



## Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt

November 5, 1947 - November 15, 2022

Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt

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Gary Anthony Schmidt entered the gates of heaven peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday November 15, 2022 at the age of 75.

Gary was born and raised in San Antonio and grew up attending St. Ann's Catholic School and Central Catholic High School. After graduating in 1966, Gary was stationed in Panama where he served four years in the U.S. Air Force. Upon honorable discharge, he returned home and began work as a second-generation letter carrier. Like his father, Gary too proudly retired from the U.S. Postal Service after a dedicated 35 years of employment in 2002.

Aside from his career, "Big G," as he was affectionately called in those days, was best known for his pastime playing the drums for the Rough Riders Band throughout country dancehalls in the region. Gary instilled a legacy of music and showmanship in his six children who have continued this passion for the arts as musicians and dancers, proving that "it truly runs in the blood!"

Gary was also an avid hunter, life-long learner, adored his pets, and treasured holidays and birthdays. Greatest of all Gary enjoyed the good company of his friends and big family, who will continue to pass down his unique and

charming traditions.

He is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Katherine Schmidt, and his cherished Pomeranian companion Petie. Gary is survived by his devoted and beloved wife of 50 years Elizabeth Stein Schmidt; his “chickens” (children)- Cindy Laskowski and husband John, Cody Schmidt and wife Kris, Kevin Schmidt, Kelley Schmidt, Kimberly Kelsey and husband Tyler, Katy Segler and husband Patrick; Grandchildren- Katelyn and Kaylee Schmidt, Drake Sharples, Annabelle and Caroline Kelsey; Brother- Glenn Schmidt and wife Rudi; Sister-in-Law- Linda Stein; and numerous nephews and nieces.

While Gary and his witty one-liners will be missed “biiiiig time”, his love of music is something that will most be remembered each time a great country shuffle is heard. “Oolalou, Chato!”

Visitations for the public will be held Tuesday November 29th from 6-8pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge- 3401 Cherry Ridge Dr, San Antonio TX 78230. A Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday November 30th, 11:30am at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church- 4201 De Zavala Rd, San Antonio TX 78249. Interment will be held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery- 1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd San Antonio TX 78209, immediately following services.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the Humane Society in Gary's honor at <https://sahumane.org/>

# Cemetery Details

## Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Funeral Mass

NOV **30**. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
4201 De Zavala Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78249

## Interment

NOV **30**. 1:15 PM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209



# Tribute Wall

TS

“ *To be or not to be that is the question... To be my father you must demonstrate life and death in your day to day events directing others to show them the light in hopes that no other will take it once given. My dad did everything I needed to be learning and has shown his most capacity to please God by raising me. Winning all spiritual merit for delivering my life I will forever be trying to fill his shoes but my cavity of my chest isn't as big and I'm not as tall and not as wise and to be dismissed by him would be to be wounded with no recovery my god give me what I am now at a loss for GARY SCHMIDT*

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**The great seal** - May 21, 2024 at 10:16 PM

KS

“ *Kelley Schmidt sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt*



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**Kelley Schmidt** - December 04, 2022 at 08:42 PM

KS

“ *Kelley Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt*



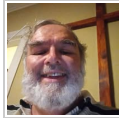
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**Kelley Schmidt** - December 04, 2022 at 08:42 PM



*I am so very sorry that Gary Schmidt and his son never knew each other...*

**Kevin Small** - February 07 at 10:49 PM



*Í raised Gary's son...born in 1972*

**Kevin Small** - February 07 at 10:51 PM

KS

“ *Kelley Schmidt sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt*



**Kelley Schmidt** - December 04, 2022 at 08:41 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt.*



November 29, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Gary Anthony "Chato" Schmidt.*



November 27, 2022 at 02:25 AM

JH

“ I remember waiting on cousin Gary at Jefferson Bank. Loved talking to him. God bless y'all and have mercy on his soul. I was a member of the Grohman clan. Remember waiting on you and your mom, too Katy. Love y'all!

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**janice hickman** - November 24, 2022 at 10:32 PM

JS

“ So many fun memories with this man! Never at a loss for words and always there was music! I was privileged to be a person to sit in Chato's Lounge as many folks were not allowed. The greatest music was going on inside! I know he will have many stories to tell in Heaven...but when it starts to thunder then be sure that is Gary playing drums! Rest in peace dear Gary!

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**Jo Lynn Swint** - November 23, 2022 at 01:15 PM