

Stanwood Skolfield Schmidt

Stanwood Skolfield Schmidt, M.D., of Eureka, died on March 6, 1999, at the age of 80. He was born on Aug. 1, 1918, in Berkeley.

Dr. Schmidt was born and grew up in Berkeley, the son of professor C.L.A. Schmidt and Esther S. Schmidt. His mother graduated from Stanford University in 1911. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Rochester School of Medicine, receiving his M.D. degree in 1943. He took his internship at the UC hospital in San Francisco and followed this with a residency in urology, under the tutelage of Dr. Frank Hinman, finishing in 1949. He commenced his practice in urology in Eureka in January 1950, at the Professional Building.

Although maintaining an active practice, he also conducted original research. He was awarded the Joseph F. McCarthy award of the Western Section of the American Urological Association in 1954 for original research on fish kidneys. His main interest turned to vasectomy and its reversal. As part of this work, he was awarded two grants from the Rockefeller Institute for work in vasectomy reversal. His writing led to chapters in 20 books and over 88 original publications. He had lectured internationally and had demonstrated vasectomies from Mexico City to Sydney, Australia, showing a method now being adopted internationally with the technique he developed.

He had been a member of the urology department at UCSF since 1960 and belonged to the American Urological Association, American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Societe Internationale d'Urologie.

He was a past president of the Humboldt-Del Norte County Medical Society, past chief of staff of General Hospital, and a member of the first board of directors of the blood bank. He was also a charter member and past president of the Ingomar Club. His interests in the history of logging led to the creation of the logging museum at Fort Humboldt, and his interest in rhododendrons led to the annual Rhododendron Festival in Eureka and the founding of Hillside Park. His suggestion also led to the cloning of redwood trees. He had also been a director of the Maritime Museum and a longtime supporter of the Humboldt Crabs. He was a member of the Semper Virens Masonic Lodge and the Elks. He was an active participant in the Retired Loggers Club.

Stan is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara; his brother, Alfred C. Schmidt; and his sister, Esther DeVries. He is also survived by his son, Tom Schmidt and wife, Janna; his daughters, Helen Roberts and husband, Tom, and Hildreth Rodrigues and husband, Joe; his daughter-in-law, Debbie Schmidt; his grandchildren, Kristine and Stacy Schmidt, Chuck and Janet Roberts, and Joseph and John Rodrigues; also his great-grandchildren, Jonathan Stevens, Miranda and John Michael Short.

His longtime devoted staff, Janet Borges and Carol Holt, will remain at the office for the time being and still may be reached.

He was preceded in death by his son, John S. Schmidt.

At Dr. Schmidt's request, no services will be held. His memory will be cherished by his family, friends, as well as the hundreds of children born as a result of his research and skill in vasectomy reversal. A memorial celebration of Dr. Schmidt's life will be announced at a later date.

Donations may be made to Hospice of Humboldt, or other organizations favored by Dr. Schmidt.