



Douglas William Schroeder

July 9, 1942 - January 21, 2021

On January, 21st 2021 Douglas William Schroeder loving husband and father of two passed away peacefully at the age of 78.

He was born amid the sounds of air raids, in a darkened hospital to William and Hilda (Gage) Schroeder of St. Charles, Michigan on July 9th, 1942. He was named after General Mac Arthur.

He worked the family farm from age 8 and after graduating St. Charles High School in 1960 he attended Adrian College and received a degree in education. He taught English at Carrollton High School and then went to work at Dow Corning in Midland, Michigan where he managed the International Distribution department.

In August of 1964, he married his high school sweetheart Judith Elaine (Mansfield) and the two moved to Freeland, Michigan. Doug's heart for helping people made him an outstanding field representative for the Michigan Education Special Services Association where he negotiated health and long term disability benefits for school teachers and staff. Doug was unorthodox and had an independent way of tackling problems which earned him the name – Maverick. He worked tirelessly fighting for the “little guy” and did so for 32 years.

Doug was also passionate about the environment and fought to preserve farmland on Old Mission Peninsula where he lived. He served on the board of directors at TBA Credit Union and volunteered his time at the Old Town Playhouse.

Doug was the eternal optimist and always saw the best in others and in every situation. He was a member of the Optimist Club and the Grand Traverse Yacht Club for many years. He treasured time on the water and although he chartered boats in many parts of the world he loved sailing Grand Traverse Bay the most.

When he and Judy retired in 2003 they set off in their RV to travel the country and enjoyed “winter residency” in Casa Grande, Arizona.

Doug is survived by his wife Judith, his son Douglas and daughter Wendy (Kelly) his brother Kenneth Schroeder, brother in law Richard Mansfield and his grandchildren Grace, Summer and Madison.

A celebration of life will be held this summer when all his friends and family can gather safely together.

Donations can be made to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the Old Town Playhouse.

Cemetery

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

12675 Center Road

Traverse City, MI, 49686

Comments



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Doug Schroeder Jr. - February 21 at 11:58 AM



“ So many wonderful memories with my father. Thank you everyone for your sympathy and condolences to us and sharing your memories of dad. He loved us so much! His love was unconditional! My dad was my role model and confidant and taught me through his actions the kind of man I wanted to be. One thing for certain is that at one time or another he prayed for everyone of you!

Dad really loved the outdoors and the open road. Whether it was sailing on the water, playing in the garden, driving across the country he so much appreciated the beauty all around him! He was a man of few words but when he spoke the room went silent and everyone would listen.

I'm surprised he didn't name me Wyatt Erp Schroeder, but I think his favorite was Billy the Kid! After watching the movie Young Guns together for the 50th time we would always affectionately refer to each other as pals! "Pals forever" he would always say.

Conservative in the way he lived dad was Liberal in thought and how he treated others. Honest, Generous, Trustworthy, Sympathetic, Kind are just a few words I'll remember that described my father and I am truly blessed to be his son. What will my children's generation do without the shoe boxes dusted off from the basement filled with the pictures of all the memories dad was there for us! Birthdays, Graduations, Christmas, Building Homes, Sailing, Vacations, Friends, Work Retreats, Grandchildren, Little League, Cheerleading, Concerts, Plays, and most important of all... Family.

It gives me a great deal of happiness knowing that my father is in a peaceful place, free I believe of the worldly ailments that inhibited his mind and his body. I imagine him standing tall, having coffee with his mom and dad and visiting friends. Again as always he will be looking after us. I love you so much Dad! Pals Forever.

Doug - February 03 at 12:24 AM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Doug - February 02 at 10:04 PM



“ Doug was a buddy, mentor, optimist and ray of sunshine. I so valued his wisdom and friendship when I was Traverse City EA President, was inspired when he encouraged me to be part of the TBACU Board, enjoyed laughter and joy with him and his fabulous wife Judy at dinners and conferences and appreciated his self-deprecating humor on so many occasions.

Judy and Family, may your memories make you laugh and smile, and may your hearts be warmed by the fact that Doug had such a positive, lasting impact in the lives of so many people.

Kay Walker - January 29 at 08:26 AM



“ Peggy Grover lit a candle in memory of Douglas William Schroeder



Peggy Grover - January 28 at 12:36 PM



“ Although Doug wasn't my service area's MESSA Rep, he often joined Gary Fitch in offering training to my local leaders. What a team! I will always remember Doug's competence, his friendliness, and that smile! And, I will always appreciate his willingness to give his time to help leaders and staff outside of his assigned area. In sympathy,
Melisa Winn (retired U.D.)

Melisa Winn - January 28 at 12:03 PM



“ Sue Hamel lit a candle in memory of Douglas William Schroeder



Sue Hamel - January 27 at 02:08 PM



“ I have great memories of Doug and my time as a MESSA field rep. My thoughts and prayers are with Judy and family.

Sue Hamel - January 27 at 02:09 PM



“ Judy, I was a co-worker of Doug's. Doug was a man of great integrity and kindness. I offer you and your family my deepest sympathy. I know you share many wonderful memories of your life together and it is my wish to you all that you take comfort in those memories in the days and weeks ahead. Peace be with you all!



Gloria Grayeski - January 27 at 08:25 AM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss, Doug and many like him during the time he served at MESSA are a rare breed that I'm afraid there is not the union commitment in our younger generation.

Lisa Folkringa - January 27 at 07:19 AM



“ Doug was a terrific MESSA rep and a great human being. I hope his family takes comfort in knowing how much he was appreciated by his colleagues.

-Gretchen Dziadosz

Gretchen Dziadosz - January 26 at 11:00 PM



“ I'll never forget how much I learned about the role of a Field Rep while interning under Doug. To this day, I always arrive at any meeting I'm hosting early to "make the room my own" as Doug would often say. Rest in Heaven my friend. You will be truly missed. Love, Fonda

Fonda Brewer - January 26 at 07:48 PM



“ I worked with Doug for many years at MESSA! He was highly respected, an awesome union employee and teachers advocate! Sorry for your loss.

Shelly Shaner - January 26 at 07:22 PM



“ Richard Ringstrom lit a candle in memory of Douglas William Schroeder



Richard Ringstrom - January 26 at 07:09 PM



“ Doug could light up a room and he made every meeting better I had with him at MESSA. And from our conversations I knew how important his family was to him.

Richard - January 26 at 07:12 PM



“ Such a warm hearted person. I will always remember Doug's welcoming spirit whether at the Old Town Playhouse or out in the community.



Jeanine M Easterday - January 25 at 01:51 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I did therapy dog visits at Samaritas and always knew Doug would be waiting. Always loved to see his friendly face and his eagerness to see the pups and provide them with love and treats:) Prayers for your family.

Deb Socks - January 24 at 10:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Wendy Kelly - January 24 at 06:47 PM



“ Dad & Wendy

Doug - February 03 at 12:35 AM



“ Doug was the best MESSA Rep ever!! Enjoyed working with him!! RIP Doug. Hugs and prayers for comfort.

Sherri Elizabeth Cummings - January 24 at 03:50 PM



“ Very sorry for your loss, Judy. I enjoyed working with Doug very much over the years.



Cindy Berck - January 24 at 09:37 AM



“ Kathy Douglass lit a candle in memory of Douglas William Schroeder



Kathy Douglass - January 23 at 08:13 PM



“ Melissa Hulett lit a candle in memory of Douglas William Schroeder



Melissa Hulett - January 23 at 01:16 PM



“ Judy, Wendy and Doug,

I loved Doug and am so sorry for your loss. I appreciated the bright, honest, capable man I knew when we met so long ago. I also appreciated Doug in later years when he talked to me about how much he loved Judy. He lit up when he talked about family. He made visiting Samaritas a joy for me. I feel so honored to know him. Heartfelt condolences to you all. Dawn Hemming

dawn jed hemming - January 23 at 10:03 AM



“ Pook, I Will always remember you. My American Dad. I Will always LOVE you. Thank you sooo Much!! Hope you keep sailing in Heaven in calm waters. Cruising is better than racing...!!! Hahahaha.

Íñigo Hierro - January 22 at 03:38 PM



“ Íñigo Hierro lit a candle in memory of Douglas William Schroeder



Íñigo Hierro - January 22 at 03:32 PM