



## Donald Lee Schmidt Sr.

August 17, 1941 - November 29, 2018

Dateline: Alton

Donald Lee Schmidt Sr., 77, died at 4:33 a.m. Thursday, November 29, 2018 at OSF St. Anthony's Health Center. Born August 17, 1941 in Alton, he was the son of Ralph J. and Mary L. (Gildersleeve) Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt served in both the U.S. Navy and Army as a Master Sergeant for 30 years. He retired from the St. Louis Post office as a computer programmer/analyst and later worked as sales associate for Home Depot. He enjoyed playing golf with his sons and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton and the Alton Wood River Sportsmen's Club. On October 5, 1968 he married the former Betty Ann Bentley in Alton. She survives. Also surviving are two sons, Donald L. "Lee" Schmidt Jr. (Lisa) of Hecker, IL, and William T. "Bill" Schmidt (Christina) of Alton, IL, and three grandchildren, Tommy, Devin and Eric. Visitation will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton where funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018. Father Steven Janoski will officiate. Burial will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Alton with full military honors by the VFW Post 1308. Memorials may be made to a charity of choice. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Cemetery

525 East 4th Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 2. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

DEC 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Lee Schmidt Sr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Donald Lee Schmidt Sr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Please accept my family's heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dear loved one Mr. Schmidt. May you find peace in fond memories of him, and comfort and hope in God's assured promise to awaken those asleep in death to perfect life on a paradise Earth, in fulfillment of His original purpose for humans.*

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**Greene Family** - December 08, 2018 at 05:26 PM

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“ Dear Schmidt family,  
Betty, Lee and Bill, our deepest sympathies for the loss of a husband and a father. I remember the times that we had in our neighborhood. I remember the first time that I met Mr. Schmidt he stopped me when I was walking through the lawn and he had just put down the sod in your yard on east 10th street. He said, "Excuse me, who are you? Please do not walk on our lawn right now we are putting down new sod." When he said that, it made me nervous because I thought I had messed that lawn up so I jumped on the patio quickly to get off the lawn and said, "Mr. Schmidt, I am Tom Epperheimer and live right there with my mom, dad and sister. I am also friends with Lee. I was returning from playing with Stacey and Mandy Doerr." I then said, "I am sorry I walked on your newly planted lawn, although I am not sure what sod is." One note, this was back in the late 1970's, I was either 7 or 8 years old. He smiled, then I knew something was not exactly right and explained to me what sod was and how the equipment he had out in the yard worked to put in the sod. He also explained to me how he prepared the lawn for it. He then asked me to try and move that heavy roller. I tried a few times and a couple more times later on. This was a start of a neighborly friendship, I knew when he would smile that he was kidding with me. This memory of him taught me that if some people are quiet or different and do not talk a whole lot if they are able to open up and have a laugh with you then they are not what they may seem to be by the first impression.  
We will keep that whole family in our prayers,  
Tom, Barbara and Nathan Epperheimer



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Thomas D. Epperheimer - December 03, 2018 at 11:26 AM