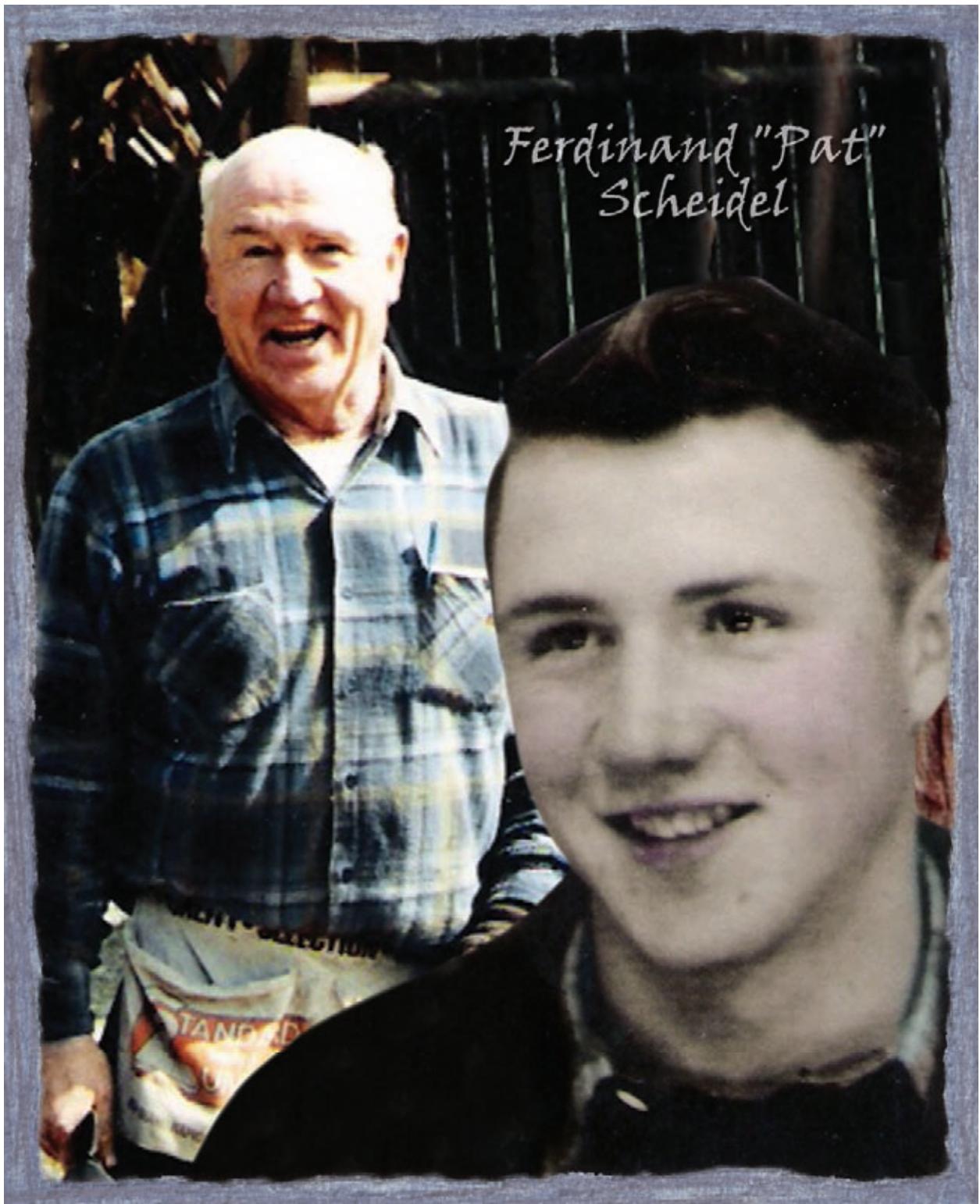


Ferdinand "Pat"  
Scheidel



## Pat's Life Story



With his strong work ethic, dedication to his family, and his devout Catholic faith, Ferdinand "Pat" G. Scheidel carried himself with integrity, compassion, and grace, brightening the world around him just by being who he was each and every day. Pat viewed each day he was given as a precious gift and he was always a man in motion, often to help those around him in any way he could. Pat treasured his faith and his family above all else and to him, life was not about achievements or material wealth but about the relationships he fostered along life's journey.

The 1920's were a time of great change within the farming industry in our nation as the Capper-Volstead Act gave cooperatives legal standing in 1922. William and Veronica Scheidel, of Alpine Township, Michigan were preparing for an exciting change of their own as Veronica was due to give birth to their second child at any time. They were indeed blessed on October 4, 1926 with the healthy birth of their son, Ferdinand. Pat, as his friends called him, was the second of seven children, joining his older sister Kathleen and later welcoming his other siblings, Alice, Theresa, James, Phillip and Mary. The family was raised within a devout Catholic home and were members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church where they also attended school. Entering the 10th grade, Pat was informed by his teacher, Sr. Rosanne that he would have to repeat Latin. Pat decided he wasn't going to do that...and his father informed him if he didn't go to school, he had to work.

The thirties were times that created financial hardships for many American families as our nation was deeply held in the grip of the Great Depression and Pat's family was no exception. Not only did he work alongside his father building barns from the age of 13, "riding the rafters" as he called it, but he also worked in several other venues as well, including peddling apples up and down Alpine Ave. in a two horse wagon team and working at Bekins Slaughterhouse, all the while establishing a strong work ethic that would follow him throughout his entire lifetime.

Life changed for Pat when at the age of 18, he was drafted into the United States Army. While waiting to leave for Europe, Germany surrendered. Later, Pat was ordered to the war in the Pacific, and while in Hawaii, Japan

surrendered. Although his marching orders changed a few times during his time of service with the end of WWII, he served as a cook and bartender in Hawaii for 18 months. After the war, an even more significant change occurred while he was attending a dance in downtown Grand Rapids where he met a pretty young girl named Patricia DeVriendt. It was love at first sight and the two quickly fell deeply in love and were married just four months later on November 25, 1950 at her home parish, St. James Catholic Church. There was no extra money for the newlyweds to take a honeymoon and they lived with



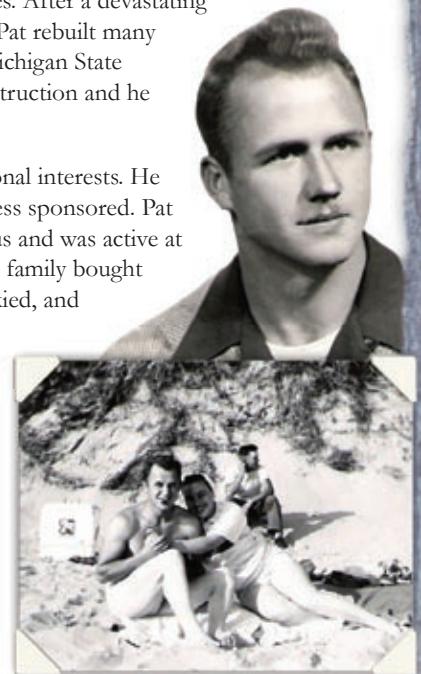
each of their parents for awhile before they eventually settled into the log cabin on the farm. Here, the couple was blessed with five children, Louis, Greg, David, Joanne and Christine before they built a home of their own on Cordes Avenue where they were again blessed with five more children, Brian, Matthew, Margaret, Sara and Sharon.

Pat worked hard to support his family over the years within the building industry. Shortly after he got married, Pat started Scheidel Builders through which he built and remodeled homes. After a devastating tornado in Alpine Township in 1965, which destroyed much of the area, Pat rebuilt many of the area homes that he had originally constructed. In his later years, Michigan State University also hired Pat as a consultant to help in the study of barn construction and he spent time touring the area and studying barns.

When he had some leisure time, Pat enjoyed pursuing some of his additional interests. He loved to bowl, many years on the league at Clique Lanes, which his business sponsored. Pat was also a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus and was active at his church, serving as usher for over 45 years at Holy Trinity. In 1968, the family bought a cottage on Nichols Lake in Bitely, Michigan where they boated, water skied, and fished on the pontoon that Pat built. Later when grandchildren and great grandchildren arrived, the cottage became a favorite gathering place for the generations to have great times together.

There were things that were unique to Pat that created the special person that his family knew and loved. He enjoyed windmill cookies, frozen ice cream bars, and having everyone over for supper. Pat was never particular about what he ate, but he liked to eat at 6 -12 & 6. every day. He loved to watch Wheel of Fortune and westerns, as well as to read the newspaper and the church bulletin. Pat was a compassionate man who was always willing to help someone in need in any way that he could and was always most grateful for the many blessings in his life.

Pat's life was filled with many peaks and valleys along the way. He was proud of his business he had built . He retired in 2000, but life became very difficult in 2002 when his son Lois died of a heart attack. These were trying times for the whole family but they rallied together, drawing strength from each other and from their strong faith as well. When his own health began to decline, Pat always remained positive and could often be heard saying, "Thats Life - Take it as it comes" always declared with a wink and a wave.



Ferdinand "Pat" G. Scheidel was an extraordinary man who lived his life with great vibrancy while brightening the days of those around him with his warm demeanor and his bright smile. Never a man to be still for any length of

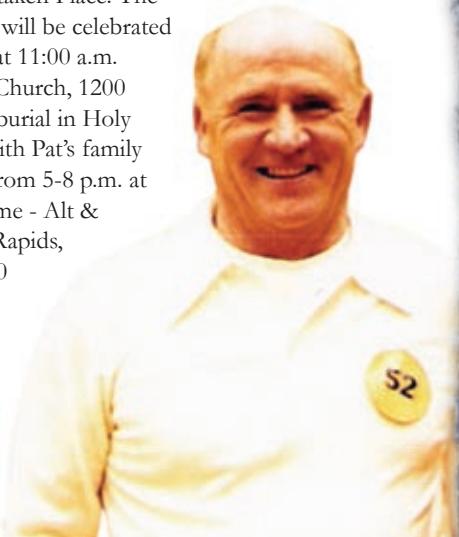
time, Pat worked hard and was always willing to work to help others as well. Whether he was valiantly serving his country, enjoying his grandchildren, or playing a great game of cards, Pat framed his every thought, his every word, and his every deed within the context of the faith he held so dear. Pat made a lifetime of treasured memories that will be forever etched on the hearts of all those he leaves behind. He will be deeply missed.



Ferdinand G. "Pat" Scheidel of Comstock Park, MI, died at his home on March 15, 2009 in the presence of his loving family. Pat's family includes his wife of 58 years, Patricia (DeVriendt); his children, Greg (Linda) Scheidel, David (Elisabeth) Scheidel, Joanne (Francois) Jean, Christine (Keith) Benzin, Brian Scheidel, Matthew

Scheidel, Margaret (Bill) Gingrich, Sara (Keith) Hutchens, Sharon (Ted) Belliel; 19 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; his sister, Kathleen Kluesner; sisters-in-law, Carol Scheidel and Rosie Scheidel; many nieces and nephews and many friends. He was preceded in death by his brothers, James and Phil, his sisters, Mary Blake, Theresa Coalter, Alice Scheidel, his daughter-in-law, Debbie Scheidel and his grandson, Mitchell Scheidel. Cremation has taken Place. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 1200 Alpine Church Rd. with burial in Holy Trinity Cemetery. Visit with Pat's family and friends on Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. at Heritage Life Story Funeral Home - Alt & Shawmut Hills Chapel - Grand Rapids, MI, and at the church from 10:00 until the time of the service. A Vigil service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Please visit Pat's memory page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com),

where you can leave a favorite memory or make a memorial contribution to In House Hospice.



Visit [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) to connect with your friends and family, share stories, and sign the guestbook. Life Story Funeral Homes® are the exclusive providers of the Life Story Experience™.

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