



HBW (Bernie) Schroeder

April 1, 1947 - August 31, 2025

The Rev. Canon H.B.W. (Bernie) Schroeder, aged 78, passed away on August 31, 2025, in Chestertown, MD.

He was the son of Mary Driver Schroeder and Hubert Bernard Walter Schroeder. Born on April 1, 1947, he grew up in Muskegon and Kalamazoo, Michigan, graduating from Kalamazoo's Loy Norrix High School in 1965. He received his B.A. from Michigan State University where he met Carol, whom he married in 1969.

In 1971 the U.S. Army sent him (and Carol) to Germany where he learned to aim Pershing Missiles. In 1972 he began his life-long relationship with The Honorable Robert Carr of Michigan by being his manager of U.S.

Congressional campaigns in Michigan and Administrative Assistant in the office in Washington, D.C. In 1980 he became the Washington, D.C.

Representative for Consumers Energy of Michigan. Later he founded and was President of an energy transmission company. In 2012 he fulfilled a boyhood dream of driving a semi-trailer truck, specializing in crossing the Canadian border for Werner Enterprises.

After graduating from Nashotah House Anglican Seminary in Wisconsin he was ordained a priest in 2015, fulfilling a decades-long call to the priesthood. He served two churches in the Diocese of Virginia before moving to the Diocese of Easton on Maryland's Eastern Shore where he served five years at Christ Episcopal Church, Cambridge. Later, he concurrently served at St. Luke's Episcopal Parish in Church Hill, MD and St. Andrew's Chapel in

Sudlersville, MD until his death. He was canonized by the Bishop of El Salvador for his work there.

He was a talented guitar player and singer, a boat Captain, a small-plane pilot and a lover of classical music and opera. He and his wife loved Mackinac Island, Michigan and visited in September for more than thirty years. He was full of good, quick humor and joie de vivre and his mentoring helped many friends in both politics and the church. He was generous to all whom he met. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of fifty-five years Carol, his son Paul, his daughter-in-law Sarah, grandchildren Zoë, Finn and Mia, niece and nephews Susan, Craig and David and cousins Betty Ann Tindall and Bob Driver.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, his brother Jack Seastrom and his cousin Herb Driver.

A service of the Holy Eucharist will be held on Saturday October 25, 2025, at 1 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 601 Church St., Cambridge, MD 21613. Please consider a memorial contribution to Christ Episcopal Church, in lieu of flowers.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church
601 Church Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

Tribute Wall

DH

“ In the early 1970s, Bernie and Carol were active in the “Young Marrieds” group at St. Paul’s Episcopal Parish on K Street in Washington. We first got to know them there. Bernie was always the center of the party, often playing his guitar as we all sang along. As the years went by, Bernie was always a wonderful friend on two levels—offering a great sense of humor (with more jokes than needed) but also a solid support in times of need. We followed the successive evolutions of Bernie with envy and amazement, from Capitol Hill to Consumers Power to the power transmission business to truck driver certification to the priesthood. At each step, he blossomed into his new persona, brightening the lives of everyone he touched. The last time we saw Bernie his body was failing him but his quick wit was still there, making us all laugh. We will miss him.

Adrienne and Dennis Hensley

Dennis Hensley - October 23, 2025 at 01:44 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of HBW (Bernie) Schroeder.



October 04, 2025 at 03:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of HBW (Bernie) Schroeder.

October 04, 2025 at 03:11 PM

LH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lynda Habel - September 17, 2025 at 12:23 PM

CS

Thanks, Linda. I have never seen this. Carol

Carol Schroeder - September 18, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ 30 files added to the album Memories Album



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 16, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 11, 2025 at 01:02 PM

FC

“ 1 file added to the album Video



FHN Chestertown - September 08, 2025 at 11:20 AM

JH

“ Yes, Bernie had a great sense of humor - some of it off-color! And yes he knew, understood and excelled at public policy. And of course he loved his family and his later in life dedication to the church. But there was another quality about Bernie just as important - loyalty. There was no one more loyal to his family and friends than Bernie. He always made time for those he considered friends. He leaves an unforgettable legacy for many who knew him.

John Howes - September 05, 2025 at 02:56 PM

CE

“ Like so many others, my memory is full of "Bernie-isms." He did have an uncanny way of always coming up with the right quip at the right time. I'll always remember him as a good friend and fellow traveller in the corporate world of Consumers Energy who introduced me to the intricacies of how politics can shape corporate destinies. However, my best memory of him will be of the video interview he did a couple years ago called, "The Journey of Christ Church's Rev. Bernie Schroeder" which I've linked, below, as it depicts what I believe Bernie had been searching for throughout his life....his response to his calling. May the peace of the Lord be with Carol and family. <https://talbotspy.org/profiles-in-spirituality-the-journey-of-christ-churchs-rev-bernie-schroeder/>

Carl English - September 05, 2025 at 08:13 AM

KJ

“ I write this tribute with both a heavy and full heart. Rev. Schroeder (always Bernie to me) hired me for my first job after college, working in the office of Rep. Bob Carr. Bernie was smart, funny and whip-smart about politics. I adored him. Friends have been sharing their "Bernie-isms" and here's mine: It was 1979 and I was deciding what make of car to buy. Bob Carr said, "Be American, Buy American." Bernie said: "Be American, buy what you want. You just can't ever park it in one of Bob's reserved spots!" (I ended up with a Pontiac!) I'm so grateful that I got to see Bernie last year at Bob's memorial service and to learn how much he had supported Bob during his last, challenging months of life. The world is a little less bright without those two wonderful men. But my life is better for having known them. Sending love and deep condolences to the entire Schroeder family.

Karen South Jones - September 03, 2025 at 01:47 PM

CS

Karen, what lovely words. Thank you for writing them.

Carol Schroeder - September 18, 2025 at 10:25 PM