



# Edward George Schwaegerle

APR 10, 1920 - DEC 24, 2023



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# Edward George Schwaegerle

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## Edward Schwaegerle Obituary

Edward George Schwaegerle, 103, passed away peacefully at Kendal at Oberlin Retirement Community December 24, 2023. He was born April 10, 1920 in Cincinnati, the son of George Edward and Ruth Gertrude (nee Schneller) Schwaegerle. Ed's great grandfather immigrated to Cincinnati in 1860 during the great German immigration to the US.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, Ruth Cecilia (nee Flick) Schwaegerle in 2017; brother, Paul Robert in 2021; and his sister Jean Annette Geist in 2023.

Ed leaves son, Kent Edward Schwaegerle; daughter-in-law Ruth Amy Stafford, both of San Diego, and a sister-in-law Cate Schwaegerle.

Ed came of age during the Great Depression, and the family struggled to make ends meet. Norwood Christian Church was the center of the family's social life. After graduation from Hughes High School, Ed won a \$100 scholarship from Mrs. Streitmann of the Streitmann Biscuit Company which launched his studies in the Cooperative Education Program at the University of Cincinnati. Ed met Ruth Flick in 1938 through church activities, and the two dated for four years before their marriage. Ed graduated with a Chemical Engineer degree in spring 1942, six months after Pearl Harbor, and was hired by the BF Goodrich Company in Akron, Ohio and chosen to work on developing polymers for the war effort.

In 1946 Ed was reassigned to the new BF Goodrich Development Center in Avon Lake working there for the next 26 years. Settling in Elyria, Ed and Ruth enthusiastically embraced the programs of the old First Christian Church on Second Street. Indeed, Ed was elected Elder at age 28 and played a role buying property and construction of the current Washington Avenue Christian Church. The couple sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, and chaired several committees. Their son Kent was born in 1952, and the family enjoyed 32 years living on a



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riverfront property on East River Road, Elyria. Ed had broad interests, enjoying travel, music, gardening, bridge, genealogy, and do-it-yourself projects, including painting the house six times.

In 1972, Ed was promoted to Director of Plastics Research and Development and was moved to the company headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. Early retirement in 1976 allowed more time to develop other interests. Ed and Ruth enjoyed road trips, driving over 425,000 miles in the US, camping, sight seeing, and collecting genealogical information. In the 1980s Ed published two works: a history of the Schwaegerle family in America and an ancestry of his mother's family. Ed also served on a local development committee resulting in construction of the Kendal at Oberlin retirement community which follows the principles of the American Friends Society (Quakers). Ed and Ruth moved in at the opening in 1993 and flourished in the active life there. Over the next 30 years they graduated from independent living in a cottage, to a small apartment, to the assisted-living/nursing care facility on campus. Ed volunteered at the Oberlin College Archives for many years. Life at Kendal was further enriched when his brother Paul and wife Cate moved to Kendal at Oberlin. Throughout his life, Ed cheerfully made the most of his situation which included blindness, hearing loss, and serious back problems. He evolved from a conservative background to an expansive progressive outlook, an evolution he largely attributed to his wife Ruth.

Ed died peacefully, holding hands with his son Kent at his bedside.

A memorial service will be held at Kendal at Oberlin at a later date.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Edward George Schwaegerle, please visit our floral store.

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## Tribute Wall

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KS

**Kent Schwaegerle** posted:

Hi Debby, we plan to have a memorial service for Ed later in spring, maybe June, when conditions are more favorable for travel. Yeah, I have a photo album with many pictures of Elaine, Ernie, Ed, and Ruth. Apparently, they were very close in the late 40s. I'd guess their friendship tapered off in 1951 when Ed's brother Paul moved to Elyria in 1951 and us kids started taking up more time.

January 12 at 4:02 PM

LH

**Larry Hewitt** posted:

Ed was one of several BFGoodrich R&D directors / managers I spoke with during my job interviews at Goodrich in August 1974. I must have done OK as I started in September and was in his particular area of plastics R&D. My boss reported to him so I had a little contact with Ed through reports and project reviews. I remember when my boss & I went to Ed's retirement "party" at Goodrich in 1976. My boss was perplexed by Ed's "early" retirement and thought he was throwing away his career in some respects. Ed must have had about 30 years with Goodrich and had been working as long as I was alive. Ed's retirement and words at the gathering stuck with me as I planned a similar retirement that turned out to be 29 years at the company. Even when you like your job, there is more to life. Ed has had a great life after retirement with his family. My sympathies to his family with his passing.

January 11 at 7:51 AM

DW

**Debby Schmittgen Willets** posted:

To Kent in particular - and to all who loved and will miss Ed, we extend heartfelt sympathies on his death and pray that you will know comfort, peace and wonderful memories of life shared over the years. I have specific memories of time shared with my dad and Ed singing in the choir at Washington Ave Christian Church and the periodic choir picnics at the Schwaegerle home . It would be good to know of any planned memorial, as I suspect there are a number of people at Washington Ave who might like to know and remember . With all good wishes, Debby Schmittgen Willets

January 9 at 12:07 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Edward by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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