



Clifford E. Schrader Jr.

February 4, 1951 - June 2, 2025

Clifford E. Schrader Jr., age 74 of Port Huron, passed away on June 2, 2025 from complications of diabetes.

Cliff was 20 when his father died, and he was left to help his mother raise his six siblings. The youngest was just 3.

He shouldered the extra responsibility while also putting himself through college at Central Michigan University, serving in the Air Force Reserve, and beginning a long and varied career in business. He volunteered in his community. He became a husband, a father and a grandfather.

Passionate about politics and public service, Cliff never stopped trying to improve Port Huron, the city he loved, whether it was by serving in its government or speaking and writing about the opportunities and problems he saw. He believed in Port Huron.

Cliff often referred to Feb. 4 to his children as The Most Important Day of the Year. That, in 1951, was the day Clifford Eugene Schrader was born in Port Huron to Lucille Marjorie Miller Schrader and the elder Clifford Eugene Schrader.

He lettered in track, basketball and baseball at Port Huron Northern High

School. He continued to be athletic his whole life, even after being diagnosed with diabetes at age 30. He played racquetball, biked and ran, and in 1985, he ran a marathon in Detroit and Windsor.

Cliff's career started with work at Dunn Paper, as a clerk at the Colonial Inn and at United Migrants for Opportunity, Inc. He became a real estate broker, appraiser, landlord and an independent business owner who ran his own real estate and property management companies as well as a photo development business and, for decades, the Colonial Laundromat.

He took on volunteer causes that would help the vulnerable. He was the treasurer of Domestic Assault/Rape Elimination Services (DARES) of St. Clair County, which operated shelter homes for people in need. He was active in the United Way at the county and state levels. He served on the school board, and then on the Port Huron City Council.

Port Huron politics wouldn't be the same after Nov. 13, 1995. That's when Cliff took office as a member of the city council. Cliff and his allies shook up city government, convinced that the town's power brokers – or “the Good Ol' Boys,” as Cliff called them – needed to be reined in. Not everyone took well to this. Opponents resorted to a rare recall campaign. They gathered enough signatures to get it on the ballot, but the city voted against the recall. After that, Cliff's campaigns weren't as successful, but he stayed in politics - advocating for causes like bringing a casino to Port Huron, and making his opinions known on various platforms, including on radio and for nearly a decade as a newspaper columnist. The note that was added at the end of his columns, “His opinions are not those of the Times Herald or WGRT,” provided notice that he hadn't exactly toned down his passionate views. He was proud of the disclaimer.

Cliff showed his dedication to his children with his involvement in their

activities, chaperoning their field trips and cheering at their hockey games, gymnastics meets and band concerts. Many fathers might volunteer to help put on a production of “Peter Pan,” but few would enroll as a “flying assistant,” taking responsibility for the thin ropes that kept a little actor aloft as he careened from side to side above the stage, crying. (Not, it should be said, because of who was at the controls.) Cliff did.

He is survived by four children, Jordan (Jenny) Schrader, Cliff Schrader, Carter Schrader and Alanna Schrader; grandson Ford Schrader; and siblings William (Theresa) Schrader, Richard Schrader, Timothy (Karen) Schrader, Cheryl Schrader and Kimberly (Cary) Bowman.

He was preceded in death by a son and by a brother, Steven Schrader.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 3:00pm in the Jowett Funeral Home – 1634 Lapeer Ave., Port Huron. Minister Shaun Laurain will officiate. The memorial visitation hours will be 1:00pm until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the wishes of the family.

Jowett Funeral Home is privileged to serve the Schrader Family.
View obituary and share memories at www.jowettfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Jowett Funeral Home and Cremation Service - Port Huron
1634 Lapeer Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-5123
jowettfamily@comcast.net
<https://www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com>

Memorial Service

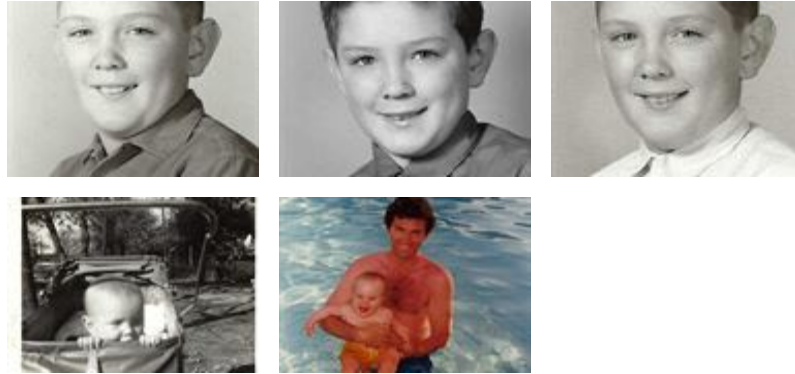
JUN 7. 3:00 PM (ET)

Jowett Funeral Home and Cremation Service - Port Huron
1634 Lapeer Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-5123
jowettfamily@comcast.net
<https://www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jowett Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 06, 2025 at 11:49 AM

DC

“ Cliff you will be missed during our event this weekend! Art in the River! You were an inspiration to all everyone in our group! You were full of ideas and were amazing being the cochair of the artists division of our group! Our last text was Saturday night at 9pm. Your last message was a rose. Thank you for the stories you told me about my parents (Tiny and Dorothy Renaker) I laughed so hard about the "Four Horsemen " sweatshirts the 4 council members had made. Thank you for all the laughs and smiles you brought to the table! Fly with the angels Cliff. Gods Speed.
Dawn Marie Renaker Cooper

Dawn Cooper - June 06, 2025 at 12:32 AM

KH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Cliff's passing. He was so dedicated to improving Port Huron, and doing it right. You could disagree with Cliff and still walk away as friends. I loved his laugh! Prayers for the family and friends. RIP Cliff.

Kristi Hazard - June 05, 2025 at 07:40 PM



“ I knew Cliff through his connection with WGRT. I always enjoyed visiting with him when he came in to record his Cliff Notes feature and Councilman’s Commentary. Often he would have his 3 younger kids in tow. In more recent years he would just stop by to talk about what is going on around town. My daughter also used him as her realtor when she was looking for a new home.

Martha VanCamp - June 05, 2025 at 03:43 PM



“ Cliff never lost patience when my family and I took months and dozens of home views before we found something that worked for us. He always had a good attitude. Recently he ran for county commissioner because he really cared about Port Huron area and its people. He was a long time friend of my mother's and will be missed.

Monica June - June 05, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ Love, Debbie purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Clifford E. Schrader Jr..



Love, Debbie - June 05, 2025 at 03:14 PM



“ Cliff helped us out when we were selling a home and he was very professional and upbeat. He was in charge and confident, always dressed to the nines and willing to help whenever it was needed. I am sorry for your loss of his dynamic presence. His legacy will live on. Phil and Diane Merriman, Port Sanilac, MI

Diane Merriman - June 05, 2025 at 08:30 AM