

# Eugene C. Schenkel: Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice

**Wabash Plain Dealer (IN) - Tuesday, October 14, 2003**

**Deceased Name: Eugene C. Schenkel**

ANDREWS - Eugene C. Schenkel, 75, rural Andrews, died at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, 2003, at his home.

The Wabash County government leader and lifelong farmer was a member of the Wabash County Council for 20 years. He was re-elected to one of the council's at-large seats in 2000 and resigned from his duties in September for health reasons.

Ted Little, a Republican councilman from North Manchester, served with Schenkel for 16 years.

"Gene was always concerned about being fair," Little told The Plain Dealer today. "He was a gentleman, and he cared about people.

"He always wanted to do what was best for taxpayers of Wabash County, to keep taxes low, but also provide necessary services."

Jean Gilbert served many years in the Wabash County Courthouse, the last eight as auditor.

"Gene was always pleasant. He always had nice things to say to people and he always had a smile for you, even if he didn't agree with you on something," she said.

"He took his job (as county councilman) very seriously. In my eight years as auditor, I don't think he ever missed a meeting. And he was always fair."

At the time of Mr. Schenkel's resignation, County Council President Paul Sites said, "Gene encouraged me to run for County Council and has continued to encourage me. He has always put Wabash County first."

Today, Sites added, "Gene loved the Lord. He was a believer.

"He was having health problems back when we were doing the budget, but he was there because he felt the need to serve. He was always doing the right thing for the county."

Both Sites and Little regretted not having sat down with Schenkel and thanking him for his personal support and his service to the county.

He was first elected as a county commissioner in 1970 and was re-elected in 1974. Prior to that he served two terms on the Lagro Township Advisory Board. He had served as a Lagro Precinct 2 committeeman since 1968.

He was a Metropolitan School Corporation bus driver for 25 years and also had worked as an industrial security guard.

He was a member of the Federal Land Bank board of directors and was a lifetime member of St. Paul's County Line Church, where he served as a board member, past president of the Consistory and was a former Sunday school teacher. He graduated from Lagro High School in 1945.

Mr. Schenkel was born on Nov. 12, 1927, in Lagro Township, to Ervin G. and Laura (Eiler) Schenkel. He married Mary Ann Hoover on July 29, 1949, at St. Paul's Church parsonage. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons, David Schenkel, Huntington, Ron (Deb) Schenkel, Urbana, and Greg (Kelly) Schenkel, Wabash; a daughter, Mrs. Mike (Susan) Keaffaber, Wabash; and eight grandchildren, Coley Schenkel,

Monica Schenkel, Emily Schenkel and Alison Schenkel, all of Urbana, and Brianne Schenkel, Adam Schenkel, Hilary Keaffaber and Grant Keaffaber, all of Wabash.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at St. Paul's County Line Church, County Road 400 N and the Wabash-Huntington county line. Kurt B. Church will officiate. Burial will be in St. Paul's County Line Cemetery.

Friends may call at the church from 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, and one hour prior to services Thursday.

Preferred memorials are to St. Paul's County Line Cemetery.

The Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

The memorial guest book for Mr. Schenkel can be signed on-line at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

Author: The Plain Dealer staff

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