



Irving Ned Schoonover

July 15, 1944 - September 11, 2026

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Irving Ned Schoonover died in Fort Wayne on September 11, 2026. He was 82. Born in Fort Wayne on July 15, 1944, into a Filipino-American household that treated work as a language. From the start, he treated promises like tools: keep them sharp, do not lend them lightly.

He shaved roads until washboards stopped arguing with axles. A plow blade bolt tagged twice taught apprentices that shortcuts show. Colleagues still mention a plow blade bolt tagged twice.

He and Shirley married in 1968 and raised two children without needing an audience. After Shirley's death in 2019, he held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a shovel borrowed and returned sharper. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Fort Wayne was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The radio is still tuned to the station that played while work got done.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A quiet remembrance in Fort Wayne. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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