



Joseph "Joe" Douglas Schmidt
08/24/1948 – 08/01/2020

Celebration of Life of Joe Schmidt
August 29th, 2020 1pm
Texas Baptist Church
458 Lanark DR,
San Antonio, TX 78218

On Top of the World

Joseph "Joe" Douglas Schmidt, 71, went to heaven to join the party on August 1, 2020.

Joe was born in Wurzburg, Germany, August 24, 1948 to Katharina R. Schmidt. At age 5, Joe, with his mother, arrived in the United States through Ellis Island. They resided in Hartford, Connecticut with his aunt, M. Agogliati, before settling in San Antonio, Texas.

Joe was a graduate of Thomas A. Edison High School, Electrician School and the University of Hard Knocks. Joe volunteered to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, however, he did not pass the physical. He returned to the going away party his family was throwing, with a disappointed "I'm back!"

In 1971, Joe became a student in the art of Kenpo Karate under *Sifu* (teacher) Gary Swan. By 1974, Joe acquired the Kenpo Karate Dojo (school) located in San Antonio. Joe loved studying and teaching the art of Kenpo. He was dedicated to teaching people of various backgrounds. If a person was willing to work hard, Joe would joyfully teach them. Joe retired as 5th degree blackbelt with 45 years' experience in the art. He always said it was a continuous study and one he enjoyed.

Joe became a US citizen in 2014 and was looking forward to voting in the 2020 election. His new voter's card arrived two days after he passed. Joe was a selfless and loyal confidant to his friends. He enjoyed listening to many genres of music and dancing with his wife, Liz. He never said no to the dance floor. He enjoyed singing although he couldn't carry a tune. Joe had a huge heart for animals and could be found walking his dogs, Pete and Missi, around nature trails, historical landmarks, and neighborhood parks. Joe rescued dogs that had been abused, providing them with a loving home.

Nicknamed *Goda* by his grandchildren, Joe enjoyed traveling, CB radios, tinkering with outdated computer software, and spending time with friends. Joe loved Texas history, especially the Alamo. He loved to tell jokes, often sharing the same joke over and over again. Ask him how he was doing and Joe would usually answer "On top of the World."

Joe is survived by his wife of 33 years, Elizabeth "Liz" Rodgers Schmidt, daughter Michelle Schmidt Hernandez, grandchildren Samantha, Krista, Celeste, and Adam, and six great-grandchildren, in-laws, nieces and nephews, and a host of long-time friends and dedicated students.

A Celebration of Joe's life will be held at Texas Baptist Church on August 29th, at 1PM. The family thanks the Texas Baptist Church for their hospitality.

