



Wayne Edward Schaudt

July 15, 1952 - March 28, 2026

Wayne Edward Schaudt of Grand Ledge, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home on March 28, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born on July 15, 1952, in Rogers City, Michigan, Wayne was the beloved son of the late Elvin and Ella (Wolgast) Schaudt. Wayne was a devoted husband to his wife of over fifty-three years, Blanche (Schillerstrom) Schaudt, and a caring father to his three daughters, Angela (Michael) Moore, Amy Sofian, and Andrea (Joe) Stiles. He cherished the time spent with his grandchildren, Tristan (Annika Vankoevinger), Noah, Evan, and Kaia, who brought immense joy to his life. Wayne also leaves behind his brothers, Gerald (Laverne) Wolgast, Larry (Peggy) Schaudt, and Kevin Schaudt, along with several nieces and nephews who will remember him fondly, along with special family members Norvilla and Tom Bennett, Norman Schillerstrom and Laura and Darrel Smith, and neighbors Tom and Stephanie Morgan, and Kris Sundstrum. Wayne was preceded in death by his brother, Albert Schaudt.

Wayne graduated from Posen High School in 1970 and later earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Lake Superior State University in 2005. His career was a testament to his commitment to justice and fairness. For ten years, Wayne served as the County Jail Administrator in Alpena, Michigan. During his tenure, he oversaw the growth of the jail from housing six inmates to accommodating over seventy, ensuring compliance with Department of Corrections regulations and fostering an environment of respect for both staff and inmates. He played a pivotal role in introducing

programs such as GED education and other community-connected initiatives that provided opportunities for incarcerated individuals to better their lives. Wayne's leadership extended beyond administration; he became a certified jail corrections officer trainer, sharing his expertise with others in the field. In 1996, Wayne transitioned to a role with the State of Michigan as the County Jail Services Unit Jail Inspector. His work continued to reflect his unwavering dedication to improving correctional systems and upholding standards of care and fairness in the State of Michigan. It was in this position that he conducted nearly 800 jail inspections, reviewed plans for eight new jails, approved the rated design capacities for thousands of prisoner beds, and conducted audits for security and residential treatment centers. It was an honor for him to provide technical assistance to the staff of all the county jails, and municipal and tribal lockups.

Wayne's service extended beyond his professional life. Drafted into the United States Army during the Cold War Era in October 1972, he served honorably as a Communications Chief while stationed in both the United States and Germany. Among his notable experiences was participating in the 100-mile march. Upon returning to the United States, he remained connected to his fellow veterans through participation in activities sponsored by the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.

Faith was a cornerstone of Wayne's life. He and his wife, Blanche, met at a Luther League retreat in Cheboygan, Michigan, in 1969, a meeting they often reflected upon as part of God's plan for their lives together. Throughout their marriage, they worshiped and worked alongside one another at various Lutheran churches as they moved from Alpena to the Lansing area. Wayne took on significant roles within these congregations, serving as project manager for two church additions and renovation projects and, most recently, overseeing a kitchen renovation at their current church. A man of quiet devotion, Wayne prayed daily for those in need, as part of his steadfast faith and service calling.

Wayne found joy in many pursuits outside of work and worship. He was an

avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He enjoyed his time as camp cook while hunting with his brothers and nephew (Jeremy) in Northern Michigan. He loved to travel and make memories with his family on beaches across Michigan and especially at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He also took pride in tending to gardens with Blanche and contributing to the Memorial Garden at their church. In later years, he developed a love for reading and cherished time spent with his children and grandchildren, including helping the two oldest grandsons learn to drive safely. In retirement, he found himself volunteering at the Grand Ledge Food Bank and being available to help a neighbor, friend or family member when called upon.

Wayne will be remembered by those who knew him as a kind-hearted man who touched countless lives with his generosity and willingness to help wherever needed. His legacy is one of integrity, compassion, dedication and faithfulness.

A Memorial Service with military honors will be held on April 25, 2026, at 12:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 S Clinton St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, with The Reverend Christina M Bright officiating. You may watch the service for Wayne at 12:00 pm on Saturday on the Immanuel Lutheran Church YouTube channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/TbRhXMgHnbU?si=ipaXWJOI96RHYvOf>. The family will welcome visitors from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm prior to the service, with a luncheon to follow the service in the Fellowship Hall, where all are welcome.

For those unable to attend in person, a live stream of the memorial service will be available at Immanuel Grand Ledge.

His quiet strength, unwavering dedication to his family, and his gentle spirit will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Grand Ledge Food Bank or Immanuel Lutheran Church Kitchen Remodel Project, 517 S. Clinton Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837.

Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.

Share your memories and condolences online at holihanatkin.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
517 S. Clinton St.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Celebration of Life

APR **25**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
517 S. Clinton St.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Military Honors

APR **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
517 S Clinton St
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Melissa S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Edward Schaudt.*

Melissa S. - April 25 at 08:46 AM

RW

“ *Randy&Vicki Williams lit a candle in memory of Wayne Schaudt*



Randy&Vicki Williams - April 23 at 09:06 PM

CD

“ *Wayne was so very special. Blanche , you and Wayne made a very special life together . Great couple , great family . May God bless you all . Our thoughts and prayers are with you .*

Christine DeCocker - April 22 at 08:55 PM

JD

“ *Jerry DeCocker purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wayne Edward Schaudt.*



Jerry DeCocker - April 22 at 08:50 PM

NS

“ Norman S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Edward Schaudt.

Norman S. - April 22 at 03:09 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne Edward Schaudt.



April 21 at 11:26 AM

DC

“ Dear Blanche, I just read in the Alpena News of your husband's passing. What a wonderful tribute it is of him. I am sorry we lost touch, but you were such an important part of my life - our babysitter of Stephanie in 1970 . And you and your family were fellow members of Grace Lutheran Church here. Please feel my hug and wishes for peace and God's love. Remember all the happy times.
Donna (Gillard) Czarnecki

Donna Gillard Czarnecki - April 06 at 09:13 AM

JM

“ Thoughts and prayers to Blanche and family
So very sorry for your loss 🙏🙏🙏

Jim Malaski - April 04 at 10:47 AM

DB

“ I offer my sincere condolences and continued prayers for Blance and the entire family in this time of grief and sorrow. Wayne was always someone to be admired for his true love of neighbor. He always had compassion for those in need. I grew up around the corner from the Schillerstrom household and as a “rambunctious” adolescent, Blance always was like an older sister and Wayne treated me with the love and patience of an older brother. He could always be counted on to offer sound advice rooted in integrity and Christian moral character. He always brightened the room with his cheerful disposition, broad smile and heartfelt laugh. He will truly be missed. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Deacon Joe Beauchamp - April 02 at 11:34 AM

SM

“ Wayne was one of the kindest, most caring and honorable people I will ever have had the privilege to know. He was a friend to all who knew him and a kind and welcoming man to everyone he met. He gave his time and talents freely and willingly. A man with a genuine and generous heart always willing to reach out to help others less fortunate. One of my happiest memories of Wayne will be seeing he and Blanche sitting side by side in church. They sat close to one another, and from time to time would glance, just for a moment, at one another with eyes of pure love and joy. They needed no words, yet spoke volumes in that short glance. I will miss you very much, Wayne, but You will never be far away. Rest in God’s peace.

 Sue Marsh

Sue Marsh - April 01 at 09:49 PM

JW

“ I ran the jail in Lenawee County at one point and had the pleasure of working with him many times when he was a Jail Inspector. He was great the work with, always being helpful, and guiding me in the right direction. He was a pleasure to be around and we shared a lot of laughs. RIP my friend.

Retired Lenawee County Sheriff Jack Welsh

Jack Welsh - April 01 at 04:56 PM

ML

“ Michael L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Edward Schaudt.

Michael L. - April 01 at 03:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne Edward Schaudt.

April 01 at 02:56 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Wayne Edward Schaudt.



April 01 at 02:56 PM

DR

“ *My sincere condolences to Blanche and her family on the passing of Wayne. As a neighbor who lived near Blanche and a friend to her sister, Laura, I remember Wayne as a kind and fun person. He will be so missed by his entire extended family and numerous friends. I wish his family peace and strength as they navigate this difficult and sad time. May your memories bring you comfort now and in the future.*

Diana Prieur Reynolds - April 01 at 02:47 PM