

# Farmington's 'Mr Goodfellow' remembered for his kindness

By Bob Sklar  
Staff writer

Chuck Schulkins, who spread good cheer as Farmington's Mr. Goodfellow for 59 years, died Wednesday at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills resident was 76.

"As far as the Goodfellows, they'll probably never be another Chuck Schulkins," said Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper, Farmington Area Goodfellows general chairman for the past 18 years.

Schulkins dedicated his life to helping others. "He'd always be willing to help people who asked for it. And he never hesitated to offer help to those who didn't ask but who needed it," Tupper said.

A Goodfellow since he was 17, Schulkins "through the years was there, sometimes alone."

In the early days, Schulkins collected money, then bought food from Hunt's Market to deliver.

"Then somewhere around 40 years ago, the Farmington Exchange Club became the Goodfellow sponsor," said Jim Stevens, Goodfellows publicist.

"They supplied the chairman and some manpower, but they depended on Charlie. He even took all his yearly vacations to devote to the Goodfellows. One year after an accident, he was there with his arm in a sling."

NOW, THE Goodfellows deliver specially packed baskets to needy families and seniors each holiday season. Financial support enables the Goodfellows to buy what's needed to round out baskets, tailored to each recipient's needs.

Baskets of food typically contain canned and dry foods as well as knickknacks made by local seniors. They also include gift certificates redeemable for fresh food and winter clothing. Toys, games, dolls, children's clothing and things like stationery and paper goods are included when appropriate.

Schulkins toiled best behind the scenes, working year around to meet requests for emergency assistance and fulfill the Goodfellows motto, "A Time to Share — A Time to Care."



In this 1988 photo, Chuck Schulkins (seated) is flanked by fellow Farmington Area Goodfellows Bill O'Connor (left) and Richard Tupper.

Schulkins took food to needy seniors during the holiday season long before the Goodfellows decided to extend their special brand of good will beyond needy children.

Once, an elderly man who had received a chicken each year came to the distribution center and asked where was the bread to make stuffing. After that, Schulkins arranged for donated bread, "which we distribute to this day," Stevens said.

ALTHOUGH HE suffered a stroke in 1988, Schulkins still made it to the Goodfellows headquarters last fall, "to make sure things go well," Stevens said.

Last year, the Goodfellows served 123 needy families and 151 low-income seniors.

Schulkins once worked for Tupper's father, Bayard, at the Smith-Tupper Lumber Yard on Grand River, near Middlebelt. He later installed washers and dryers for Whirlpool and worked in the warehouse for Tupper Associates of Farmington.

Schulkins and his wife, Goldie, were married 55 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children; three brothers; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. The body will be cremated.

The family asks that memorials be made to the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

## obituaries

### FRANK MELEGI

Mr. Melegi, 69, of New Port Richey, Fla., formerly of Livonia and Bedford, died July 7 in New Port Richey Hospital.

Mr. Melegi was a member of St. Clair Shores Elks and Grace Lutheran Church.

Survivors include his wife, Vivian; sons, David Palmer of Farmington Hills and Thomas of South Saint Marie; three sisters and four brothers; eight grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Aug. 12 in Grace Lutheran Church, Bedford, with the Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Jr. officiating.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

### ROBERT W. REOME

Mr. Reome, 50, of West Bloomfield died Aug. 3 in West Bloomfield Nursing Home.

Mr. Reome worked 20 years for Rockwell International as a financial analyst.

Survivors include his mother, Kathleen Reome; sister, Carol Cotter of Farmington Hills; brothers, Jim and Dick.

Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington, with the Rev. Kean Cronin officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

### DALE J. BASKI

Mr. Baski, 42, of Livonia died Aug. 5 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Born in Hancock, Mich., Mr. Baski was manager of Auto Glass Co.

Survivors include his daughters, Nicole and Kristen of Farmington Hills; sons, Joseph and Matthew of Farmington Hills; brothers, Donald, Douglas and Dennis.

Services were Aug. 8 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Glenn F. Roper, of Hosanna Taber Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

### FLORENCE A. TRIPP

Mrs. Tripp, 75, of Farmington died Aug. 5 in St. Joseph Hospital, Pontiac.

Born in Farmington, Mrs. Tripp was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, William and Edwin; niece, Judith Cook.

Services were Aug. 8 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Shawn Lakin officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.

Memorials may be made to the Parkinson Disease Fund.

### CALVIN A. DEIERLEIN

Mr. Deierlein, 63, of Livonia died Aug. 3 in U of M Hospital.

Mr. Deierlein was a salesman for A.J. Baxter Co. He was a member of the American Legion 37 Livonia Post, Moose in Dearborn Heights, Elks Livonia Lodge of Sorrows, F.A.A.M. 502. He was a World War II Navy veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanne; sons, William of Farmington Hills and Douglas; a daughter, Peggy Teegardin; brother, Lawrence; two grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 5 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Arthur J. Hunt officiating. Burial was in Forest Lawn

Cemetery, Detroit.

### JOHN (JACK) T. TOOMEY

Mr. Toomey, 68, of Farmington died Aug. 8.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Toomey was manager of traffic and truck service of North America with Ford Motor Co. He retired in 1988, after 48 years.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret; sons, Terrance, Paul, Gregg and Patrick; daughters, Linda Todd, Jayne Henderson and Leigh Peterson; brothers, Robert, Donald and James; sisters, Rosemary Dunn and Eileen Hauser; five grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Aug. 11 in St. Gerald Catholic Church, Farmington, with the Rev. Gerald A. McEnelly officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

### CARITAS K. HOVDE

Mrs. Hovde, 94, of Farmington Hills died Aug. 6 in Williamsburg Nursing Home.

Born in Germany, Mrs. Hovde had been a cook for Sen. Briggs 1945-1950 and James Cousins 1952-1972. She also worked for the Detroit Bank and Trust.

Survivors include her daughter, Christine Scheuler; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were at St. Maurice Catholic Church, Livonia, with the Rev. John Materie officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

Arrangements were made by the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia.

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