



Herwig Georg Schutzler

November 2, 2025

Herwig Georg Schutzler, 89, of Lititz, PA, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 2, 2025, at Brethren Village. Born in Laudschen, a small village in German East Prussia (now Lithuania), he was the son of the late Heinrich Schutzler and Magdalena Markscheit. He was the devoted husband of Adelheide (Heidi) Schutzler, his beloved wife of 66 years, who preceded him in death in September 2025.

Following the end of World War II, Herwig lived in East Germany from 1945 until 1955. On May 15, 1955, Herwig and his brother Wolfgang defected—escaping from East to West Berlin in search of asylum. That courageous act defined the man he became. From that day forward, he referred to May 15 as “Freedom Day.” In 1960, he and Heidi moved to the United States, where they built a life grounded in perseverance and ambition. In 1989, he revisited the exact location where he and his brother had escaped. He chiseled off a piece of the Berlin Wall to celebrate the reunification of Germany.

One of the proudest moments of his life came when he and Heidi became U.S. citizens. From that day on, they never missed an election, cherishing the right to vote as a symbol of the freedom he had once risked everything to gain.

Herwig lived a life marked by curiosity, creativity, and a deep appreciation for

learning. He was a member of the National Geographic Society, a financial sponsor of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Air and Space Museum. Herwig was a highly skilled cartographer and artist, with several works featured in the U.S. Library of Congress. He is the published author of *Haunted by WWII* and *History of the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Cartographic Services*.

He was an avid reader with a keen interest in geology, the natural sciences, history, astronomy, and comparative religion. He was also a passionate amateur photographer and videographer, always eager to capture the beauty of the many places he traveled to for work or on adventure with Heidi.

Herwig is survived by his sons, Michael (Cari) Schutzler and Peter (Kate) Schutzler; four grandchildren, Magdalena (Annie) Schutzler, Megan (Cole) Manaster, Erik Schutzler, and Hannah Schutzler; and two great-granddaughters.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Traute Reichel, and his brother, Wolfgang Schutzler.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Brethren's Village Chapel, 3009 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543. Interment will be private.

Family would deeply appreciate you joining the service in person and enjoying the reception after. For those unable to attend, a livestream of the service will be available here.

<https://bv-org.zoom.us/j/88166192843?pwd=q2sxi92vVty6dqHd7r1EWRcCj7SQVE.1>

Herwig was deeply appreciative of the sacrifices made by our military men

and women. He asked that no flowers be sent and that any memorial contributions be made to the Disabled Veterans Organization at DAV.org

Cemetery Details

Landis Valley Mennonite Cemetery

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Brethren Village- Chapel
3009 Lititz Pike
Lititz, PA 17543

Tribute Wall

NH

“ Herwig was a Master Cartographer and a wonderful person. I met him in the 1970s when Donnelley Cartographic was the mapping contractor for the Atlas of Early American History at the Newberry Library in Chicago. A few years later, I worked with him again when Donnelley was a mapping contractor for the National Park Service. He was an outstanding craftsman and artist and produced the highest quality work. He shared his positive view of life with all he met. It was always a delight to see him. I send condolences to his family on his passing. I also send regards on the recent passing of Heidi, his wife.

Nancy Morbeck Haack, retired National Park Service cartographer

Nancy Morbeck Haack - January 09 at 11:32 AM

CG

“ I knew Herwig as an excellent cartographer while working for RRD. Unfortunately, I didn't know him well. Having started to read his book, *Haunted World War II*, I wish I had known him better. He has left with a strong message by writing this book.

Cathy Glattacker - November 13, 2025 at 12:32 PM

SM

“ Working with Herwig for 25 years was a privilege - helping advance the profession - cartography - that he so loved and furthered. His influence lives on in those with whom he worked. Eternal thanks and blessings to you and Heidi and best wishes to Mike and Peter in their life walk

Sid Marland - November 11, 2025 at 12:51 PM

BR

“ I was an Art Editor at Reader's Digest General Books when we contracted with Donnelley Cartographic to produce maps for our trade books. I met Herwig several times in Lancaster when we discussed projects and admired his expertise from the start. He also gave me a piece of the Berlin Wall which I still have to this day. He will be missed. Condolences to his family.



Berenson Richard - November 11, 2025 at 10:18 AM

EL

“ Heidi and Herwig were not just my closest friends, but more like family to me since I sponsored them prior to 1960 for their legal immigration to the USA. Their loss and their memories will follow me until also my time comes to meet my master. Eckart Leistikow

Eckart Leistikow - November 09, 2025 at 10:54 AM