



## Thomas Henry Schurtz

January 7, 2019

Schurtz, Thomas Henry, 68, of Galloway, N.J. passed away in his home on January 7, 2019. He was born in New York, NY to Henry and Genevieve Schurtz. He grew up in Clark, New Jersey, but his youth was forever shaped by his summers in Peach Lake, NY. He graduated from St. John the Apostle grammar school, Union Catholic High School and received his BA from La Salle College.

Thomas married Mary Ellen Roken at St. Matthew's on June 1, 1974 and the couple moved to Woodbridge N.J. where he taught and coached basketball at Central High School in Newark, NJ. In 1984, the couple moved to Galloway, NJ where Tom began teaching, coaching & directing at Absegami High School, retiring from public education after a distinguished 33 year career garnering teacher of the year honors and affecting the course and education of countless students. In 2008, the life of an educator continued to call to him as he returned to the classroom to serve along side of his beloved wife as a teacher at Assumption Regional Catholic School.

He is survived by his four children: Thomas Jr. & his wife, Rannette, Kathleen, Robert & his wife, Jamie, and Stephen & his wife, Julianne. Popsey will be greatly missed by his three granddaughters on whom he doted: Samantha, Summer and Saylor.

A memorial gathering for Thomas will take place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - Church of the Assumption on Friday, January 11th from 6:00 to 9:00pm as well as on Saturday, January 12th from 8:00-10:00am with a Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations to the "Mary Ellen Schurtz Scholarship Award" at Assumption Regional Catholic School:

<https://forms.diamondmindinc.com/arcs/schurtzscholarship?token=1870879508>.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wimberg Funeral Home, 211 E. Great Creek Rd, Galloway 609-641-0001. For condolences or directions, please visit [wimbergfuneralhome.com](http://wimbergfuneralhome.com).

# Events

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**JAN 11**   **Gathering**   06:00PM - 09:00PM

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Church of the Assumption  
146 S. Pitney Road, Galloway, NJ, US, 08205

**JAN 12**   **Gathering**   08:00AM - 10:00AM

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Church of the Assumption  
146 S. Pitney Road, Galloway, NJ, US, 08205

**JAN 12**   **Mass of Christian Burial**   10:00AM

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Church of the Assumption  
146 S. Pitney Road, Galloway, NJ, US, 08205

# Comments

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“ We know the Schurtz family somewhat from a distance and only very recently. The opportunity for that brief time to know Tom and MaryEllen was truly a blessing from God to be shown what wonderful people they were, the awesome family they created and the children and grandchildren that are obviously going to carry on Tom and Mary Ellen's love.

**Sandra Regenye** - January 13, 2019 at 10:40 AM

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“ In loving memory of Tom Schurtz. He was a wonderful person and admired by all. I worked with Tom many years at Absegami. Tom was a great man and will be missed by all. My sympathy to his family. Minerva Valiante

**Minerva Valiante** - January 12, 2019 at 10:18 AM

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“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Henry Schurtz.



January 11, 2019 at 03:30 PM

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“ We got to know Tom and Mary Ellen Schurtz when Kass worked at Lindy Hops Ice Cream when we first opened. What a terrific family. We are so sorry to hear about Tom and send our love and prayers to the entire family.

The Lindy Hops Family

**Linda Lerario and Ed Jones** - January 11, 2019 at 02:44 PM

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“ No one can prepare you for a loss, however, take comfort in knowing that Tom is now resting in the arms of our Lord. May the love of family and friends comfort you during these difficult days. Our deepest condolences to the entire Schurtz Family. We will include Tom in our prayers.

The Hillmer Family



**Todd Hillmer** - January 11, 2019 at 02:17 PM

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“ My sincere condolences.

Drue Kale  
BYC

**Drue Kale** - January 10, 2019 at 10:08 PM

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“ I have had the honor to know Mr. Schurtz for 35 years. I first met him at Absegami High School as my English teacher. I then had the pleasure to teach with him at Absegami High School after graduating from college. Then later in life we worked together at Assumption Regional Catholic School. I admired his passion for his family and teaching. He was a great writer and speaker. He was a person who left impacting thoughts on all who were lucky enough to hear him. Even though he use to say “We are all entitled to his opinion “ he was usually right! I am grateful for the lessons he taught me and the ones he taught my children. We are all better people for being blessed to know Tom and Mary Ellen Schurtz. My sincere condolences to his children and grandchildren.

**Sheryl Cordivari** - January 10, 2019 at 09:27 AM

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“ My Deepest condolences to the Shultz family. He was my basketball coach, he made us work hard but made it fun. I gave me my first nickname. I respect his care of his family, school and community. And he also was a great Football coach to my brother.

**Martine O'Connor** - January 09, 2019 at 07:02 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas Henry Schurtz.



January 09, 2019 at 06:42 PM

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“ Mr Schurtz was one of my inspirations to be a high school English teacher. His passion for his subject and his love of his students and players was obvious in everything he did. He touched countless lives over his career. He had a wonderful family and my thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Kit Daly Tidwell

**Kit Daly Tidwell** - January 09, 2019 at 02:21 PM

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“ Mr. Schurtz was a great educator. I remember walking into English class my sophomore year and the first thing that he taught us. He made us tell him all the ways that we knew how to cheat and then he told us what he knew. (I have to say, he taught me a few things...lol) Once we got done sharing he said that we could use our techniques in any other class but we better not use them in his. I knew then that class was going to be educational and fun. He knew how to connect with his students and we all really enjoyed him. I was the girl's basketball manager while he coached. I can still picture him yelling at the girls if they did something wrong with his hands on his hips. He also made sure that he defended his girls because he got a few technical fouls here and there...lol. He and Mrs. Schurtz were just amazing people. Opening their home to students for dinners and movies will always be a memory that I will cherish of the both of them. It says a lot about an educator when a student that you taught over 30 years ago can still remember the impact that you had on their life. That is how I feel about Mr. Schurtz. He impacted my life for the good and I will always treasure the time spent with him in Absegami and the numerous times that I have had a run in with him throughout the years. God Bless his children and their families.

Rachel Campbell - January 09, 2019 at 09:56 AM

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“ I remember him fondly as a passionate teacher who challenged and engaged each of his students. I loved going to his English class at Absegami. So fortunate to have been taught by this dedicated teacher.

Colleen Bernard - January 09, 2019 at 05:47 AM



“ Our condolences to the family. My kids Alex and Arquel Martinez had the honor to be thought by Mr. Schurtz, they will always praise him for all his efforts and they are grateful for all the lessons they learned in his classroom. The Martinez Family is deeply sorry for the loss of an extraordinary teacher. Rest In Peace

Carmen Martinez - January 10, 2019 at 09:03 AM



“ Bob & Family,  
We were sorry to receive the notice of your Father's passing. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all.

Donna & Bob Mucciarelli

BYC

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mucciarelli - January 10, 2019 at 11:55 PM

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“ A wonderful educator who made an impact in the lives of so many students over so many years. This is how I will remember the man that so many people like myself will remember as Mr. Schurtz.

**Lauren Silvestro** - January 08, 2019 at 10:00 PM

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“ I will always remember that extraordinary interview with Tom dressed in that unforgettable white suit applying for a position at Absegami. It was like the arrival of the Great White Hope; he was special! And, in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, he was on higher ground, managing to lift students and colleagues, alike. That single word, JOY, on his Christmas card this year, reflects love of family and the spirit of a man who loved and was deeply loved.

D.N. Walters

**Daniel N. Walters** - January 08, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ Dan, I remember the day when Mr. Schurtz told me about the day he met you for the first time. He said you were talking about his gold jewelry and he was thinking "Who is this guy, who speaks so refined and proper?" In the end, he said he enjoyed having a great friendship with you. My girls, who attended Assumption, were so thankful he taught them Shakespeare, which prepared them to do well in high school. My daughter even played "Juliet" in her high school play "Romeo & Juliet" and said how she thought Mr. Schurtz would be proud of her. She expressed, if she never had him in junior high, she would not know the proper diction, nor comprehend the play as well as she did, to be cast as that character. He was creative with his ideas and taught Assumption students at a higher level.

**Beth Petrosh** - January 09, 2019 at 04:27 PM

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“ I was just speaking about Mr. Schurtz with my sisters over Christmas break. He was my English teacher Junior year. His teaching of Macbeth and the reports we had to write was one of my finest memories of him. I remember him in the hallways just making the days so much fun yelling at us all and making jokes. An awesome teacher so sad to hear of his passing. Rest well and always remember "The Ides of March" My condolences to the family.

**Clarice Campbell Rochester** - January 08, 2019 at 07:12 PM

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“ He was my husband and my teacher when he first started teaching at absegami high school in 1985 him and my husband talked about cars and other things he was such a good man back then I remember going to his house back then and him and my husband talked for hours may you rest in peace

Ronald and Helen Reichert - January 08, 2019 at 06:52 PM

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“ Dear Family  
Both of your parents were dedicated educators and fine people. We knew your Dad longer than we knew your Mom and knew him to be a very good man and a very nice, honorable, and considerate man. We worked on his first campaign when he ran for council and were thrilled when he won because we knew he'd bring the same dedication to that position that he brought to teaching. He touched a lot of lives -- students as well as adults and of course he and your Mom guided your lives so that you have become the responsible young men and women that you are.  
Our deepest condolences on your loss.  
Bruce and Sherry Sauerwine

Sherry Sauerwine - January 08, 2019 at 06:21 PM



“ Your parents were great people. Tom had a great sense of humor and kindness. You are all wonderful people and definitely great reflections of them. You are so in our prayers as you ache from this tremendous loss  
Sandy & Peter Regenye

Sandra Regenye - January 09, 2019 at 10:32 AM

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“ Along with everyone else, I am heartbroken to hear this news. Tom was an original. One of a kind. And such a wonderful man.  
To the man I once called T.T., and to Kathleen, Robert and Stephen, I can just express my sorrow. And if it's any consolation, I believe that your father is now dancing with your beautiful mother for all eternity.  
To Jimmy and to Mary Frances, Joe and Karen, Henry and Michael, my brothers and sisters from a past life, I can only tell you that I grieve with you.  
I keep thinking of the parties in the basement/backyard in Keasbey. Wonderful times when we were all so young.  
Sending love and prayers to all of you.

Susan Mirto Scardilli - January 08, 2019 at 05:19 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Henry Schurtz.



January 08, 2019 at 05:19 PM

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“ Thank you Tom Schurtz for your friendship over my 11 years at Assumption Regional Catholic School. You will be in my thoughts every time I am reminded of the title "Nurse Ratched" that you bestowed on me. In loving memory~ Mary Beth Abate RN

**Mary Beth Abate** - January 08, 2019 at 04:22 PM

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“ Always the giver, Tom helped put on a new roof and paint our house - just because. Matt's favorite high school teacher too.  
The Barbers

**Barber** - January 08, 2019 at 04:18 PM

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“ Mary Beth Abate lit a candle in memory of Thomas Henry Schurtz



**Mary Beth Abate** - January 08, 2019 at 04:14 PM