



Rodney Dean Schwarm

March 26, 1948 - September 30, 2024

Rodney Dean Schwarm (Rod) passed away peacefully on September 30, 2024 at age 76. Rod was born to Pauline and Laurence Schwarm on March 26, 1948 in Larned, Kansas. Rod grew up on a beautiful 300 acre farm in Greensburg, Kansas with his two brothers Larry and David Schwarm. Rod learned the value of hard work very early helping his father harvest hay and vegetables; caring for over 400 sheep, horses, cows, and various different birds; and helping build structures or perform maintenance around the farm. Rod also helped his mother in the kitchen learning how to bake pies and cakes; can jellies; and cook comforting homemade country food with ingredients straight from the farm. As Rod grew he formed a love of baking and animals as well as became a master wood craftsmen.

Rod joined the US Marines in 1966. While serving he earned the National Defense Service Medal; Vietnamese Service Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Purple Heart Medal; Vietnamese Campaign Medal; Presidential Unit Citation M-14 Rifles Marksman; and Good Conduct Medal. After Rods service in the US Marines he spent time camping with his dog Ginger who stole his heart and you never saw Rod without Ginger by his side. Later, with a Bachelors degree in Biology, Rod worked for the Department of the Army in the US Army Corps of Engineers for over 20 years.

Rod married the love of his life, Diane Nack Schwarm, and they were married

for 33 years. Together they had two boys named Cory and Tim Schwarm. Rod was a very loving husband and father. Rod handcrafted wood furniture for Diane including the tables in the family living room and was devoted to her every need including sitting by her bedside every day in the hospital during her multiple battles with cancer. Rod coached or attended every single sporting event for his two boys had and took them camping to 45 of 50 states. Rod also spent a lot of time teaching Tim how to paint and Cory how to work on cars. He adored the time with his sons and was always there when they needed him.

Rod was a member of the Havre De Grace Decoy Museum. He hand carved new decoys; repaired and restored decoys; and could be frequently found at decoy shows and events. He was also an avid painter and carpenter. His landscape portraits would take your breath away and many of Rod's family members have a rocking chair, bookcase, table, or corner cabinet that was handcrafted by him. Rod was known for his kindness to others and was the type of person that always made himself available to help a fellow neighbor, friend, or family member. No matter what they needed Rod found a way.

Rod is survived by his two sons Cory and Tim Schwarm as well as his two brothers Larry and David Schwarm. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends as well as others he touched throughout his life. His kindness will carry through for generations and he will hold a place in the hearts of many.

A viewing will be held on Saturday, October 12th from 11:00 am -12:00 pm at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam located on 200 S. Harrison Street Easton, MD 21601. A funeral mass will take place at St. Joseph's Church at 1 pm. Burial will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Rod was such a giving person and consistently contributed to several charities. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St.

Bonaventure Indian Mission and School (25 Navarre Blvd W, Thoreau, NM 87323); St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105); Operation Smile at John Hopkins University (3400 N. Charles St. Baltimore MD 21218); Easton Volunteer Fire Department (315 Leonard Rieck Drive Easton, MD 21601); or Talbot Paramedic Foundation (PO Box 2237 Easton, MD 216010).

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery

Cordova, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **12**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street
EASTON
EASTON, MD 21601

Funeral Mass

OCT **12**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Cordova
Cordova, MD

Burial

OCT **12**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery
Cordova, MD

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Im just finding out now. I'm so sorry boys. I can't begin to explain my sorrow. Rod was my brother's best friend in Vietnam. He unfortunately saw my brother step on a mine . Robert Mattson died September 12 1967 . I was 10 years old at the time. Rod became a very close friend to me over time. I called today because it's the marines birthday. To my surprise his number was changed and my heart sunk. Cory or Timmy could we please talk. Rod might not have given you my cell number. 931-237-6092. Please contact me. Again im greatly saddened and sorrow fills my heart. He didn't like the month of September. So many people he loved died in September. Rod I will always love you and miss you. Until we meet again.*

Judy

Judithlynn Bailey/ Judy Mattson - November 10, 2024 at 04:07 PM

MM

“ *Cory and Tim - I have known your dad since 1979. We worked on many projects together (he was with the Corps of Engineers, and I was with the US Fish & Wildlife Service). He was really a gentle giant, and would do anything for anyone. We both collected decoys, and would go to auctions and shows together. He had a wealth of knowledge of Upper Bay decoys. I hope that you keep the decoys I had carved and given to him in your family. He always talked of you both. I will really miss him.*

Milt McCarthy

Milt McCarthy - October 17, 2024 at 04:54 PM

FW

“ *My sincere condolences, to all his family and friends*

frederick wildt - October 14, 2024 at 12:42 PM

KT

“ 12 files added to the album Family Photos



Kaley Tilton - October 10, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rodney Dean Schwarm.



October 10, 2024 at 09:42 AM

CT

“ Cory, Tim and Schwarm Family - please accept my deepest condolences. Rod was a huge and important part of our decoy community. It seemed like whatever the show, event, or club meeting, he was always there. I can attest that he was usually the first member to RSVP for our PDCA club meetings and to sign up for our annual Annapolis Decoy Show. He was always such a wonderful ambassador for our hobby, so generous with his time and knowledge, and always great to talk to and learn from. I know I speak for countless fellow collectors and friends - we really admired and respected your Dad, and we are all going to miss him tremendously. Godspeed old friend.

Chad Tragakis - October 04, 2024 at 06:52 PM

AK

“ I always enjoyed working side by side with Rod, my US. Army Corps counterpart for many years. We always swapped updates on our family and kids, and though I'd only met Cory and Tim at their mother's funeral, I felt like I knew them from a young age because Rod always talked about them. I will miss him dearly.

AI Kampmeyer - October 04, 2024 at 05:51 PM

VO

“ Vivian Kim and the Office purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Rodney Dean Schwarm.



Vivian Kim and the Office - October 04, 2024 at 02:52 PM

PF

“ My deepest condolences to Cory, Tim, and all of Rod's loved ones.

Penny Finkner - October 03, 2024 at 09:44 PM

DH

“ Deborah Hurley lit a candle in memory of Rodney Dean Schwarm



Deborah Hurley - October 03, 2024 at 07:00 PM

PF

“ Rod was the most generous person with his time I have ever heard of or encountered.

Pete Farris - October 02, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SC

Rod helped me with wetland delineations when I was starting out. I loved his stories about growing up on his family farm out west. He talked about his wife and kids every time we met. He was a true family man.

Sean Callahan - October 02, 2024 at 04:33 PM