

Norman Schmeltzer



It is with great sadness that I have to report to members the death of Norm Schmeltzer, one of the staunchest supporters and a Founder Member. “Big Norm”, as he was always affectionately known, joined the Society from its inception and was a regular attendee at the Founding Meetings in Brora which he dearly loved.

Norm’s loss is not only a blow to our Society and to his many friends around the world but to me personally. Norm was one of my closest and dearest friends for nearly thirty years. He came with his lovely wife Jane from California to be best man at my wedding to my Jane, the silver celebration of which will take place at the time of this year’s Founding Meeting at Brora.

The death of Norm Schmeltzer leaves a great gap in the lives of so many who knew him and benefitted from his friendship help and support over so many years. He was one of life’s great and selfless givers.

Members who knew him will remember him as the generous, convivial attorney from Orange County, California, but I think few were aware that Big Norm in his earlier career was a US Secret Service agent who served on the personal protection details of two US Presidents. And fewer still will know that his wife Jane was one the United States’ first female Secret Service agents and a personal protection officer for King Hussein of Jordan whenever the King was in America before she retired to family life.

Norm loved being a member of the Braid Society. It was one of his great boasts to his American friends. He told me many times that golf and the friendships he had made here in Scotland became such a great and important part of his life.

Norm Schmeltzer was a genuinely good man in a modern society where such are fewer and harder to find. The world was a better place for his time here as so many will attest and it is now much emptier of goodness with his passing.

Rest in peace old friend.