



## Frederick William Schott

July 22, 1947 - September 1, 2023

Fred was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on July 22, 1947 to Fred and May (Marr) Schott, the middle brother to sisters, Martha and Ruby. Fred grew up enjoying camping, fishing, participating in the Boy Scouts, and being a member of the Portland Boys Clubs, where he discovered a love for basketball and developed some of his closest lifetime friends. Fred & Donna met at Portland Christian School and began dating their junior year of high school.

Fred was awarded the local Boys Club Boy of the Year and received a scholarship to George Williams College, requiring him to move to Chicago, Illinois, in 1965. Donna joined him in Chicago after they were married on September 3, 1966. After 15 months in Chicago, they returned to Louisville, Kentucky to support family during a time of need, and Fred completed his Bachelor of Science in Sociology in 1970 from the University of Louisville. By September of 1972, they completed their family of 5, adding 3 daughters Laura, Melissa, and Emily.

In 1972, just four weeks after their youngest daughter was born, Fred and Donna moved their family to Carter Lake, IA where Fred began his career with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands. After a short time, Fred was promoted to Unit Director of the South Omaha club, so they moved again to the heart of South Omaha, where the girls were raised and many sweet friends were

made.

In 1980, Fred and Donna took a big leap of faith. Fred left his position at the Boys & Girls Clubs and began his own business called EML Enterprises. Through EML he began teaching parenting classes, time management seminars, and working with organizations in the community. He was quickly recruited by Central States Health & Life Co. of Omaha and spent the next 20 years working for one of his heroes and mentors, Bill Kizer Sr.

The Boys & Girls Clubs were never far from his heart. He served on the board and volunteered in multiple ways. In 2004, his heart came home when he was asked to become the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands. He worked fervently for the next 8 years and did some amazing things for the future of the Clubs. Upon retirement in 2012, Fred worked for the Daugherty Family Foundation, where he specialized in supporting projects focused on inner-city and social development.

Fred was officially diagnosed with Parkinson's in July of 2017. In true nature, as soon as he understood the problem, he made every effort to slow down its effects. We are forever grateful for the physical, occupational, and speech therapy he received at Heartland Neurological Therapy and Wellness Center, which gave him many more years of quality life.

There are many words that describe Fred – integrity, deep faith, family, adventurous, intentional, teacher, leader, friend, fun, storyteller, mediator, but he loved being a husband, father, papa, and uncle the most. Fred was a student of life, a lover of questions and conversations, and was inspired by wonder. To be known by Fred was a gift. Let us all continue the gift of his life by noticing, befriending, loving others, and trying to make a difference in big ways or small. He would say, “We’ve all been blessed to bless.”

Thankful to be loved by him are his wife, Donna of 57 years, and his daughters Laura (Mark) Rickley, Melissa (Tim) Hiatt, and Emily (Dave) Decker. Grandchildren Tessa (Matt) Anderson, Karly (Bob) Schlosser, Megan Pfannenstiel (Caleb), Joe Hiatt (Ashton), Kenna (Hunter) Schweers, Lily Hiatt, Davy Decker, and Reese Decker, Joe (Tasha) Rickley, Justin (Libby) Rickley, Jenna (Chad) Seals, Jimmy Rickley, ten great-grandchildren, Sister Martha Watkins, and nieces and nephews who were much like sons and daughters, and a host of friends whom he treated as family. He was preceded in death by his parents Fred and May Schott, his sister Ruby Penrod, his in-laws Manuel and Orene Ice, and his brother-in-law, Ken Ice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands or Heartland Neurological Therapy and Wellness Center.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Bruce Fellman North Omaha Club  
2610 Hamilton Street  
Omaha, NE 68131

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Donna,  
*I am so truly shocked and saddened by Fred's passing. Sorry that I no longer had a connection with the family. Fred was a major part of my growing up one summer at the Boys Club in Portland and he will always be remembered for that. He showed me a completely different way of life. He was a great man, always commanded respect for those around him, and built community wherever he was. People would flock to him, his teaching, and his presence.*  
J Loran Baskett



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**J Loran Baskett** - March 25, 2024 at 12:40 PM

EK

“ Dear Donna, Laura, Melissa and Emily,  
*Please accept my deepest condolences on Fred's passing. He was an amazing individual who brought out the best in people. He was a natural public speaker and trainer. His love for each of you was apparent from the moment we met. I have many wonderful memories from the days working at CSO. I'm not sure which one of his girls he felt the need to go and sit between you and your boy friend on the front porch swing, but it showed what a caring father he was to his kids. May he rest in peace!* Ed Kizer

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**Ed Kizer** - September 06, 2023 at 03:56 PM

SH

“ Donna and Family,

*My sincerest condolences on Fred's passing. I remember gathering at the house as a youngster to watch a few college basketball games, for which Fred and my Dad shared a love. Y'all are in my thoughts and prayers*

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**Shane Hinckley** - September 04, 2023 at 11:17 AM

VH

“ Donna & Family,

*We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Fred! You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time!  
Joe and Vicki Haugen*

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**Vicki Haugen** - September 03, 2023 at 03:30 PM

CB

“ Fred was the high school classmate we all admired and respected. Although I have not seen him since then I have thought of him many times. He and Donna set a standard that we all hoped to emulate. I'm sure he has left an indelible mark on many lives. My heart felt sympathies go out to his family and friends.

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**Cary Freeman Butler** - September 03, 2023 at 10:07 AM

MS

*Fred you lived a life well lived, you mentored me for close to 50 years. I thank you dear brother see you soon.*

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**Merle Stebbins** - September 03, 2023 at 12:15 PM

DK

*Dear Donna and Family, Fred was a most unusual man. He lived a life of integrity, love of family, love of faith, and in service to others. He made his mark on The Wellness Council of America, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and Central States Health & Life Co. of Omaha. Those organizations were the beneficiaries of his many talents. May he Rest in Peace. Dick Kizer*

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**Dick Kizer** - September 04, 2023 at 04:29 PM

MH

*Donna and Family, thank you for sharing Fred with us. He is one of many individuals in the BGCM family that have positively impacted my life both personally and professionally. My the God of all understanding supply you with whatever you need during this bitter sweet moment. God bless you! Marsha Hall*

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**Marsha Hall** - September 05, 2023 at 03:34 PM