



## Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski

January 25, 1964 - October 9, 2019

Joseph Schodowski, 55, died suddenly at home in Huntington Woods, Michigan, on October 9, 2019. Joe was born in Detroit on January 25, 1964, and grew up with his six siblings in Warren, Michigan, where he attended St. Anne Catholic School. After the family moved to Rochester, Michigan, he attended and graduated from Bishop Foley High School, in Madison Heights. He obtained his bachelor's degree at Kalamazoo College, in economics, in 1987, and his MBA at Wayne State University in 1992. Joe played football while at St. Anne, Bishop Foley, and K College.

While at K College, Joe met Karen Rae Hiyama, whom he married in 1991. They have three children: Eleanor Grace Schodowski, 23, Jackson Paul Schodowski, 19, and Lucas Denali Schodowski, 17.

Joe was utterly devoted to his family and particularly enjoyed attending his children's athletic and musical events and noting their academic achievements. Outside of his family, he had a gift for making friends - he had very many friends. And once a friendship was established, Joe was always, always, dependable, loyal, and generous. He paid more than lip-service to the idea of improving the world in small, concrete ways and helping those around him, whether it be by rallying the community to install batting cages in honor of a dear friend or making sure he found a home for a lost dog.

Joe was the president of Shelving Inc., a business based in Auburn Hills and now Madison Heights, Michigan, that supplies shelving and storage systems to companies and consumers located throughout the United States. Joe was a co-owner of Shelving along with his brothers John and Mike and brother-in-law Jim Aiello. Shelving was founded in Detroit in 1961 by Jack Schodowski, Joe's father. Joe was passionate about maintaining and enhancing the success of Shelving, establishing its presence on the internet before shopping online was routine, with shelving.com and theshelvingstore.com.

Joe revered his Uncle Vince (Banonis), who was the center on the Detroit Lions' championship teams of 1952 and 1953. Perhaps nothing reflected Joe's strength of character and unsinkable optimism more than his enduring belief that the Lions' inevitable Super Bowl championship was never more than one season away. (Since Joe's birth, the Lions have won exactly one playoff game.)

Joe is survived by his wife, Karen; their three children, Ella, Jackson, and Lucas (and their bundle of canine joy, Oscar); his father, Jack; and his siblings and their families. Joe was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Schodowski. Joe's siblings are Anne Fitzpatrick (widow of Mike Fitzpatrick); John (married to Maggie; children Matthew and Maria); Bob (married to Karen; children Kelsea and Skylar); Mike; Frank (married to Sandy; children Savannah and McKenzie); and Joan Aiello (married to Jim Aiello; children Rachel, Marisa, and Francesca).

Visitation will be this Friday, October 18, from 3-8 pm, at the William Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan. The funeral service will take place on Saturday, October 19, at 1 pm, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 North Division Street, Ann Arbor, and will be preceded by in-state visitation beginning at 12:30 pm. A reception at the

church will follow the funeral service.

Joe's family requests that memorial contributions be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (), Kevin's Song (), or the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House (manresa-sj.org <<https://www.manresa-sj.org/online-giving/>>).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **18**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Service

OCT **19**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew Episcopal Church  
306 North Division Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ So sorry for your loss. Thinking of all of you.

*Love, Taylor Strobridge*

Taylor Strobridge - October 18, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



October 18, 2019 at 07:36 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



October 17, 2019 at 10:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



October 17, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ Sweet, gentle and loving. Any time spent with Joe was easy and fun. Sitting at Tiger games or front yard chats Joe was always interesting and exuded warmth and kindness. We will miss him.

*Earl, Julie, Hanna and Claire*

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**Julie Upp** - October 17, 2019 at 01:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



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October 16, 2019 at 07:58 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



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October 16, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



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October 16, 2019 at 02:31 PM

JE

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of Joe. He was such a sweet and kind person. our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.

*Matt, Jennifer and Michaela Scarsella*



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**Jennifer** - October 16, 2019 at 02:19 PM

DR

“ The world has lost a gentle, kind soul- he used his gifts to make the world a better place for those he left behind. We are so deeply sorry for your loss. You are in our hearts, Dawn, Andy, Ben, Zach & Aimee



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**Dawn Rablin-Binversie** - October 16, 2019 at 08:41 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



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October 16, 2019 at 04:40 AM

AM

“ All our love & sympathy, Vince & Mary purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.



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**All our love & sympathy, Vince & Mary** - October 15, 2019 at 10:28 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.*



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October 15, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.*



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October 15, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.*



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October 15, 2019 at 08:53 AM



“ *Memories 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.*



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October 15, 2019 at 08:05 AM

MF

“ *Michael & Marilyn Frank Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph Gerard Hiyama Schodowski.*



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**Michael & Marilyn Frank Family** - October 13, 2019 at 10:05 AM

JR

“ *Joe was always the life of the party. I loved being in his presence and will miss him dearly. Rest easy my dear friend. ❤️💔❤️*  
*Love, Jenn Rebori*



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**Jennifer Cutler Rebori** - October 12, 2019 at 06:46 PM

CM

*Dear Lucas, and Family;*  
*I am SO TRULY, TRULY sorry for your loss! I pray you find comfort, and peace.*  
*Love, Connie Martin*

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**Connie Martin** - October 13, 2019 at 06:46 PM