



Don Schroeder

August 21, 1936 - November 3, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Don Schroeder, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, educator, and esteemed community member. Don peacefully departed this world on Monday, November 3, 2025, at the age of 89.

Born on Friday, August 21, 1936, in Breese, Illinois, the son of Wallace Schroeder and Susie (Nave) Schroeder, Don's life was a harmonious blend of family, music, and community service. Don married Shirley Weihe on August 17, 1958 in Carlyle at the Trinity Lutheran Church, they built a life centered around love and mutual respect. Together, they raised three devoted children: Mike Schroeder, Steve Schroeder and Cynthia Schroeder, who, along with their families, were a constant source of joy and pride for Don. His legacy also includes several cherished grandchildren who will carry forward his memory and values.

Don dedicated his professional life to inspiring young minds through music. His career as a Band Director spanned several esteemed institutions, including Okawville, McLeansboro, Centralia Junior High, and Kaskaskia College, and he also served as an Orchestra Director. Known for his passion for music and his dedication to his students, Don helped ignite the spark of musicality in countless young hearts, profoundly impacting the community's cultural tapestry.

Aside from his professional accomplishments, Don was an enthusiastic chess player, known to engage in spirited matches both at home and within the community. His love for the game of golf was equally passionate; he delighted friends and family with stories of the day he hit a spectacular hole-in-one. As the owner and operator of the Melody Shop in both Centralia and Mount Vernon, he provided his communities with much more than musical instruments and lessons—he offered a gathering place for lovers of music and a hub for cultural enrichment.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Centralia, Illinois, with Pastor James Hennig officiating. Following the service, Don will be laid to rest at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, Don's family kindly requests that donations be made to Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Don's Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Funeral Home Facebook page.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **10**. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
201 S Pleasant Ave
Centralia, IL 62801-3666
(618) 532-2614

Tribute Wall

DB

“ I played trumpet in the Centralia grade school band. I was about last chair. They needed tuba and French horn players. Don said if they didn't find any he would switch some of us. I said I would try tuba if I could switch back if I didn't like it. He agreed. I studied tuba in college. It's now 57 years later and I am still playing tuba in several groups. RIP Maestro.
And thank you

Dennis Bingheim - November 12, 2025 at 10:53 PM

SM

“ My love of the flute and band started with lessons with “Mr. Schroeder” and Centralia City Schools band. Great memories! We met up again at KC where I participated in band. I also helped Don also make a magnetic chessboard for my dad, Keith, when he was no longer able to play on a regular board. He was a good friend to Dad.

Susan Bounds McGovern - November 10, 2025 at 01:12 PM

KB

“ Don taught me to play the clarinet and I have so many wonderful memories of my time in his grade school band in Centralia and again in his band when I was a student at KC. Music has been a huge part of my life-THANK YOU, Don, for starting me on that path!

Karen Bounds - November 10, 2025 at 12:43 PM

JW

“ Enjoyed working with Don for many years at Kaskaskia College. God bless Don and his family. We extend our heart felt sympathies.

Jim & Joyce Wiedman - November 09, 2025 at 09:10 AM

JD

“ Jim Dalton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Schroeder.

Jim Dalton - November 08, 2025 at 11:01 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Don Schroeder.



November 08, 2025 at 11:01 AM

YB

“ Your friends and crew at BWW. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Don Schroeder.



Your friends and crew at BWW. - November 06, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Don Schroeder.



November 06, 2025 at 04:52 PM

EL

“ 1 file added to the album pictures



Ella - November 06, 2025 at 03:13 PM

PA

“ Deepest sympathies Cynthia. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. 🙏

Paul - November 06, 2025 at 02:15 PM

MW

“ Don was a great guy. I have many fond memories of him. My condolences to his family.

Mike Warden - November 06, 2025 at 10:53 AM

GW

“ I'm sorry to hear of Don's passing. My condolences to your family. My group of cousins is getting very small now, but I remember many Sunday afternoons playing Kick the Can at Grandma Nave's with a big gang! Don and I rode to school from Posey to Carlyle with our teacher-moms until he graduated. He was older and cooler than me! My love to Shirley, Mike, Steve and Cynthia...and the grandkids.
Gloria Nave Winn

Gloria Nave Winn - November 06, 2025 at 10:24 AM

DE

“ Always a smile and enjoyed the many times I spoke with him and his family. A great man that will be missed. Deepest sympathy.

Debra Elling - November 06, 2025 at 10:05 AM

MW

“ I met Don when I came to Iuka Grade School as a young Band Director in 1996. As owner of the Melody Shop and the Rep who came around to the school, Don provided not only excellent local service, but also support, advice and was always ready to listen and share his experience and wisdom. Condolences to all the family.

Mathew Webster - November 06, 2025 at 09:55 AM

RD

“ Don was a great man! I will always be indebted to him and his help in my younger years at KC. He put me on a path of success that made me the man I am today. My deepest condolences to Mike and the entire Schroeder family. May he rest in peace.

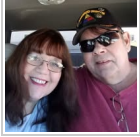
Rich Dumstorff

Rich Dumstorff - November 06, 2025 at 07:13 AM

TD

“ I'm very sorry to hear of Don's passing. My sister, Alice (Dahncke) Kniker sang under Don's tutelage during her time at Okawville High School. At the time, I was at Oakdale Grade School and I took trumpet lessons for 3 years with Don. I continued to play trumpet for Okawville High School Band during my time there. At the time, you don't realize what an outstanding person you had to teach you. As the years pass, you do! My deepest sympathy to Don's family.
Tom Dahncke

Tom Dahncke - November 05, 2025 at 10:06 PM



“ *Susan Kleinedler lit a candle in memory of Don Schroeder*



Susan Kleinedler - November 05, 2025 at 10:05 PM



“ *My condolences to your family!*

Roger Heinzmann - November 05, 2025 at 01:31 PM



what a great man, he will be missed.

victoria manzini - November 05, 2025 at 03:49 PM



Don and I had a working relationship spanning more than fifty years as colleagues, and as business/customer as he built the Melody Shop. I am sure Don would understand that I can't attend the services because I must direct a grade school band at that time for a performance. Best to the family.

William Reynolds - November 06, 2025 at 07:33 AM



Don Schroeder was a respected and influential person in my life. I played saxophone in the Centralia City School Band under his direction, then with the Kaskaskia College Jazz Band while in high school, then took Music Theory from him at Kaskaskia College. He gave me good advice as I went off to Millikin University and USC for music studies. I then spent 37 years teaching band and orchestras in California. He was a role model. Now retired, I play in professional big bands. Thanks Don. Sympathy to your family.

M. Kent Gregory - November 12, 2025 at 03:49 PM