



Joseph K.L Schwetz

JUN 13, 1935 - DEC 5, 2025



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Joseph Kenneth Lewis Schwetz, age 90, passed away on December 5, 2025. Known to friends as Ken and to family as Buddy, he lived a life marked by devotion to family, quiet strength, and enduring love.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ken was the eldest of three sons born to Kenneth and Mary (Montague) Schwetz. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he later applied for Foreign Service. This opportunity brought him to the American Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, where he met a beautiful woman, Batoul Mallides, who would become the love of his life and his wife. Ken and Batoul welcomed their first daughter, Catherine, while stationed at the Naval Base in Cherry Point, North Carolina. Afterward, they settled in Philadelphia, where both worked for Eastman Kodak. A few years—and many cold East Coast winters—later, Batoul convinced Ken to move west to sunny San Diego, where her brother lived. There, they welcomed their second daughter, Theresa.

In San Diego, Ken worked for General Dynamics and later held a managerial position with Thrifty Drug Stores, where he remained until his retirement.

Ken enjoyed watching the San Diego Padres, the Philadelphia Eagles, college football, and women's basketball. He was a prolific reader, amassing several hundred books over his lifetime. His interests ranged from spy novels to biographies of historical figures and accounts of significant historical events. He also loved classic films, Big Band music, and crooners.

A quiet man with a sly grin and dry sense of humor, Ken was, above all, a loving and devoted family man. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family and took pride in ensuring they were always cared for. His unflinching devotion to his wife during her final years was an inspiration to all who witnessed it. A fun-loving father, he delighted in showering “his girls” with gifts and planning special outings—game nights, miniature golf, and trips to the drive-in movies. Ken was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Batoul, whom he missed dearly every day after her passing.



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He is survived by his daughters, Catherine Thoreson (husband Paul) and Theresa “Terry” Smigiel (husband Bill); his grandchildren, Dane Thoreson (fiancée Wendy), Katrina Thoreson Villanueva (husband Chris), and McKenna Smigiel Cumo (husband Todd); and his great-grandsons, Dominic and Jonah Villanueva. He is also survived by his brother, Edward Schwetz, and his wife, Georgianne, nieces and nephews, Mark, Suzanne, Susan and William.

We have so many cherished memories that will remain in our hearts forever. Say hi to Mom for us and give her a hug. Love you, Dad.

Ken’s interment will take place at Miramar National Cemetery on December 22, 2025.



Events


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Memorial Service

 **Monday**, December 22, 2025


 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM PT

 **Miramar National Cemetery**
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 CA

 Memorial Urn Service w/ US MARINE Honors.
9:30 am.



Cemetery Details

 **Miramar National Cemetery**
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 CA





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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