



## Courtland M Schmidt MD

July 16, 1930 - May 16, 2020

Courtland Mercer Schmidt MD, age 89 of Ann Arbor, died at home with his family on May 16, 2020, of complications following hip surgery in March of this year.

Born July 16, 1930, in Madison, Wisconsin, to Erwin Rudolph Schmidt MD and Mary Newlove Schmidt RN, he was educated at the Shattuck School (Minn.); Yale College, where he captained the heavyweight crew and was a member of the Berzelius Society; and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

In 1956 he married Inga Amelia Hilleboe and they moved to Ann Arbor for his surgical residency at the University of Michigan. Except for two years as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, he spent his surgical career in Ann Arbor, first as staff surgeon at the U. of M., later as Chairman of Surgery at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, and finally in private practice at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He provided skilled and compassionate care to thousands of patients, trained scores of surgical residents, and was known at the hospital for friendship and kindness to all.

He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, whose love of family was almost equaled by his love of fly-fishing, golden retrievers, martinis, opera, tennis, cooking, battered sailboats, and the New York Times. He spent time each year with extended family and lifelong friends on Llewellyn Beach, St. Joseph Island, Ontario; fishing the steelhead rivers of the Kispiox Valley, British Columbia; and on Don Pedro Island, Florida.

He is survived by his wife Inga, children Courtland Mercer Schmidt Jr. MD (Colleen Christian MD), Christopher Erwin Schmidt (Susan Moynihan), Peter Ochsner Schmidt (Jane Hamlin), and Amy Hilleboe Schmidt (Andrew McCuaig), as well as his beloved granddaughters Emma, Claire, Isabel, Abby (Ryland), Siobhan, Ivy, and Lida. His faithful dog Fiona also survives. He was preceded in death by his siblings Erwin R. Schmidt Jr. MD, Mary Allison Schmidt Wolf RN, and Margot Ochsner Schmidt Neuman, as well as by his dogs Flicka, Muffin, Britta, Jenny and Sayla.

He was a parishioner at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor. Memorial services will be held at a later date in Ann Arbor and Ontario. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that contributions be made in his name to Trout Unlimited or the Democratic National Committee.

The family would like to thank the nursing and medical staff of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea for their remarkable care and kindness. To sign Courtland's guestbook, leave a memory or for more information, please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ He was our Uncle Court. Dry martinis, opera afternoons on the couch, fishing and sailing and all things dog. I loved the way he looked at my mom, Donna, and Auntie Ping when they were in the middle of one of their Hilleboe girl conversations. “Now girls,” I can hear him say, Smile on his face. I love how he always called me “Barbie” which was never my nickname.

His love of family and appreciation of each of his kids, each so different and each so wonderful, is a legacy for all parents. He and Ping, joined at the hip, with many wonderful years together once things quieted down in retirement, built a lovely life together in Ann Arbor.

I'll miss you, Uncle Court. You were a good person. ❤️

Barb(ie) DeMuth Clark

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barbara clark - May 31, 2020 at 06:34 PM

MD

“ I have such great memories of Uncle Court growing up. Fishing, boating and being around the water with him brings back great memories from Canada. His quick wit and sarcasm were things I admired while being around him. We share a common love - golden retrievers. They always had a special part in his heart, and I wondered if their inability to talk in the midst of bringing up 4 active and vocal children had anything to do with that. I remember all those Golden's and one of my last texts with him was to share a picture of our two golden retriever puppies. His comment back was “You are lucky and THEY are lucky.” I know he is now at peace and looking down from up there saying “All good guys...don't worry.” He will be sorely missed.

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Mike DeMuth - May 31, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ Boats, sunny skies, blue waters, white sand beaches, golden dogs, and cocktails are but a few of the images that come to mind when I remember Uncle Court. His quick wit and the calming cadence of his voice made spending time with him always fun and easy. His professional accomplishments were admirable, but his greatest gift is the beautiful family who lives on to honor him and to cherish his memory. With Great Love, Jodi DeMuth

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Jodi DeMuth - May 31, 2020 at 02:22 PM

ND

“ I'll never forget how fun and playful Uncle Court was when we spent time together on Don Pedro island in Florida. And his huge smile when driving the boat (and the trouble he and my dad got into on Dads boat!). Sharing cocktails watching the dolphins at sunset from their porch- so many heart warming memories. Even the spats about the role of PTs in the allied health profession!!  
Love and misses, Niece Nancy DeMuth, DPT

Nancy DeMuth - May 31, 2020 at 01:38 PM

SG

“ Our deepest condolences to Inga and family. Bill and I were members of the informal dog club at Travis Pointe with our two English Golden retrievers. We gathered every morning around 8, and Cort would throw balls for Sayla. Our dogs were not like Sayla, who truly retrieved.  
We enjoyed the dog group so much, and especially appreciated Cort's friendship.  
Sally Goshorn

Sally W Goshorn - May 30, 2020 at 07:08 PM

FC

“ We never knew Cort Schmidt directly but we know his son Chris well; we now understand the source of Chris's fly-fishing habit, his serial attachment to dogs (because dogs are people too), his family-oriented ways, and his constant good humor. We wish we had met him...--Frank, Rogeria, and Nicole Christmas, and Buddy the dog

Frank Christmas - May 28, 2020 at 08:16 PM

AH

“ I landscaped for Cort and Inga for some years at their big wonderful home in Newport Road. They were so good to me, always welcoming and generous. And I remember how much Cort loved Britta, their Golden. My husband loved to fly fish too and Cort said “just call us at our cabin when you are up on the Au Sable”. We didn't want to impose but the morning we we're leaving our campsite on the river our car had a dead battery! We did call and Cort came to the campground and rescued us. I never forgot how grateful we were, as we were out in the middle of the forest and no one else around. Cort was a hero to me and for so many more reasons than that car jump start. Rest In Peace wonderful man!  
Annie and Gary Hannan  
P.s. once when I had a black eye from getting snapped in the face with a bungee cord, I happened to be working at their yard. He asked what happened, had I opened a bottle of champagne! He told me the number one cause of eye injury was from flying champagne corks.

Annie Hannan - May 25, 2020 at 09:38 AM

KM

“ Dr. Schmidt was the person who told me I had breast cancer. Then he removed it. That was in 1991 and I have been breast cancer free since then. He was the most wonderful of men; as a doctor he impressed me with his gentleness and concern. The world has lost a great human being.

Karen Michaels - May 24, 2020 at 01:03 PM

GR

“ I first met Dr. Schmidt in 1970 when I started a rotating internship at SJMH. Subsequently, I spent my medical career at St. Joes from 1974-2001. Dr. Schmidt was an outstanding general surgeon, a strong patient advocate, a compassionate gentleman to all. His colleagues and ancillary medical personnel treasured interacting with him. He will long be remembered and serve as an example for others to follow.

Gene Ragland - May 24, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Courtland M Schmidt MD.



May 22, 2020 at 05:59 PM

RK

“ Our families grew up together- over the past 60 years. Court and I were like brothers: in our profession, in the field, in the stream, and under sail. He left us in style, with his wonderful kids and dear Ping at his side. A gentleman to the very end. Jean and I are proud to have been his friend.  
Jean and Dick Kraft

Richard Kraft - May 21, 2020 at 04:35 PM

RK

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Jean and Dick Kraft

Richard Kraft - May 21, 2020 at 04:35 PM

RK

“ Court was an important part of my connection to Yale, a connection that bridged the many years between us. My sincere condolences to his family. Farewell and CTI, Court.

R Kirkpatrick - May 21, 2020 at 12:34 PM

SS

“ I first met Court Schmidt when I was in my 30s and he became the surgeon first for my Mom and then for my Dad. My family and I were grateful for both his expertise and his caring manner. In my 40s, I too became a surgical patient of Dr. Schmidt. During my 50s, my husband, Dan, and I met with Court and his golden retriever, Jenny, many times at Barton Park where we walked our own golden. During my late 60s, Court and Ping became our neighbors and friends when they moved a few doors down from us, and we enjoyed sharing happy hours on many occasions. From that time (I'm now in my 70s), with our golden retrievers and Court's Sayla and Fiona along with other dog owners, we met almost every morning at a nearby park where we had such lovely times watching our dogs play. My husband and I are grateful for Court's friendship. He was an exceptional person and we will miss him greatly.

Sharon Stafford Struble

Sharon Stafford Struble - May 21, 2020 at 09:59 AM

HS

“ Ping,  
Just learned of Court's passing. Wanted to express my deepest sympathies for you and the whole family. Court was to me the doctor's doctor and a huge role model for all of the people he trained myself included. He was a wonderful friend and always someone to go to for advice be it medical or other issues. I would seek his advice regularly. He always held out a hand of friendship and was fun to talk to .I missed him when he retired- it was so nice to go up on the floor and find Dr Schmidt there, say a few words and then go about one's business knowing that if needed for anything, be it surgical advice, surgical help in the operating room or personal issues, the gentle Dr Schmidt was there. Our lives were definitely enriched by his presence.  
My thoughts and prayers to you all

Sincerely  
Hugh Solomon

Hugh Solomon - May 21, 2020 at 07:54 AM

AN

“ Court Schmidt was forever a mainstay of our Llewellyn Beach Community on St. Joseph Island, Ontario. My sisters and I remember his parents and siblings clearly.

*There will be a gaping hole without him, as he was always there for anyone with his wry and witty sense of humor, and of course, his golden retrievers. Just last summer he stood up in our little church and gave a moving talk about our community, not without a couple little jokes. He leaves behind his wonderful offspring and their families.*

*Much love to the Schmidt family.  
Anne Marble*

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AnneMarble - May 20, 2020 at 07:53 PM

DJ

“ I worked with Dr. Schmidt from 1975 until my move out of state in 1997. I first met him while working as a new Grad RN on the general surgery floor at St. Joe's and then the next 20 years when he had a patient in the SICU. He had a long established stellar reputation as a surgeon when I met him but it was his calm, kind and empathetic bedside manner that also distinguished him. He actually read the Nurse's Notes and valued our observations; he asked us what else the patient might need and listened. He respected the nurses and all of the team and every single patient and family member seemed like the most important to him. He was a gentle giant in so many ways. Always my fave. RIP, Dr. Schmidt, a most wise, noble and gentle soul. Peace to your family. / Deanna Jones (DJ), RN.

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Deanna Jones - May 20, 2020 at 12:35 PM

ME

“ Our sincerest condolences to your family. It is difficult to imagine summers without Court. I personally will hold on to the peaceful image of his dapper silhouette tucked into the cockpit of his gaff rig daysailer heading out in the afternoon light. May he sail in peace. Much love to all,  
Jacobs Family (Megan, Chris, Kait, Steph and Millie)

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megan - May 20, 2020 at 11:59 AM

DS

“ I am profoundly saddened by news of Court's passing. He was such a wonderful surgeon, mentor, tennis companion, and friend. He was a living example of the excellence every physician should aspire to. I admired him greatly, and feel privileged to have worked with him. My deepest sympathies for his family and friends.

*David Sadler, MD*

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David Sadler - May 20, 2020 at 10:56 AM

CR

“ Dear Ping and family,

*The Richner family is sorry to learn of Court's passing. We continue to love 941 Newport Road and we've tried to be respectful of the example you set. Many of the plantings remain as you and Court left them and I will never forget finding Court's wedding ring in one of the flower beds! We remember fondly the warm welcome you and Court gave us when we moved here.*

*Our deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

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Cedric Richner - May 20, 2020 at 10:46 AM

MH

“ I was saddened to hear of Doctor Courtland Schmidts passing. He was in my mind a Doctor's Doctor, forever kind and compassionate. I am privileged to have worked with him during my career.

*Mikio Hiraga, M.D.*

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mikio hiraga - May 20, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Courtland M Schmidt MD.



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May 19, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ Uncle Court,

*You will always be with us. We are comforted by many great memories including Ann Arbor but mostly from our time on the Island. Your kind voice, loving family and ever-present golden dogs hold a special place in our heart. I will always remember my first trip to the Beaver Pond with you and Dad. I was sitting on your shoulders, swatting mosquitos as the first morning light slowly crept through the cool mist. You cast a few times and quickly had a fish on. You handed me the reel and told me to bring it in. My first trout! A glorious moment surely, but in retrospect, it was a rite of passage for many young Schmidt boys.*

*May your memory be a blessing to all who knew you.*

*ERS III & Family*

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**Terry Schmidt** - May 19, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ Cortland was a great teacher with a gentle touch in the practice of general surgery. It was a privilege to have served as a resident and fellow staff member with him at the University of Michigan. I will always have fond memories of him.  
*John D Bartlett, MD (RET) FACS*

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**John Bartlett** - May 19, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ Pete and Jane, I hope you feel the love coming from Michigan. It sounds like your father had a wonderful life and touched lots of people. May he be without pain or worry in heaven above. Love you both.

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**Suzanne and Dennis** - May 19, 2020 at 09:52 AM

MF

“ Uncle Court, as I always called him, was one of the people I admired most in the world. I have so many memories of him from our shared summers in Ontario. As a young girl and teenager, I remember him being quietly patient as all of us scampered up the Big Rock in front of his cottage and played loud volleyball late into the evening behind his kitchen. As a young mom, I was incredibly touched by the quiet and generous way in which he introduced our very fearful young daughter to his beloved Golden Retriever. And as his neighbor on the B Line these last years, I have loved our visits with him and Aunt Ping. He never failed to make me feel welcome and loved. I so admired his wisdom, his unwavering devotion to his family, and his great interest in the world around him. What a gentleman, in every sense of the word. The world is a little less gentle with his passing.

Macon Finley - May 19, 2020 at 07:59 AM

DG

“ Dr. Schmidt was a model of compassion, integrity, professionalism and kindness for the many surgical residents he taught . His influence still resonates. He is fondly remembered. Karen and Jim Girardy

Dr. James and Karen Girardy - May 18, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Courtland M Schmidt MD.



May 18, 2020 at 06:22 PM

Karen Menzyk

“ Dr. Schmidt was such a joy to know, especially for his great sense of humor and his devotion to his family and beloved dogs.



Karen Menzyk - May 18, 2020 at 04:46 PM



“ Laurie Hollingsworth lit a candle in memory of Courtland M Schmidt MD



Laurie Hollingsworth - May 18, 2020 at 03:48 PM

AH

“ Agnes and Verne Hoshal purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Courtland M Schmidt MD.



Agnes and Verne Hoshal - May 18, 2020 at 03:26 PM

CS

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris Schmidt - May 18, 2020 at 02:44 PM

MN

*Thanks so much, Chris. Love these. Made me weep and smile.*

Mimi Nevala - May 18, 2020 at 04:56 PM



“ It was wonderful to see Court and Inga at Abby's recent wedding. Court was so warm and friendly, remembering us from Chris' college days. We know he will be missed by his family and his loyal canine companion. Our thoughts are with the Schmidt family. Deb and Rick

Deb Fanton - May 18, 2020 at 02:33 PM

LJ

*I knew him only as a surgeon. Doctors that so have seen since my gall bladder surgery in the late 80's have all remarked on the beauty of my incision scar! Thanks to Dr. Schmidt. I remember him as very kind and caring.*

*May your memories comfort you. Rest In Peace, Dr. Schmidt.*

Linda Johnson - May 18, 2020 at 03:50 PM

LJ

*I keep returning to this memory page. It is very uplifting to read all the tributes to Dr. Schmidt. I felt how special he was even in our limited contact. You are blessed to have been loved by him. May you feel his presence and his love even now. Linda*

Linda Johnson - May 25, 2020 at 07:45 PM

DN

“ *Denny and I are heartbroken. We have lost a near and dear friend whose wit, intelligence and good humor will remain in our hearts. I will treasure the social distancing cocktail gatherings we shared with him, Ping, Pete, Jane, Chris, Amy in March and April on ‘our’ island in FL. I am glad he knew his beloved golden, Fi, would be left in good hands. And how I will miss his loud and clear pronouncements on current politics!  
Much love to his family. Denny and Mimi Nevala*

Diana (Mimi) Nevala - May 18, 2020 at 01:29 PM

PT

*I was lucky to have met Cort and Ping on Don Pedro Island and shared time with them there for over 18 years. I loved his laugh, his wit and his intelligence. The island gang will greatly miss him. All my best to the family.*

Patricia Torrilhon - May 18, 2020 at 02:25 PM

JH

“ *I’ll never forget the kindness, skill and love of his work that Dr Schmidt displayed to me as to his patients and to me as a RN at St Joseph Mercy Hospital on Ingalls St and then St Joseph Mercy Hospital on Huron River Dr. He was a treasure to all he served, when I think back to the early years of my career I often think of him.  
Blessings to all of his family.  
Joan M High*

joan m high - May 18, 2020 at 12:56 PM

VH

*He was an inspiration, mentor, and friend of many years. A technically outstanding surgeon and caregiver. I carried many of his teachings into my 50 year career at SJMH Ann Arbor. May you have comfort in your sorrow Ping and family Verne and Agnes Hoshal.*

Verne Hoshal - May 18, 2020 at 03:22 PM

RJ

*Court was a beacon that led me to pursue the specialty and emulate his approach to the craft. His knowledge, kindness, wit, and skill will be forever remembered. My deepest sympathy to Ping and the family on their loss.  
Randy Johnson*

randall johnson - May 18, 2020 at 04:12 PM

TM

*A true gentle man and scholar. Fond memories from his mentorship the VA during my training. A full life with a loving family. Our profound sympathy to Ping and his family.*  
*Tom and Joan Dent*

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**Thomas Dent, MD** - May 18, 2020 at 10:57 PM

KM

*Dr. Schmidt was the kindest doctor I ever worked with. He spent time with each patient explaining the surgery & answering questions like he had all day. I will never forget his support to me as a new head nurse. So Glad he had such a full life after retirement. My sympathy to his family.*  
*Kathy Moore RN*

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**Kathy Moore** - May 19, 2020 at 06:41 PM

YR

*Dr Schmidt made such an impression to me as a brand new RN in the late 1970s. He always sat down and talked with his patients and treated each one of them as if they were his only patient. He was also unfailingly kind and a great teacher to all of nursing. I am so glad to see he lived life to the fullest.*  
*Yvonne Reed, RN*

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**yvonne reed** - May 20, 2020 at 07:55 AM

PC

*Dr. Schmidt was the best. He took time to answer questions from his patients, their family and the nursing staff. He had such a calming effect on people. He knew your name and there were a lot of nurses on the unit. I started working in 1974 as a nurses' aide. He treated everyone so kindly and with respect. When he retired, he retired. I'm glad he enjoyed retirement. In the past several years, I saw him at Busch's and he remembered me, after all of these years. He will be missed. My condolences to the family.*  
*Pam Ceo, RN*

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**Pamela Ceo** - May 20, 2020 at 11:44 PM

SS

*Dr. Schmidt was an excellent teacher to us surgical residents and provided/taught us outstanding bedside manner, always by example. It was a privilege to be assigned to his service .*

*Sheldon Schwartz, MD*

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**Sheldon Schwartz** - May 23, 2020 at 11:46 AM

MW

*Ping, Jim and I were greatly saddened about the loss of your dear husband recently. Jim was always proud to know that Court was a fellow Shattuck man! We shall miss seeing him at G&O. We are thinking about you, Ping.*

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**Mr and Mrs James J White White** - May 24, 2020 at 11:01 AM

JM

*Ping and Family: My heart is sad for all of you...and all who knew and loved Court. He will be sorely missed, but memories of his medical, summer island, Ann Arbor, Florida communities and all those lives he touched will be cherished*

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**Jeannette Middleton** - May 25, 2020 at 09:27 AM