



Richard "Tony" Schulze

June 24, 1971 - January 16, 2026

Richard Anthony "Tony" Schulze died suddenly in a vehicular accident caused by poor road conditions on Friday, January 16, 2026. He was born on June 24, 1971, in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Tony was the son of Richard H. Schulze and Jean A. Montgomery (formerly Schulze; née Kelsey). He grew up in rural Richland County, where his family lived and worked on his grandparents' farm alongside his sisters, Betsy and Rosey.

When Tony was seven years old, while riding home from church with his mother, he asked her, "Mom, how do you get saved and go to heaven?" She replied, "You ask God to forgive you of your sins and ask Jesus to come live in your heart." Tony bowed his head and prayed that very prayer. From that moment on, he strove to live a life pleasing to God.

Tony loved growing up on the farm, and dairy animals were a central part of his life. He was a member of the Ithaca 4-H Club and showed dairy cattle at the Richland County Fair, earning several top awards. One year, he exhibited a Holstein heifer at the Wisconsin State Fair, where he won the top award in his category and was featured on the front page of the state paper.

He attended Ithaca Schools, and during his later grade-school years he began playing basketball for the Ithaca Bulldogs. After growing nearly ten inches in one year, he reached a height of 6'6" and played center throughout high school. He earned numerous trophies, including an All-Conference award. Despite his success, Tony never sought personal recognition; he was always focused on supporting and encouraging his teammates.

When the Schulze family sold their dairy herd, Tony turned his attention to a small flock of sheep, which he showed during his final years in 4-H. During this time, he worked at the Richland Center Foundry while attending Southwest Technical College. He later worked for two hog farms and briefly at a local orchard before beginning employment at Elm Grove Dairy. Tony remained there through several ownership changes—Land O'Lakes, Dean Foods, and finally Schreiber Foods—working a total of 27 years.

Tony met the love of his life, Cindy Bonnin, in late 1990. After a playful beginning, they were married on November 13, 1993. Together they were blessed with nine living children and two children who preceded him to heaven. Over the years, they raised various sheep breeds, operated a commercial dairy goat milking operation, and cared for pigs, chickens,

turkeys, and many other agricultural projects. There was always something being built, raised, or improved.

Tony encouraged his children to participate in 4-H animal projects so they could experience the same joy he had known in his youth. When his children were young, he faithfully brought them to support their cousin Jon at high school basketball and football games. As his own children grew older, Tony attended nearly every activity they were involved in—football, basketball, wrestling, track, cross-country, soccer, school plays, and performances. He was always present, always supportive, and often the loudest voice in the crowd, cheering and clapping until heads turned and ears rang.

Tony was a true animal showman with a remarkable eye for quality livestock, a gift that made him an excellent and highly respected animal judge. He especially loved judging children's shows, where his patience, fairness, and kindness shone. He took time to teach while judging, often encouraging young exhibitors who might otherwise have quit. His gentle guidance helped many children grow in confidence and continue showing animals successfully. Tony judged at numerous county fairs, the Central Wisconsin State Fair, and events in Belmont, Fennimore, and beyond, often being invited back year after year.

Another meaningful accomplishment in Tony's life was coaching basketball for his children at Eagle School. He also served as a referee for basketball and volleyball games, further giving back to the youth and communities he cared so deeply about.

Winning a popularity contest at work earned him a weekend away in Green Bay. He watched a Packer game from the 50 yard line in a private heated box. and toured Schreiber Foods headquarters and the original plant. It was an unforgettable experience that his wife will cherish forever.

His children will greatly miss the years they would have had to continue getting to know their dad. Likewise, his wife Cindy grieves alongside them, holding onto God's comfort as she mourns the moments they will never share together.

Survivors include his wife, Cindy Schulze; 9 children, Michael, Daniel, Anne, Nicole, Joy, William, David, Benjamin and Isaac; father, Richard Schulze(Helen Palm); mother, Jeanie (John) Montgomery; 2 sisters, Elizabeth "Betzy" Schulze (Jason Winch) and Rosey (Leo) Orsburn; aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his 2 children, Victoria Christine and Jonathan Andrew.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 11am with visitation from 9am until the time of the service at New House Richland with Pastor Mike Breninger officiating. The Clary Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the family. Cindy will be making a book of memories for the children to remember Tony and to learn who he was better. Please send

memories, stories and and pictures to Tonymemories444@yahoo.com You can remain anonymous if that helps.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **24**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New House Richland - RCF
26700 Fellowship Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581

Funeral Service

JAN **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

New House Richland - RCF
26700 Fellowship Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I only had the opportunity to get to know Tony this past year at Schreiber Foods, but it was great to hear of his experiences and his love of his family, and his community. So many different stories and adventures! My thoughts and condolences to Cindy and the family. Sending love your way

Jay Johnson - January 24 at 01:36 AM

JS

“ My heart goes out to to Cindy and family I I apologize I can't make the services to you will always be missed but never forgotten rest in peace don't

Jim

Jim sugden - January 23 at 10:21 PM

CF

“ Cintas family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard "Tony" Schulze.



Cintas family - January 23 at 04:39 PM

MP

“ Our sincere condolences to Cindy and the children. He is with the Gentle Shepherd and tending the sheep. God Bless.

Margaret & Graham Phillipson - January 23 at 01:46 PM

TC

“ My heart is breaking for Richard, Jeannie, Betzy, Rosie, Cindy and his children and all family members. Tony will always be in our memories. Prayers to all! Aunt Teresa and Uncle Kevin



Teresa Carlson - January 22 at 01:55 PM

HB

“ Hillsboro Boys Basketball purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Richard "Tony" Schulze.



Hillsboro Boys Basketball - January 22 at 10:56 AM

JH

“ So very sorry to hear about the tragic loss of your Son. Thoughts and Prayers for you and your Family.

Judy Horkan - January 21 at 06:55 PM

KB

“ To the family of Richard “ Tony”. I’m very sorry for the unexpected loss. I will always remember Tony with the biggest smile. I remember him with the younger kids at the fair with the goats and he loved every minute with his family. He will be missed by all but he gave wonderful memories to those closest to him. I’m sending my prayers to everyone for gods strength through these difficult times. Prayers from Mike and Kelli Kleppe Becker.

Kelli Kleppe Becker - January 21 at 12:25 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - January 21 at 11:00 AM

DA

“ Tony was a great person to work along side of

Daphne - January 20 at 06:52 PM

RW

“ My heart and deepest sympathies go out to Tony's wife and family. Everyone who got to know Tony knew he was a very kind person even at a young age where I was fortunate to get to know Tony when he was a freshman, sophomore, and Junior at Ithaca HS. I was Tony's Varsity Basketball Coach for those 3 years. He grew into a really good player and listened to every detail I would give him and put those things to work on the floor. As years passed on I was lucky enough to see Tony around the area and always talked to him and we had wonderful conversations on life. I will surely miss Tony and all the joy he brought in life. I enjoyed that time in my life but, I know that he is in heaven with the lord and looking down on all of us and his wife and family as they find strength to get through this difficult time. RIP Tony. I feel blessed to have met you and have a small part in your life and see all of the positives that you brought to everyone who was fortunate to have met you and got to know you. Randy Wallace

Randy Wallace - January 20 at 06:51 PM

RO

“ Worked with Tony at the dairy plants, he was a hard worker ,would help you no matter what. My sympathies to the family , he will be missed by all.

richard orsburn - January 20 at 04:34 PM

BM

“ I worked with Tony. Him and Daphne had trained me for the warehouse. He was a cool guy, was easy to work with. He was one of those people that cared about you. He will be missed. My sympathies his wife and kids.



Barb Maxon - January 20 at 04:25 PM



“ Was a wonderful person to work with

p - January 19 at 07:40 PM



“ Tony was a kind and respectful person and colleague, always greeting everyone with a friendly smile and warm words. His positive spirit and genuine kindness made the workplace brighter for all of us. It is truly a loss to have him go, and he will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew him.

Christiam Emilio - January 19 at 06:19 PM

PC

“ So sorry to hear about Tony. He was my neighbor when I lived on the farm . Even tho I didn't see him much always thought of him when I went by. His family has my deepest sympathy.



Pat Clark - January 19 at 06:06 PM

EC

“ Tony was a true friend that always brought positivity to anywhere he went. There was never a moment where his presence did not touch the people around him. Tony you will be greatly missed.

Eddie C - January 19 at 04:26 PM

NK

“ I worked with Tony. He was a hard worker,always a positive attitude. His love for his children was so great. He would speak of them often. The family goats were always on his mind. I will always remember him. Thank you Tony for being a fabulous coworker. My condolences to his wife, children and extended family.
Nancy kever

Nancy kever - January 19 at 01:32 PM

VW

“ My sincere sympathy to the family of Tony Schultz He was a classmate of my daughter I visited with him and his wife 2 weeks ago at the community center



Virginia Wiedenfeld - January 19 at 12:34 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Tony" Schulze.



January 19 at 11:05 AM