



Howard Donald Schou

October 7, 1951 - January 25, 2021

Howard Donald Schou, 69, passed away on January 25, 2021 at Perry Memorial Hospital. He had boldly faced major health issues the last two years, even surviving COVID-19 this past fall, but his passing was unexpected. He had been making a good recovery, with the intention of playing golf and fishing with his buddies this spring. Howard was born on October 7, 1951 at DeKalb Public Hospital, DeKalb, IL as the first child to the parents of Donald and Betty Jean (Friestead) Schou. His family lived in DeKalb until he was 10 years old and moved to Rollo, IL, so that his dad could join his father in farming the Schou farmland. While in DeKalb, Howard and his younger brother, Gary, played the accordion and took tap dancing lessons. They were often in recitals and played at churches.

Growing up on the farm was much different, but Howard and his family loved the farm and community. Howard attended Rollo Grade School where he met his future wife, Patricia (Patty) Svendsen, who was a year younger and shared the same two-grade classroom. Howard enjoyed sports at an early age, playing basketball at 10 years old and singing in the school and church choirs. He loved music and when he got his first transistor radio, he could listen to WLS. Howard attended Shabbona High School, Shabbona, IL where he excelled in basketball and cross country and continued with music through band and school choir. He was the senior class president and an officer in several school clubs, 4-H, and church youth group. His high school basketball teams won many tournaments, including the Little 10 Conference, and could beat the big city basketball teams, too. Howard won several cross-country and track medals and was a softball pitcher and first baseman. In the summer, his family loved to camp with neighborhood friends, having many laughs and sharing good stories around the campfire. When he was not working on the farm with his dad and brothers, he had an old Rambler car and had many crazy times with his high school buddies, clearly representing well the class of 1969.

Howard attended Iowa State University, graduating in 1973 with an agriculture business degree. He originally was a pre-vet major but changed his major to ag business as college life was fun. He met many good friends at Iowa State and attended all their football and basketball games. Howard played intramural softball and basketball. He was asked to try

out for the Cyclone Basketball Team but missed the tryouts because of an exam. Howard had a good jump shot and had grown to 6'4".

Cargill, Inc./Nutrena Feed Division hired Howard right out of college into its professional sales force and quickly moved him into plant management as a trainee at its Minneapolis Plant and then to the Peoria Plant the fall of 1973. That provided the opportunity for Howard to reconnect with his future wife, Patty, who was in the nursing program at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL, just a few travel miles from Peoria. When Patty graduated in May 1974, he proposed in front of her family at celebration dinner in Bloomington. That summer, Howard was transferred to Sioux City, IA, and they were married in October 1974, making Sioux City their first home.

While in Sioux City, Howard held his first plant supervisor job and Patty began her nursing career as a cardiac care nurse. They both learned how to golf and bought their first boat, spending many hours on the Missouri River with Iowa friends. In the fall of 1976, Howard was asked to lead the Princeton Nutrena Feed Plant on Backbone Road. Patty and Howard packed their bags and moved to Princeton buying their first house in Birdhaven. Princeton proved to be ideal as both their families lived an hour away, and Patty was able to work at Perry Memorial Hospital. Their first son, Chad, was born in May 1977 and their second son, Justin in March 1980.

As plant manager, Howard quickly became involved with community activities, especially with the Princeton Jaycees Chapter in 1977. He won several Jaycees Community Service Awards and served as chapter president and advanced to district and state officer. He was instrumental in establishing several local chapters and developed many wonderful Jaycees' friendships cherished still today. Howard received a lifetime Jaycees International Senate membership in 1982 for service and leadership.

Howard and Patty were involved together in school and community organizations, golf leagues, Country Club, and the Homestead Festival Steering Committee from 1992-1994. He played softball on the church league and intramural basketball, too. He and several friends won the local Buick Scramble for Bureau Valley Country Club in 2003, and he was invited to play in the national Buick Scramble Tournament in Florida. They joined Hampshire Colony Congregational Church where Howard served in various positions, Board of Trustees, building committee, treasurer, and co-moderator the past four years. Howard was appointed to the Bureau County Board in May 1995 and then to the Bureau County Circuit Clerk position in July 1995, where he served until 1996. During his time as the Circuit Clerk, he obtained his certified public accountant license and went to work for Clifton Larson Allen in Princeton, after leaving his circuit clerk post in November 1996. He

was hired in 1998 by Agrium, Henry, IL as its accountant; and when the plant closed in 2002, he became the accountant for a plumbing corporation near Sugar Grove for two years. Since Howard enjoyed the political scene, he was elected to the Bureau County Board in 2000 and resigned later in 2004 to become a hospital chief financial officer for Boyd Healthcare Services, Carrollton, IL. He really enjoyed the hospital financial business world working for Boyd Healthcare Services, Franklin Hospital, and then Mendota Community Hospital during a 10- year period. He officially retired in 2014 and was highly respected for his financial acumen and leadership.

He always had a positive attitude and enjoyed life and parties. Patty and Howard hosted many parties and celebrations for family and friends. In addition, Howard had great times with his fishing and golfing buddies and took many unbelievable trips to Canada to catch those big fish! They have a cabin in southern Illinois and often spent time with family and friends boating on Rend Lake and even doing some waterskiing. He loved having a glass of wine by their pool in the summer and taking care of their two dogs, Molly and Ruby. Patty and Howard did a lot of traveling and made several trips to Cyprus to visit their son Chad and family and took extra time to visit Norway, Italy, Greece, and even Abu Dhabi as well as family trips to Caribbean destinations, Mexico, Canada, and throughout the US. He bought a white Volkswagen Convertible in 2019 for fun and a nice summer ride. He was proud of his sons, heritage and appreciated very much his family, friends, church, and work friends as that made his life special.

Howard is survived by his wife, Patty (Pat) Schou and their two sons, Chad (Yiota Tsokkou), Country of Cyprus, and Justin, Champaign, IL, and blessed with two beautiful granddaughters, Maria Patricia and Andrea Rebecca of Cyprus, and three brothers and their families, Gary (Cheri) Schou, Van Nuys, CA, Roger (Pam) Schou, Brevard, NC, and David (Becky) Schou, Junction, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Betty and Donald Schou, and grandparents, Berta and Elmer Schou and Arthur and Anna Friestead.

Visitation will be Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 10 am to 12 pm, with funeral services following the visitation at Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, 604 S. Church Street, Princeton. Rev. Karl Johnson will officiate the service, with Rev. Kent Svendsen serving as soloist. Interment will conclude at Oakland Cemetery, Princeton. Masks and social distancing will be in effect.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, Princeton.

Online condolences and memorials may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Cemetery

Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue

Princeton, IL, 61356

Events

FEB **Visitation** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

6

Hampshire Colony Church

604 S Church Street, Princeton, IL, US, 61356

FEB **Funeral Service** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

6

Hampshire Colony Church

604 S Church Street, Princeton, IL, US, 61356

FEB **Graveside Service** 01:00PM - 01:30PM

6

Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue, Princeton, IL, US, 61356

Comments



“ Long time neighbor. Used to know the family well, but life happens and we drifted in different directions Hated his little paint pony, it was pure evil. Condolences to all concerned. Howard was always a good guy.

Ken Bray CISA (retired)

Kenneth Bray - February 06 at 08:18 AM



“ Howard surely will be missed esp at Lake Benton when I usually have seen him. My mom Betty Jones will miss seeing him there as he was a great weekend neighbor. Patty , Chad and Justin my heart goes out to you , Love, Terri Hansen

Terrisa Hansen - February 05 at 11:04 AM



“ A very friendly and helpful neighbor - Howard will be missed by many!

Jean Pillion

Jean Pillion - February 04 at 07:30 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Howard Donald Schou.



February 03 at 04:31 PM



“ Christine (Southwell) Schaefer lit a candle in memory of Howard Donald Schou



Christine (Southwell) Schaefer - February 01 at 02:27 PM



“ We were saddened to hear of Howard's passing. He was always a joy to talk with and quick with a story. He was truly a inspiration to all through out his health battles. Patty, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Our deepest sympathies.

Curt & Charlotte Yelm

Curt Yelm - January 31 at 07:54 PM



“ Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Donald Schou.



January 31 at 05:11 PM



“ Deepest condolences to you and your family! Thoughts and prayers are with you, Pat.

Lynne Anderson Rausch - January 31 at 11:43 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Howard Donald Schou.



January 30 at 06:15 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Howard's passing. Our sincere condolences to you, Patty and your family. Howard was a great guy with a wonderful smile. He touched many lives and will truly be missed. May the Lord sustain you with precious memories. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jim & Linda Schou

Jim Schou - January 30 at 01:44 PM



“ I was a charter member of Wyanet Jaycees, and remember Howard/with the Prin Eton Jaycees, helping us get started, it is still in existence as Wyanet Community Club, with a few of us still. helping 44 years later.

Much to young as I am 69 also.

I am sorry for your loss Patty and family, hadn't seen him in like 29 plus years, saw him at Silo briefly at Silo last summer, got a hi Max, and big smile !

Max Olds

Max Olds - January 30 at 06:52 AM



“ I probably met Howard in our time with the Jaycee's. Howard and I remained friends from then on, sharing good laughs along the way. He touched a lot lived and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you...

Rodney Lange - January 29 at 05:12 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to Patty and family. Take one day at a time.
Steve Schou



steve schou - January 29 at 04:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Howard Donald Schou.



January 27 at 05:49 PM