



## Tom and Betty Schmitt

October 13, 2025

Tom & Betty passed away on Oct. 13, 2025, joining their three sons: Tom Jr, Chris, & Buddy. They leave behind, their daughters: Mia (Ron), Angela (Roger), Theresa (Greg), & sons: Michael, & Vincent (April), their 9 grandchildren: Bonnie, Brian, Matthew, Autumn, Sean, Thomas, Sarah, Charlotte, & Cameron & their 6 great grandchildren: Caleb, Garland, Geraldine, McKenzie, Justice, & Archer.

Obituary: Thomas Lee Schmitt Sr.

Tom was born in Louisville, KY on October 30, 1931. He graduated from Male High School, class of 1950 & earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology/ Pre-Med, from the University of Louisville. In his 40's, he returned to college & earned his 60 Hour MSSW & LCSW, from the Kent School of Social Work, while working at Central State Hospital. Upon graduation in 1973, he became the Director of Social Services at Hazelwood Hospital. He retired after 38 years of service in mental health & maintained a private practice as LCSW. He taught aviation in the adult evening classes at Atherton for 11 yrs.

In his early years, he managed to realize his boyhood dream of becoming a "flyer" he said, not only a pilot. He soloed in the late 1940's. It's been said he could fly a plane, before he could drive a car! He flew all of his life & held instrument & commercial ratings, logging over 8,000 hours. He loved teaching the open-cockpit Stearman aircraft & was chief pilot for the American Aviation Academy. He was a USAF Veteran & flew with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) over

60 years, logging over 400 missions for the US Dept. of Forestry Service, US Customs, Search & Rescue, etc. He was a member of 6 national aviation organizations, as well as the local Aero Club, Blue Lick Flying Club, Spencer Co. Air Board, American Legion Highland Post 201, & served as Lt Col with the CAP, serving as many years as the KY Wing's Vice Commander.

Tom always said that the beauty & wisdom of Betty was his inspiration to overcome life's many challenges. They wed on Sept. 4th, 1954. To date, Louisville, KY's heat record of 104dF on their wedding day, remains an unbroken record. In 1957 their 1st child was born & by 1969, 7 more would follow. Tom said of Betty, "My most profound life adventure was quietly exploring the many magical worlds of wonder with my beautiful & ever-fascinating Betty, whom I dearly loved." Of his children he said, "Love for all eternity & thanks for letting me be your Dad."

Obituary: Betty Marie Childers Schmitt

One of the most fascinating women passed away October 13, 2025. She was the one who turned all heads when she entered a room. In 1956, her distinct & melodious voice won a regional contest with radio station WAVE & while modeling for Alex Adams Agency she was classified as a "Sophisticated Exotic". She starred in several plays at U of L's Belknap Theatre & felt her talents might be professionally expanded. With Tom's encouragement, she traveled to New York where she took it by storm & immediately won a contract with CBS to begin in "the soaps", along with modeling for SAKS of 5th Ave., NY (story Courier Journal, 1956). After a short time, she decided this life was "too shallow" for her. Turning her back on assured success, she put her talents aside to take on the greatest role of all, she said, "to become a mother, living quietly with Tom & having a large family." She said, "This was the real life success & all that I really ever wanted." Betty was blessed with the gift of appearing decades younger than she was. While in her 40's, she became an RN to support her family. She graduated in 1977, academically in the top of her class with straight A's & scored highest on

the State Nursing Board Exams. Betty's intelligence far exceeded, even her striking beauty. As a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol, she gave several years volunteering as its Medical Officer. She was so beloved by her hospital patients that many waited until she came on duty for their needs. She refused promotions, so that she could remain with her patients on the floor where she said, "This is where it is, where I am needed & where I want to be." After 17 years of "heavy duty" nursing, she finally closed her career with words from several physicians telling her, "Betty, you are a better physician than many of us."

For her little children, Betty provided child-like joy & magic. And for her adult children, discussions with their Mom were filled with adult realism & powerful insights—very analytical & very thought provoking. Regarding the injustices within society, she demanded change. Her guiding light & the thread woven throughout her life, was her faith. A devoted Catholic, she cherished Holy Communion & attended "Mass on the Air" every day. She always asked for our prayers, as she said, "God's true path is not an easy one."

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ The Dewey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tom and Betty Schmitt.

The Dewey Family - October 28, 2025 at 05:50 PM

TF

“ The Dewey Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Tom and Betty Schmitt.



The Dewey Family - October 28, 2025 at 05:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tom and Betty Schmitt.



October 28, 2025 at 02:59 PM

RE

“ Randall & Ernie purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Tom and Betty Schmitt.



Randall & Ernie - October 28, 2025 at 10:21 AM

CN

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories*



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**Carlotta (Colombo) Nelsen** - October 27, 2025 at 09:05 PM

CC

*My beautiful mother, Patricia Ann Schmitt Colombo, with her beloved brother, Thomas Schmitt, in the Civil Air Patrol. Mom adored her big brother, Tom, and wanted to do everything he did. Uncle Tom told me that he and mom had a very special bond, closer than most siblings.*

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**Charlene Colombo** - March 20 at 10:09 AM

JF

“ *Joe, Connie and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Tom and Betty Schmitt.*



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**Joe, Connie and Family** - October 25, 2025 at 06:43 PM

JF

“ *Joe, Connie and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tom and Betty Schmitt.*

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**Joe, Connie and Family** - October 25, 2025 at 06:43 PM

DD

“ Dustin and Dexter purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Tom and Betty Schmitt.



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**Dustin and Dexter** - October 22, 2025 at 08:02 AM

DD

“ Dustin and Dexter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tom and Betty Schmitt.

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**Dustin and Dexter** - October 22, 2025 at 08:02 AM

RS

“ I worked with Tom at Hazelwood hospital for a few years. Very nice and always professional. Then I moved over to a different hospital where I met and worked with Betty. Always busy but very comical. The many stories about flying and all her children. Tom amazed me how he would come to work before Betty got off and started the car and had it nice and warm for her. They were quite the couple and truly rememberd.

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**Rayetta Smith** - October 20, 2025 at 02:18 PM

SB

I didn't know this amazing couple. Reading their obit, they lived a blessed and beloved life. I do know one of their fabulous grand daughters. She gets her adventurous spirit from her grandparents. I wish I had known them, they must have had many stories to share. Prayers for all their family and friends.

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**Sylvia Burke** - October 21, 2025 at 12:38 PM

TS

*I am the youngest son of Helen and Willie Schmitt. I am Tony. My sisters Doris and Beverly and brother Buddy have passed and I really don't know much to tell you except I knew your Dad quite a few years ago and only knew your Mom from meeting her at perhaps a family reunion or two years ago. I know nothing of the Childres family but had reunited with your Dad at a funeral of one of Uncle Lawrence's children (Patsy) a few years ago. Again I know nothing of the whereabouts of your Aunts. and you children since we've lost contact through the years. We were notified of your Dad and Mom's passing through our niece Lisa who is a Chaplain at U.of L. Hospital. I guess this is all I can tell you at this time.!!!!!! Chaplain*

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**Tony Schmitt** - October 21, 2025 at 06:59 PM