reported to Sam beginning in 1980 as Mngr of Claims he was the Director of Individual Claims and Benefit Services. I worked with Sam in various ways for 15 yrs. He was someone who knew what he was doing and who to know a great mentor for the years I was at GA. He goes back to the senior management of Dick Condon, Barb Dillon, Rowland Ricketts.

It appears Sam was as involved in his personal life as he was in his professional life. I and my wife extend our full sympathy to his entire family.

Jan and Bill Kasalko

William Kasalko - December 26, 2020 at 11:07 PM

PJ

“ The seminarians, faculty, and staff of the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, send deepest sympathies and prayers to the Schwarztrauber Family during this time of loss. “Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.”

Pontifical College Josephinum - December 22, 2020 at 11:22 AM

MM

“ Sam was a wonderful St. Paul Choir Director for many years. I was blessed to share many of those years as a longtime member of the choir.

Whenever we started to practice a new song, Sam would always ask us to read the words aloud together. He would tell us that we are going to sing a prayer, not just words, so think about what you are singing and put some feeling into it!!

He also reminded us that we were there to sing praise to God and to help make the mass a better celebration for Jesus and the Eucharist.

Sam scheduled road trips for the choir to other parishes around the area. We would sing a prayer service for the parishioners.

Thanks to Sam for all the wonderful memories. Thanks to Sam for all the hard work and time he gave in preparing and leading our practices.

God Bless Sam and his family. God grant him eternal rest and salvation.

Marylin McDevitt - December 17, 2020 at 12:02 PM

DM

“ Sending hugs and prayers to Sam's family. God definitely blessed him with a sweet spirit and a great smile! He will be missed.

Debbie Missey - December 17, 2020 at 07:57 AM

RR

“ Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber



Rita Rinderer - December 17, 2020 at 07:18 AM

SW

“ *Sheila Weber lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber*



Sheila Weber - December 16, 2020 at 07:22 PM

MF

“ *Sam introduced me to choir in 1961. Singing "Oh Holy Night" on that magical eve is one of the greatest memories of my life. Through the years, Sam and his wife Joan became friends and mentors. Our times with the musical group "The Small Society" (summarized by JR's tribute) were indeed magical. He brought music to St. Paul, to the community, and to our hearts. We will never forget, Sam.*

Mark Frisse - December 08, 2020 at 11:30 AM

 Terri Hoffmann

“ *This is a thank you to Sam, for all his years of faithful guidance as our choir director. Not only did he skillfully help us learn and sing our music each week. He also reminded us that our music is praise and each song a prayer.
Sam personally helped me in becoming a better musician and gave me much needed confidence in this ministry.
May God bless him and his family. Eternal rest.
TnT Hoffmann*

Terri Hoffmann - November 27, 2020 at 01:35 PM

CF

Condolences to the family. His music ministry was such a gift. May he rest in peace.

Carolyn Firestone - December 31, 2020 at 05:15 PM

SG

“ *Sherri Geiger lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber*



Sherri Geiger - November 24, 2020 at 06:13 PM

LW

“ *Lynn And Ken Weis lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber*



Lynn and Ken Weis - November 24, 2020 at 04:54 PM

MB

“ *Mary Bergman sent a virtual gift in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber*



Mary Bergman - November 24, 2020 at 01:29 PM

JK

“ *As a second cousin, I have known Sam "Sonny" my entire life. I looked up to him from early on, and he was always so patient and kind to this little kid. As he matured and I moved away, I learned of his love of music and his leadership at St. Paul Parish with his musical skills. He and Joanie were able to attend a couple of the Geisman and cousins reunions through the years. I will always have fond memories Sam. Jo Ellen Winter Knabel*

Jo Ellen Winter Knabel - November 21, 2020 at 03:03 PM

RR

“ Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber



Rita Rinderer - November 21, 2020 at 10:23 AM

VS

“ Vicki Geiger Suhre lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber



Vicki Geiger Suhre - November 19, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber.



November 19, 2020 at 02:29 PM

JP

“ Sam took leadership of the "Small Society", a Christian folk group (St. Paul High) in May of '68. We had so very many events and memories to share. The group was started by Sr. Joy and Fr. Dodd in the fall of '67. It was an "Up Up with people" type group. Sam was perfect as our leader. He enjoyed the experience of directing the group. We played gigs all over Il. and parts of Mo. We played Religious, folk, and patriotic songs like " this land is your land" , "Ya can't live crooked and think straight", "Blowin in the wind". I have a list of over 50 songs that we performed during those 8-10 years. A vinyl album was recorded circa '74. We all love SAM and JOANIE!!! Their basement windows vibrated from our guitar sound waves when we practiced at their St. Michael st. house that first summer of '68. Tearfully stated again: We ALL love Sam! I had 53 years with Sam. How lucky could I be?! JR Potthast

JR Potthast - November 18, 2020 at 09:35 PM

MB

“ I'm very sorry to hear about Sams passing. My thoughts prayers love hugs go to the family. He was the best. Have wonderful memories of Sam he was a true friend

Mary beth Broughton - November 18, 2020 at 08:29 PM

MB

“ Mary Beth Broughton lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber



Mary beth Broughton - November 18, 2020 at 08:26 PM

MB

“ *Mary Beth Broughton sent a virtual gift in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber*



Mary beth Broughton - November 18, 2020 at 08:24 PM

GS

“ *Condolences to the family. I believe Sam and I carpooled together years ago.*

Gale Starks - November 17, 2020 at 11:33 PM

RR

“ *Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Rupert J. "Sam" Schwarztrauber*



Rita Rinderer - November 17, 2020 at 08:04 PM

PN

“ *Such a sweet man, RIP Sam!*

Patricia Noe - November 17, 2020 at 07:42 PM