

## Nathan Schilt – Notes by Jim Walters

Nathan Schilt Nathan Schilt, 74, died March 28, 2023 at his home in Yucaipa, CA, surrounded by his wife Dee Dee and his children. He had suffered from prostate cancer, which had spread to other organs. He was alert until his last hours and died pain-free, with his nurse-wife Dee Dee able to titrate the morphine. He and Dee Dee were active members of the Cross Walk Adventist church, Loma Linda, and Cross Walk pastors anointed Nathan during the week prior to his death. A memorial will be held at the Loma Linda University Church sanctuary, 2-4 p.m., Sunday April 16, and earlier in Nate's final months LLUC senior pastor Randy Roberts visited at his home.

Nathan received great satisfaction from his law practice, which he continued until February 1, when he decided it was time to retire. Also, Nate was very involved with friends and family. Dee Dee was challenged to find solo photos of Nate for the memorial service, because he was always surrounded by friends, his kids and grandkids in family pictures.

Nate was the longest serving board chair at Adventist Today (can get dates from archives mastheads) His wife, Dee Dee, commented that he “loved the intellectual stimulation” he got from AT involvement.

He was a progressive Adventist evangelical, who had conservative political leanings. It was his disagreement with what he saw as AT's political progressivism (related to publication of an essay on non-standard COVID treatment) that led to his resignation as board chair.

Jim Walters, who was Nate's pastor at the North Hills Church, Claremont, CA in the late 70s, was instrumental in Nate's joining the AT board in the early 2000s. Sometimes they'd take friendly pro-con religious positions in published dialogues. Prior to the 2020 presidential election Jim invited Nate to the Sabbath Seminars Sabbath School he leads at LLUC, at which they led spirited and cordial interchanges over two weeks on “Religion and the 2020 Presidential Election—part 1 (Character), part 2 (Bible)”—attached.

Nate got his bachelor's degree from Union College, and his law degree from UCLA, and served for several years in the San Bernardino office as a deputy distinct attorney, before establishing his own law practice in Loma Linda, Schilt and Heinrich, LLP (which specialized in Medical Practice Defense and Health Law), where he often defended LLUH physicians.

“I recall when I first met Nate—when in 1977 he visited the North Hills Church, where I'd just begun pastoring as I was completing my PhD in religious ethics. I was so impressed that this young attorney had read theologian Paul Tillich! We'd remained vital friends ever since,” said Jim Walters.