

Celebration of Gerry Schueman

Drott Lodge Remembers Gerry Schueman

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our very dear Member and friend Gerry Schueman peacefully passed away in his home on July 3rd, 2019 at 1:30 pm with his dear wife Margaret by his side.

Gerry was an active member of Drott Lodge. He liked the challenge of selling Imported Foods at Drott's annual bazaar, at HoS SWEA bazaar, and even at the Viking Festival in Manassas. In addition, he was the knowledgeable resource for all. He supported all events such as ABBAPalooza, the Valborg and Midsummer celebrations and the Lucia and Christmas Party. He was the storage guy. He knew how to set up the lodge. He loved doing it. And, he was an expert at creating posters/signs for the lodge. All that he did for Drott was part of what he did also for the American Scandinavian Association, over 38 years. He was Margaret's strength when she was President of ASA for many years just as he was during her Chairmanship at Drott Lodge.

Gerry was a man of many talents. Gerry learned to weave rugs in Pargas, Finland when Margaret was a Fulbright Exchange teacher at Kaarinan lukio near Turku in 1996 -1997. He was quoted for saying that weaving was like playing the piano. About that time, he was doing wood carving and even studied at Sätergläntan in Dalarna, Sweden under Mats Sjöberg. Next, he was oil painting under the direction of Lasse Frosterud. He even took up Barbershop singing with the Arlingtones! Whatever he did, he did whole heartily.

Gerry found time to volunteer in so many ways! Way back in his Navy days, he was Recreation Officer on Vietnam cruises. That carried over to IBM, where he organized sports teams and banquets. His volleyball team even won a trophy. His many younger work friends often joined Margaret, daughter Angela and son Greg water skiing. What fun it must have been! When Margaret got an email asking her to be an extra on Veep, the TV show, Gerry jumped at the chance much to his delight! He was volunteering at the Kennedy Center and he had his picture in the last Friend's newsletter along with a quote.

For many years Gerry was responsible for maintaining the trail along Pimmit Run from Great Falls St. to Westmoreland in McLean, VA. Along the trail, he helped Eagle Scout candidates complete their badge requirements by helping them build bridges and improving the path. He gave others hours of his time.

His last paid job was one he felt proud to have. He was selling 50/50 Dream Foundation raffle tickets at the Nationals Ball Park! Not only did he get to experience the excitement of the ball park, but he met wonderful fans and others on the raffle sales team just in the weeks before his cancer returned.

Gerry lived each day to the fullest. Gerry and Margaret had been to the Finnish Embassy on Monday June 17th, for a concert by Olli Soikkeli, Tuesday to Blues Alley for Gunhild Carling, the Swedish Queen of Swing, and his favorite harpist on Wednesday, Lily Neill at Jammin Java in Vienna, VA. By Friday, he was at INOVA Hospital!

The Midsommar Celebration on June 29th was a celebration of Gerry who had been arranging the celebration over so many years. He built the Maypole, the Flagstand, and all the children's games. Participants celebrated Gerry in different ways, including a serenade by a member of Gerry's Barbershop Quartet, the Arlingtones.

Gerry passed on peacefully on July 3rd as a CD with Lily's music was playing. She was special for so many reasons since Gerry first met her years ago at a Finlandia Foundation event. Her friendship meant a lot to Gerry. Gerry and Margaret always went to her concerts and even met up with her in Helsinki.

Gerry was proud to be 8% Finnish! He also became 100% Swedish after being adopted back in early 1990s by the Swedish Community! His sparkling blue eyes drew people to him and this enriched the lives of all around him. His loss is great.

Gerry leaves big shoes to fill.

Memorial Service will be held later in the Fall.

Chef Mikko with the Mikko - Fine Nordic Foods restaurant in Washington, D.C. was a good friend of Gerry's. In celebration of Gerry, they have included a celebration on their website as can be seen below:

<https://www.chefmikko.com>

In Truth and Unity,

Arne Dunhem

Chairman

Drott Lodge #168

VASA ORDER of AMERICA