



Daniel Gordon McRae (Daniel Gordon Schmidt)

December 20, 1949 - May 12, 2026

Daniel Gordon McRae (AKA Daniel Gordon Schmidt), 76, passed away unexpectedly on May 12, 2026 in Tallahassee, Florida. He was born on December 20, 1949 to parents Kenneth and Patricia Gott in the Panama Canal Zone and was later adopted by John E. Schmidt Jr. Dan proudly served in the United States Navy where he completed his high school education.

Following his service in the Navy, Dan lived in Colorado Springs for a number of years and worked in a variety of different roles, including owning his own karate studio and would regularly compete in full-contact competitions. While in Colorado, Dan would meet his sweetheart, Sylvia, and later marry her in Tallahassee, Florida where he began a long career at the Leon County Sheriff's Office in 1983, serving in both Uniform Patrol and Corrections, attaining the rank of Lieutenant at the Leon County Jail where he was affectionately known as "Lieutenant Dan." After retiring from the Sheriff's Office in 2006, Dan worked for many years at Capital City Harley Davidson amidst the motorcycles he so dearly loved.

Inspired by his stepfather's love of genealogy, Dan dove deep into his roots and learned that he was a part of Clan McRae on his mother's side, later legally changing his last name to McRae. Dan was immensely proud of his Scottish heritage, visited Scotland often and discovered other family members there. He would come to own several kilts and all the accessories needed to

complete the attire of a proud Scotsman. He served a number of years in the local St. Andrews Society, worked diligently on the Tallahassee Scottish Games and would later be named as a Director of Clan McRae.

Dan also loved his country and was a proud patriot believing in the founding father's vision for the United States and would share with whomever was willing to listen that his Great-Great-Great-Great grandfather signed the Declaration of Independence. More than his love of Scotland and his country, Dan loved the Lord and his faith was the driving force behind all he did.

Survivors include his wife, Sylvia Rae Schmidt, and her son, Chad McDonald and his wife, Michelle and daughter, Madison; siblings Kathy Ryan (Tim), John Schmidt (Diane), Tracy Boyce (Dusty), Ruthie Ivester (Mike), Randall Gott (Kay), Kenny Gott and Allen Gott, and stepsisters Sue Denny and Janet Fields (Jim), as well as a host of nieces, nephews and other extended family members, friends and colleagues whom Dan loved dearly. He is preceded in passing by his mother, Patricia Schmidt, stepfather, John E. Schmidt Jr., and his biological father, Kenneth Gott.

The family will be receiving guests for a visitation at Bevis Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 2:00pm to be immediately followed by a funeral service at 3:00pm. Interment will be held at Roselawn Cemetery after the conclusion of the funeral service.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Funeral Service

MAY 20. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall

RC

“ I had the honor of working with Lt. Schmidt at the Leon County Jail. He was a good man, always upfront about everything. I remember him always talking about his family back ground and always interesting to listen to. He always had time to listen if you needed to talk about anything. A good man went home. prayers to his family.

Randy Crawford - May 20 at 03:32 PM

JS

Thank you Randy for your kind words about my brother!

John SCHMIDT - June 01 at 08:28 PM

MB

“ I worked at LCJail with Dan. We were Sergeants, then Lieutenants at the same time. He was such a nice person. He loved God with all his heart, then his family, then his friends. He will be remembered by his co-workers as a very helpful and dependable friend. God's speed Dan.

Liz Black - May 19, 2026

Maudie "Liz Black" - May 19 at 03:10 PM

JS

Those were the days weren't they Liz!

John SCHMIDT - June 01 at 08:29 PM

SC

“ Dan was always a friendly hello. For many years he, Sylvia, and Chad attended the church where I go. He represented his family with love and dignity.
My sincerest sympathies and loving prayers are extended to all of his family.

Sandra L Canter - May 18 at 08:25 AM

SM

“ See message purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Daniel Gordon McRae (Daniel Gordon Schmidt).



See message - May 17 at 08:58 PM

DG

“ On behalf of the St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dan McRae.

Dan was a valued member of our Society and took great pride in his Scottish heritage. We will especially remember him in his role as our Society's armiger, bearing his Claymore sword during the piping of the haggis at our annual Burns Suppers—a tradition he honored with dignity, pride, and good spirit.

His presence added meaning and warmth to our gatherings, and he will be fondly remembered by all of us who had the pleasure of sharing fellowship with him. May his family find comfort in the many memories of a life well lived and a heritage proudly carried.

With deepest sympathy,

*Danie Griffin-Turner
President, St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee*



Danie Griffin-Turner - May 16 at 09:56 AM

JS

Lordy, my brother sure love the St Andrew Society!

John SCHMIDT - June 01 at 08:27 PM

TR

“ I remember my first day working at the jail, they let me into booking from the lobby. First thing I see is Dan. Fred Jefferson, and Don Jefferson in booking. I was thinking to myself I wasn't big enough to work there. Dan was always a mentor, a leader, and a friend. He was always your biggest cheer leader and supporter. I am a better man because of him. RIP my brother, you are one of the greats.

Tim Ruth - May 15 at 10:59 PM

JS

What a site that must have been Tim! It must have been comforting to know you had some serious strong dudes on your side!

John SCHMIDT - June 01 at 08:26 PM

BB

“ Dan was my first Lieutenant, he was always willing to give advice along with always willing to listen. He taught me more than he will ever know. He is and always will be a leader and a legend. Rest easy brother you will be missed.

Bo Blanton - May 15 at 08:19 PM

JS

Thanks Bo, he spoke about you often. I appreciate your kind words.

John SCHMIDT - June 01 at 08:27 PM

TF

“ The McDonald, Wrenn, Glackman Families purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Daniel Gordon McRae (Daniel Gordon Schmidt).



The McDonald, Wrenn, Glackman Families - May 15 at 12:54 PM

DK

“ Dan was my first Sergeant when I began my career at the LCSO in 1989. He was already a legend—he was the man that did a spinning toe kick and crushed a roach off the ceiling in the old jail. He was also the strongest influence in my initial LEO writing style—ALL CAPS! It took 10 years to change that habit, lol.

Dan was a great friend through all my years at the LCSO, and we crossed paths again in the work force at Tallahassee Harley Davidson, after our retirements from the LCSO. Naturally, we picked up right where we left off. Dan's love of Jesus Christ was our strongest bond, and one I'll always have.

It goes without saying, you will be forever missed and loved, but NEVER forgotten!

David A. Knight - May 15 at 09:46 AM

JS

The crushed roach on the ceiling has always been legendary!

John SCHMIDT - June 01 at 08:24 PM