



## William Edward Schonlau

August 25, 1936 - October 10, 2017

William Edward

“Bill”

Schonlau,

Bill was the 5th child born to Roy and Leola Schonlau. He entered into this world August 25th, 1936 in Kingman, Kansas. He is survived by his loving wife, Leona Potestio Schonlau; two brothers, Donald L. Schonlau (Beverly); Lloyd E. Schonlau (Sue); two sisters, Fern C. Hamilton (George); Ida Kinder (Ken); and many nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and three sisters; Dorothy L. Matsenbocker, Gloria Miller, and Karen Plath; four nephews and one niece.

Bill grew up in Las Animas, Colorado, and attended the local schools. He obtained his GED at Schwebisch Hall, Germany. Later in life, he graduated from Southern Colorado State College in Pueblo, Colorado.

Bill's parents signed for him to join the United States Army when he was seventeen years old. He served three years in Germany, earning the rank of Sergeant. After his discharge he was employed by the Pueblo Army Depot, in Avondale, Colorado. Later he joined the Pueblo Police Department where he spent many years. Bill then relocated to Houston, Texas, where he was employed by United Gas Pipeline. In 1977 he was appointed Assistant Chief Security Officer. He was later promoted to Encroachment Representative in the Right-a-Way Department as Right-a-Way Buyer. Bill had the responsibility

of servicing four states, settling damage claims and personnel problems. After years of that work, Bill wanted to come back to Colorado. He went to work at the Aurora Public Schools as a security guard until his retirement. Bill was proud that most of his adult working years had been in the employment of some form of police work. After his retirement, Bill moved back to his beloved Avondale where his police career had begun. After all, Avondale is known for being the Home Town of Heroes. Bill will always be known for his jokes, his booming voice, and for his thunderous laughter. He will be missed by all who knew him.

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Cemetery

1706 Roselawn Rd  
Pueblo, CO 81006

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Roselawn Funeral Home Chapel  
1706 Roselawn Rd  
Pueblo, CO 81006

## Funeral Service

OCT 18. 10:00 AM (MT)

Roselawn Funeral Home Chapel  
1706 Roselawn Rd  
Pueblo, CO 81006

# Tribute Wall

SD

“ Uncle Bill was a part of virtually every significant part of my life. Most of my earliest memories include him. He was involved in acquiring my first dog - and drove my mother and me to the vet when Fritzie passed.

He probably saved my life when I was 5 or 6 when he caught me playing with my father's rifle, relieved me of it and spanked the you know what out of me - I don't know who was more scared, him or me.

He would stop by the house in his patrol car to have a cup of coffee and shoot the breeze with my parents regularly and let me turn on the red-lights (who knows that the neighbors thought). One afternoon, he and my mother raced their respective cars down Elizabeth Street with me standing on the transmission hump leaning over the front seat cheering my mother on (hey, it was the 60s). He was one of my earliest heroes. I wanted to be just like him, I wanted to be a policeman and catch bad-guys. I would marvel at his uniform, his badge, his gun, his police car. I can honestly say that he is one of the reasons I became a lawyer.

When I was 16 he took me to the DMV for my drivers license and waited there until I passed both the written and driving tests - pretty much an all day event because I hadn't studied for either of them.

Every Christmas until my early adulthood was marked by his booming voice, his distinctive laugh and his one-line jokes. Sometimes the jokes were funny, sometimes maybe suffering from a small limp, but his laugh was infectious, his laugh and side-ways glance was what made everyone else laugh. When I think of "jolly" that was Uncle Bill.

My heart breaks for my Aunt Oney. We are all going to have to help her cope with the void left by Bill's passing. I'm going to miss my Uncle Willie terribly. Having said that, I am so incredibly lucky to have had him as my uncle, mentor and hero for 53 years.

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**Sean Dingle** - October 17, 2017 at 06:30 PM

LD

“ *Love, Patricia, Neal and Jena DePooter purchased the Thoughts & Prayers for the family of William Edward Schonlau.*



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**Love, Patricia, Neal and Jena DePooter** - October 17, 2017 at 06:15 PM

PD

“ Uncle Bill will be missed by so many, so many. He touched lives with his wit, his jokes, his stories, and that unmistakable laugh. When you heard his laughter you knew he was close by. Though he will be missed by many, non will miss him more or as much as his sweetheart, Aunt Leona.

*I've loved him all my life and have fond memories of his stories and our conversations, some deep and always interesting. I am thankful for the luncheon that many were able to come to early this summer. I think it was the first time I've ever seen Uncle Bill quieter than usual, maybe a little.....speechless. He was so very, very Happy with the day and all who were there. I know he was touched by us for we are from his side of the family and 6 of us were among the many, many family and friends there.*

*When I think of Uncle Billy, I will always smile hearing him, his laughter and his smile. Everyone who loves him are in my prayers. I know we will see again one day. Aunt Leona you are always in my prayers. I love you.*

*Through Jehovah God's love through his son Jesus' embrace,  
Patricia (Hamilton) DePooter*

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**Patricia DePooter** - October 17, 2017 at 01:34 PM

YF

“ Yochem and Olivares Family purchased the Cheryl's Classic Gift Tin Tower for the family of William Edward Schonlau.



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**Yochem and Olivares Family** - October 16, 2017 at 01:30 PM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of William Edward Schonlau.*



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October 15, 2017 at 04:02 PM



“ *The Schonlau family has my sympathy for the loss of their loved one. I did not know William, but was a good friend of his brother, Don. We both attended schools in Las Animas and Don and I corresponded while he was in Korea during 1950 and 1951. I would love to hear from Don. The photo of William resembles Don so much, at that age.*

*Lucy (Webb) Snyder*

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**Lucy Y Snyder** - October 15, 2017 at 01:56 PM