

Herbie Schulz, longtime charter fishing captain

He started business in Boynton at 16

BY CHRYSTIAN TEJEDOR
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Capt. Herbie Schulz, a fishing phenomenon who for decades ran a charter fishing business from Boynton Beach and later Lantana, died Saturday. He was 83.

Customers always came back to Mr. Schulz throughout his 60-year career because of the way they were treated, friends and family said.

"He bent over backward to please his customers," said his son, John Schulz, 47. "It wasn't about money. He wanted to put a fish on that dock every day."

Mr. Schulz would often change the type of bait he used or he would troll the shoreline to make sure something was caught.

That's the way it was since day one, when a 16-year-old Schulz started his charter operation in Boynton Beach, John Schulz said.

Mr. Schulz, who was born in Union City, Mich., in 1923, briefly left the business when he joined the U.S. Navy. During World War II, he ferried troops during the invasion of Normandy.

He returned and never left the sea until his retirement in

1997, when he moved to Winter Haven and was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Capt. Al LeBrun, who worked alongside Mr. Schulz at Lantana's B-Love Marina, remembered a tough trip he took with Schulz to pilot a newly built boat from Panama City to Palm Beach County.

The Gulf of Mexico was choppy, the fuel filters kept clogging and the fiberglass from the new hull made for an itchy trip.

"When we got to Fort Myers, Herbie got off the boat and said, 'You need to take me behind that barn and shoot me like a horse.' I fell down to my knees and couldn't stop laughing," Le Brun said.

Mr. Schulz also is survived by his wife, Doris Schulz, 79, and three daughters, Bonnie Arbeiter, 59, Susie Borchardt, 55, both of Winter Haven, and Debbie Schulz, 50, of Georgia.

A visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral home, 1622 NE Fourth St., Boynton Beach. A funeral follows at 11 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 400 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

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