



Sterling J. Schoen

September 13, 1942 - January 23, 2017

Sterling J. Schoen, age 74 of Alhambra, IL, died Monday, January 23, 2017, at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Highland, IL.

He was born September 13, 1942, in Highland, IL, the son of Arthur and Ethel (nee Mollet) Schoen.

On August 15, 1965, he married Edwina "Winnie" Kathleen Smith who survives in Alhambra.

He was a member of First Baptist Church, Alhambra, IL. He was also a Church Youth Leader and member of Alhambra Community Club.

Sterling was born in Highland and grew up on the family farm North of Grantfork. He graduated Highland High School in 1960. He then attended Greenville College. He achieved his Bachelors Degree from Greenville College in Music Education. Sterling taught Music, Band, and Swing Choir for for 30 years at Granite City Schools. In his retirement he was a Substitute Teacher in many area schools. He was also a Chaplain for IL State Prison System. Sterling became very instrumental in refurbishing and maintaining Vincent Cemetery, Northeast of Alhambra. He also taught Sunday School at Alhambra Care Center for over 50 years. He formerly served as a Board Member at Hitz Memorial Home in Alhambra. Sterling and his wife shared

their home with many foster children and exchange students.

Survivors include :

Wife - Edwina "Winnie" K. Schoen nee Smith, Alhambra, IL

Daughter In-law - Sharon M. Starko, Highland, IL

Grandchild - Brandi N. Starko

Grandchild - Johnathan O. Starko (Husband Steve Kennedy)

Grandchild - Jacob I. Starko

Grandchild - Danielle W. (Alex) Moore

Great Grandchild - Alexis M. Kampwerth

Great Grandchild - Brianna R. Starko

Sister - Doris J. Watson, Pocahontas, IL

Sister - Louvine Hallmark, Loudon, TN

Sister In-law - Nancy E. Schoen, Grandtfolk, IL

Brother In-law - Dennis Smith, The Colony, TX

He was preceded in death by :

Father - Arthur Louis Schoen

Mother - Ethel Orda Schoen nee Mollet

Son - Alexander "Al" Starko died 6/2/2013

Brother - Virgil L. Schoen died 2/18/2006

Brother In-law - John R. Watson died 11/3/2009

Brother In-law - David Hallmark died 5/18/2005

Arrangements are being handled by Dauderman Mortuary in Alhambra, IL.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, January 27, 2017, at First Baptist Church, Alhambra, IL in , and from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at First Baptist Church, Alhambra, IL.

Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at First

Baptist Church, Alhambra, IL with Rev. Mark Gause officiating.

Interment will be at Harris Cemetery in Alhambra, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to 1st Baptist Church-Alhambra; Bread of Life Food Pantry-Hamel; HACSM Food Pantry-Highland, IL.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Winnie - I was so sorry to hear of Sterling's passing. It was a great honor for me to get to know the two of you during my time in Highland. The music that you both created and the warm, loving openness of your home to so many young people, is truly a gift. May you take comfort in all the fantastic memories you have given to all of us. You know that the love, music and faith Sterling shared with all of us will continue for generations to come.

John Heath

john heath - February 06, 2017 at 02:46 PM

MO

“ Sterling was always helping others, he was a good friend and know he will be missed. May he rest in Peace, Mike Otto

Michael Otto - January 29, 2017 at 07:51 AM

DM

“ Mr. Schoen was a wonderful Teacher. He was my home room teacher both years at Prather. I always remembered him. He was one teacher that we always knew had our best interested in hand. R.I.P. Mr. S...

Dawn Mead - January 27, 2017 at 03:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sterling J. Schoen.



January 27, 2017 at 01:06 PM

JH

“ Sterling was a wonderful man...so kind, giving, and funny. Ster as he liked to be called was my piano teacher. He was a good teacher, too bad I wasn't his ideal student. I remember times when he would go looking for me in New Douglas as I was riding my pony when I was suppose to be taking a lesson!

Not so long ago we even got to share a bus tour to the Oklahoma Memorial, sites in Dallas, San Antonio, and an outdoor chapel in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. It was at this chapel where Sterling blessed us with playing the piano. I remember it as if it was yesterday. It was beautiful and made a lifetime memory. It was great to have this trip so we had time to reminisce. Sterling Schoen will be missed.

Winnie I'm wishing you peace and wonderful memories of a special guy who will be missed by many.

Jody Harrison - January 27, 2017 at 12:31 PM



What a Great music teacher the only time I liked that class was when he was the teacher so sad all of us oldies. From Prather, will sure miss him, may God rest his soul. Amen

Cyndi Leadlove-Niles - January 27, 2017 at 02:42 PM

MW

“ STERLING SCHOEN WAS A GREAT TEACHER HE TAUGHT MUSIC AT PRATHER JR HIGH WHEN I WAS THERE IN 1980 AND 1981 LOVED HIM SO MUCH MIKE WALKER

MIKE WALKER - January 27, 2017 at 10:16 AM

DN

“ Sterling has been my most beloved friend since we were in diapers as neighbors on the farm. Sterling touched so many lives with love, compassion, and kindness, he will be missed and remembered by so many. There is a hole in my heart today but I am sure my memories of Sterling's love will heal it. Thank you Sterling for being my friend all of our lives.
Thank you God for accepting Sterling into your heaven.

darrel nungesser - January 26, 2017 at 05:38 PM

BF

“ Edwina, my thoughts and prayers are with you and family as you go through this challenging time. I trust you will sense God's comforting arms around you. I have some special memories of our times at Greenville College! I remember Sterling practicing the organ and preparing to present a Bach piece, I think. Much blood, sweat & tears went into those performances. So thankful, but not surprised, to read of the special influences you and Sterling had on others.
Love and prayers,
Beth Dooley Franklin

Beth Franklin - January 26, 2017 at 08:57 AM

SS

“ Our trip to Tennessee, we had a lot of fun as we went in memory of Al your loving son who passed a year before. The memory that I still chuckle about, on the way home we stopped at a Harley Davidson dealer and he and Winnie sat on a Harley Trike, he so loved that photo as he never had nor did he want one. Sorry that I can not find the photo, they looked like season riders :-)

Thank you for the memories Ster, see you later, Sue Starko

Sue Starko - January 26, 2017 at 07:27 AM

BF

“ *My deepest sympathies to your family. Mr Schoen was a wonderful teacher and musician. He helped me to find my singing voice again in eighth grade during my hormonal transition. The key of G has forever been my favorite. That year I won the first superior singing a solo rendition of The Lord's Prayer.*



Bill Freeman - January 25, 2017 at 04:38 PM

GF

“ *Gene Bryant and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sterling J. Schoen.*



Gene Bryant and family - January 25, 2017 at 01:31 PM

SF

“ *Sherry Fletcher lit a candle in memory of Sterling J. Schoen*



Sherry Fletcher - January 25, 2017 at 12:28 PM

SF

Winnie--so sorry for your loss. May your memories give you peace.

Sherry Fletcher - January 25, 2017 at 12:30 PM

MS

“ *Mary Stumpf lit a candle in memory of Sterling J. Schoen*



mary stumpf - January 25, 2017 at 10:22 AM

BG

“ *RIP Ster! You will sure be missed. Thank you for the years of listening to your music. It was ALWAYS so pretty. See ya later...no doubts!*

Brenda Goodall - January 24, 2017 at 08:32 PM


Jessica
Drees

“ *Prayers for your family, He was an amazing man!*



Jessica Drees - January 24, 2017 at 08:20 PM

BS

“ *Sending sincere sympathy to all of the Schoen family. God Bless you through this difficult time.*

Bob & Beckie Schrumpf - January 24, 2017 at 07:33 PM

MA

“ Sterling was a wonderful God fearing man that was very bold in his witness and testimony for the Lord. He was my youth leader and choir director back in the 70ies when my parents Elmer & Pauline Landolt, sister Joann and myself attended Alhambra First Baptist. My last memory of Ster was when he came to my mother's graveside at her burial and gave the most heartfelt kind loving tribute to her and her life. I was married in that church, and last Feb. 11 my husband of 43 years went to heaven also. I'm thinking we're all going to have some wonderful reunion someday soon. Winnie, I love you, and I know your pain. I'll be praying for you everyday. Thank you for sharing Ster with us for all of those years. What memories we'll cherish. I found your wedding picture on the net and hope you don't mind me sharing it.. God Bless You. Mary "Landolt" Akin



Mary "Landolt" Akin - January 24, 2017 at 07:33 PM

BK

“ Bob and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. May God be near you in the difficult days ahead.

Sharyn Kline

Bob & Sharyn Kline - January 24, 2017 at 07:15 PM

CG

“ It's hard to believe he has passed away. Sterling was my SS teacher and youth director way back in the early 70's - so thankful for him teaching us the Word of God and always encouraging us to be in the Word. So glad I got to spend time with him and Winnie just a couple of months ago. Praying God's comfort for Winnie!

Connie (Shirley) Graham

Connie (Shirley) Graham - January 24, 2017 at 06:01 PM

RW

Just got the message from a friend in Pocahontas. Sterling had been on my mind a lot the last couple of weeks. I knew he was ill as he had written me a while back. As everyone knows we had a long history and it shocks me that he is gone...

RK Wall - January 25, 2017 at 12:47 AM

 Jim Jeffries

Winnie we are so sorry to hear about Sterling. I have many good memories of our time working together at Webster and Coolidge.

Jim Jeffries - January 25, 2017 at 02:37 PM

MC

Mr. Schoen was my band instructor/teacher at McKinley Elementary in Granite City. He is one of my favorite teachers and he had a huge impact on my life. I'm forever grateful to have know Mr. Schoen. He was a great man!

Michael Cochran - January 27, 2017 at 09:34 AM

RW

It's been over a year now, and I still think about all the things Sterling did ...

RK Wall - January 24, 2018 at 11:26 PM

RW

Fact is Sterling was a homosexual and his wife knew it but chose to live a life of denial rather than divorce this loser that convinced everyone he was a 'Man of God', when he was just the opposite.

I know these things because I lived with Sterling and his wife when I was a teenager and watched Sterling do evil to promote his own image; things like: Telling people he was trying to save a criminal juvenile, when in fact I had no criminal record at all. Sterling was a control freak that would do anything to try and control people., but his main goal with me was trying to capture and make me surrender my soul. I knew this.

Sterling made unrequited homosexual advances on several occasions, although I tried to remain on a friendship basis because he would give me money to keep quiet.

Sorry for all the people who believed Sterling was anything but a phony POS. Take it from someone who really knew him. for over 50 years.

Robert K. Wqall - April 11, 2020 at 05:11 PM