



## Dean A. Schnippel

April 7, 1969 - March 5, 2024

Dean A. Schnippel, 54, of Botkins, passed away 6:48 a.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the St. Rita's Medical Center, Lima, Ohio, after a 4 year battle with cancer. He was born April 7, 1969, in St. Marys, Ohio, the son of Daniel (Rita-dec) Schnippel & Patricia (Schipper) "David" Butcher, who survive in Botkins.

Other survivors include,  
a brother, Shane (Anna) Schnippel, Botkins,  
a sister, Emily (Joseph) Schnarre, Wapakoneta,  
step-brothers & step-sisters,  
Timothy Butcher, Wapakoneta,  
Frank Mitchell, Indiana,  
Dale (Jamie) Secrest, Celina, Ohio,  
Terri (Jason) King, Botkins, Ohio,  
Bre McMurray, St. Marys, Ohio.

The family would like to give special recognition to his cousin and fellow Navy vet , Marie Huffman, Navy vet , Pat Shima, and numerous cousins, friends, and vets who helped Dean out during this difficult time.

He was preceded in death by his step-mother, Rita Schnippel; step-brothers, Michael Butcher & Jeff Toler; his grandparents, John & Catherine (Metz) Schnippel and Norbert & Theresa (Stinebaugh) Schipper; great grandparents,

Flossie & Henry Metz, both of whom he was especially close to growing up.

Dean was a 1987 graduate of Botkins High School, and served in the U.S. Navy from June 1986 to July 1997. He was a GMG1 Petty Officer 1st Class during his Navy career. Dean graduated from Great Lakes as a Gunner's Mate. In 1989, he was assigned to the Special Boat Unit #12 in San Diego, CA. He served in Central America, Alaska, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. Dean received numerous "Letters of Appreciation and Commendations". He loved HSB #12 and the guys he served with. It was his home away from home.

After his service in the U.S. Navy, Dean worked in Texas for 5 years and then returned to Ohio and started his own business, "Dean Schnippel Services". Using AutoCAD, he designed plans for parts, electrical panels, and machines which he constructed for numerous businesses. He also did portable welding, repaired motors, machines, farm equipment and guns, new and old. Dean was a member of the American Legion and the CCCA (Combatant Craft Crewmen Association).

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta, with Fr. Michael Willig officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will follow in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Botkins, where military rites will be conducted. The family will receive friends 5-8 p.m., Friday, March 15, and 1 hour prior to the service, Saturday, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to the CCCA or the charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be expressed at [www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com](http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery

County Road 25A  
Botkins, OH

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory  
1102 Lincoln Hwy  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
(419) 738-7676  
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

## Service

MAR 16. 10:30 AM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory  
1102 Lincoln Hwy  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
(419) 738-7676  
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ I did not have the pleasure of serving with Dean, but I know the Special Boat community and the type of men that served. You made your mark on that community! Rest easy Teammate, "you stand relieved, we have the watch!" My deepest condolences to the family!



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**Bruce Lemmert** - March 17, 2024 at 04:06 PM

JG

“ In my position of CACO of the CCCA I've I talked to Dean over the last few years, and he was always happy and positive. Though I never met him I am proud to have called him a brother in the organization and history of boat crewman. Dean you brothers love ya, and show it, they have rallied around you and your family. I wish I could be there for you as well. Fair Winds and Following Seas Brother.

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**James Grant** - March 16, 2024 at 01:16 PM

PS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Patrick Shima** - March 11, 2024 at 06:15 PM

PS

“ What I posted on my Linkeden account:

*I see a lot of War Hero's acknowledged on here and that is great, some are thrust into the event and act accordingly and some are just "Kick Ass" type of people. Today we lost a fellow NSW operator, just a young man from small town USA, Botkins, Ohio. In fact a Dirty Boat Guy (DBG) who served his Country faithfully, an operator who would have died for his fellow operators. A young man so mechanically talented that he made the HSB's he was responsible for purr like kittens. So caring and full of life. Special Boat Unit-12 was his home away from home and he absolutely loved it. So happy go lucky he seldom let things bother him and if he was wrenching he was happy. One of the last things he wanted to do was visit the U.S. Navy Seal Museum in Florida not to see the Seals whom he worked/deployed with but to see "His" boats, his babies, and though he was a little disappointed in the conditions of the boats he loved the visit. To his family know in your hearts that 0.04% of the population serve in the military and your brother, son, cousin, nephew, whatever, served his country with honor and respect and be so very proud of that. There are a lot of folks that don't know what he did but there are a lot of his fellow operators that do. Dean we are praying for you but at the end of the day we must remember the good times together. Rest in Peace brother!*

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**Patrick Shima** - March 11, 2024 at 06:14 PM

BH

“ Very sorry for the loss of Dean. He's free of the cancer that he suffered with. I remember him when he was little and the cousins playing together at the Schnippel reunions.

Prayers for Dean and family during this time  

Becky Hatfield

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**Becky Hatfield** - March 10, 2024 at 11:39 AM

CM

“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Dean A. Schnippel, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Navy Veteran, Dean A. Schnippel, is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl J Skinner Tri-State Military Muse** - March 09, 2024 at 05:31 AM