



# Jeffrey Bross

FEB 28, 1947 - AUG 16, 2023



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## **Jeffrey Bross**

FEB 28, 1947 - AUG 16, 2023

**J**effrey Bross, age 76, a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, and colleague, departed this life unexpectedly on August 16, 2023, with family and friends by his side. Jeff was born on February 28, 1947, in Washington D.C., to the late Earl and Genevieve Bross. After growing up in Wilmington, Delaware, he graduated from Dickinson High School and later from the University of Delaware in 1969. For those who knew Jeff well, it should come as little surprise that he was Troop 50's very first Eagle Scout. Jeff was a dear friend and mentor to many, consistently a gentleman, perpetually in good spirits, and ever ready to assist those in need at a moment's notice.

Jeff was a professional engineer and dedicated his more than 50-year career to the civil engineering profession which he loved. His early career began with Edward H. Richardson Associates in Newark, Delaware. He later moved to Omaha, Nebraska where he became the City Engineer for the City of Omaha. From there, he returned to Delaware to join Duffield Associates in 1980, where he was a partner, then named President in 1996, and later Chairman of the Board. Jeff continued to serve his clients and community as a Senior Consultant at Verdantas, after Duffield Associates' merger in 2021. Among Jeff's numerous achievements, he took great pride in being honored as Delaware's Engineer of the Year in 2006 by the Delaware Council of Engineering Societies. Additionally, he received the distinguished Samuel S. Baxter Memorial Award in 2010 from the Water Resource Association of the Delaware River Basin.

Jeff was deeply devoted to both his profession and his community, demonstrated by his extensive involvement in a range of organizations and initiatives. He served with distinction as the appointed Chair of the Delaware Clean Water Advisory Council (CWAC) and as a former President and Board Member of the Committee of 100. He further contributed as an appointed member to several impactful groups, including the Delaware Surface Water Management/Flood Abatement Task Force, the State of Delaware Workforce Development Board, the New Castle



## Obituary

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County Executive's Task Force on Redevelopment, the Livable Delaware Infill and Redevelopment Subcommittee, and the Delaware Redevelopment Authority.

His leadership was also evident in his roles as the former Chairman of the Delaware EPSCoR State Committee, and as a past Chair and member of the National American Council of Engineering Companies and the Associated General Contractors Construction Liaison Committee. Additionally, Jeff took great pride in imparting his knowledge to aspiring engineers as a former Adjunct Professor for the Civil Engineering Senior Design Course at his alma mater, the University of Delaware.

In addition to his participation in various professional societies, Jeff served on the Board of Faithful Friends Animal Society.

Above all, Jeff loved his family and he spent much of his time splashing in the waves with his grandkids, creating carefully constructed sandcastles, teaching them about the importance of a good ice cream cone (his favorite flavor was black raspberry), and sharing his top-secret recipe for his very special barbecued ribs, while spending hours teaching his children how to make them. Jeff loved going for bike rides with his wife, taking their dog Dozer for long walks, and traveling to see his children wherever in the world they may be. He always made sure his family and friends knew how much they were loved.

In addition to his parents, Jeff was preceded in death by his sister Elizabeth. Jeff leaves behind a loving family who will miss him dearly: his devoted wife Ann Hilkert, his beloved children Megan Olveren (Magnus), Stephanie Muscara (Anthony), and Brandon Hilkert (Elizabeth), and his treasured grandchildren Dominic, Sienna, Mia, Cruz, Noah, and Lucas. Also mourning his loss is his brother Eric (Elizabeth) and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, August 24th at 2:00pm, at St. Mary Magdalen, 7 Sharpley Rd, Wilmington, DE, where friends and family may visit beginning at 1:00 PM. A celebration of Jeff's life will follow at Hyatt Place Wilmington/Riverfront (760 Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801) at 3:30pm.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Faithful Friends Animal Society in memory of his beloved and faithful golden retriever Dozer.



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Please sign Jeff's virtual guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED TO PARSELL FUNERAL HOMES, LEWES, BY 3 PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023.



# Events

**Jeffrey Bross**

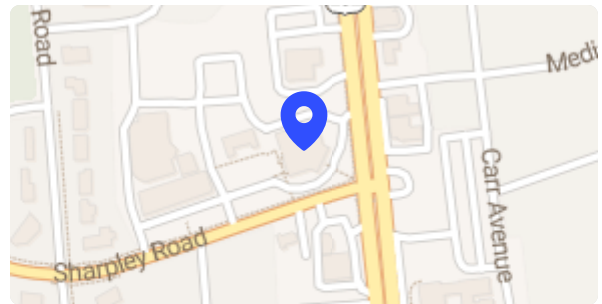
FEB 28, 1947 - AUG 16, 2023

## Visitation

 **Thursday**, August 24, 2023


 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

 **St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church**  
7 Sharpley Road & Concord Pike, Wilmington DE

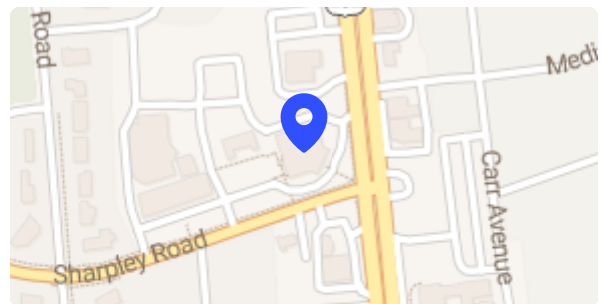


## Mass of Christian Burial

 **Thursday**, August 24, 2023


 2:00 PM ET

 **St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church**  
7 Sharpley Road & Concord Pike, Wilmington DE

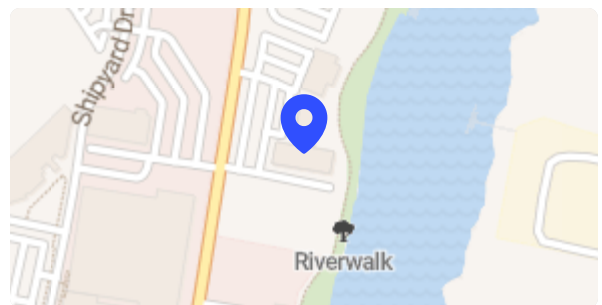


## Celebration of life

 **Thursday**, August 24, 2023

 3:30 PM ET

 **Hyatt Place Wilmington/Riverfront**  
760 Justison St., Wilmington DE 19801





# Tribute Wall

**Jeffrey Bross**

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**Jaime Kinsey** posted:

I only Just found out and I'm just so saddened over this news. He was incredibly kind, loved his wife and was honest and genuine. He's going to be missed by many. My deepest condolences to the family.

September 6 at 2:01 PM



**Jeanette Miller** posted:

Jeff Bross was a creative, long-term member of the External Advisory Board of the Delaware Environmental Institute at UD, and always brought vision, wisdom and great experience to all of our work together. We're grateful for the chance to work with him, and extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Jeanette Miller

August 29 at 11:37 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Bross family.



August 26 at 7:18 PM



**Suzanne Walters** posted:

My sincerest condolences to Ann and your entire family. I first met Jeff when I was Mayor and he was with Duffield. His love of Stone Harbor was evident and it was reassuring to know he understood our needs and his sincere desire to help. As a neighbor and fellow member of the Yacht Club, it was always fun to run into him and catch up on things. I will forever have a memory of Jeff zipping down 92nd Street on his Segway and stopping at my house and teaching my grandson, who was about 14 at the time, how to ride the Segway. What a thrill. I will miss seeing his smile as he walked by with his dog. May he Rest in Peace .

August 25 at 10:43 AM



**Megan** August 29 at 9:58 AM

Thank you for sharing your memories of our Dad ☹️☹️



# Tribute Wall

**Jeffrey Bross**

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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



August 25 at 5:15 AM



**Carol Comune** August 25 at 10:07 PM

What a beautiful family full of love and joy...I'm heartbroken to hear this news Sis. Love and my condolences to you and your family.



**Phil Sanderson** posted:

Just found out about Jeff's passing this morning. He was one of my first troop leaders when I joined Troop 50 at 11 yrs. old. We reconnected a few years ago working on the Cavaliers CC project. My love and prayers to my old friend and colleague Ann Hilkert from Brandywine HS. I'm sorry I missed honoring him at the services. Take care.

August 25 at 4:05 AM



**Karen Peterson** posted:

I just learned of Jeff's passing and am heartsick. What a wonderful man he was and I feel blessed to have known him. Rest in peace, my friend.

August 24 at 11:49 PM



**Nancy L Crowder** posted:

Dear Sis and family, your husband, father, brother and Grandfather was a very unique person. Jeff was always ready to help whatever the concern might have been. His smile and humor were contagious. His accomplishments, contributions, within business and community give a glimpse of type of person Jeff was. Sis and family, Jeff's memory will be with you each and every day. My Deepest Sympathy for you Ann and family. Nancy L Crowder

August 24 at 2:23 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Kathy Schubert** posted:

Dear Sis and family~Our hearts go out to all of you on this very sad loss of your husband, Dad, brother and grandfather. His wonderful memory will forever live in your hearts. Love, Kathy & Ray Schubert and family

August 24 at 10:37 AM



**Annette Zavishlock Kissel** posted:

Jeff truly was one in a million. His list of accomplishments and contributions speaks for itself but many of us knew the other remarkable side of him too. He had a smile that lit up a room. He was leader in the JDHS Class of '65 and remained a driving force in the numerous reunions. His loyalty, dedication, generosity, and friendship will be greatly missed. Our sympathy is extended to Ann, Megan, Stephanie, Brando, and Jeff's grandchildren.

August 24 at 9:10 AM



**Melissa Laranjeira** posted:

Rest in peace, Jeff. Much love to the whole family ❤️

August 24 at 8:24 AM



**Carla Araujo** posted:

I feel blessed to have made Jeff's acquaintance through the marriage of Brandon & Elizabeth. It was evident from the start that he was an amazing person. He seemed to take great pride in his family and welcomed additions with open arms. His laugh was contagious! My sincerest condolences to his family and friends. May Jeff's legacy live on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew and loved him.

August 24 at 8:08 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Bross family.

August 23 at 6:16 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Jeffrey Bross**

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**Andy** planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Jeffrey.

August 22 at 10:07 AM



**Gerard L.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jeffrey.

August 22 at 10:07 AM



**Marian Young** posted:

Delaware has lost a great engineer & a good guy. When Mark and I were trying to figure out how to purchase WIK associates, Jeff Bross invited us to lunch and offered to loan us the money. He gave us a lot of suggestions and encouragement. Ultimately, we decided to work our financing through the bank and John Wik himself, but we never forgot Jeff's offer. Brightfields went on to compete pretty strongly with Duffield on environmental projects. Jeff and I served together on many committees and on the Committee of 100 Board of Directors. Jeff was always a gentleman, and he always had a zillion ideas on how to resolve any issues, no matter if they were technical, financial or interpersonal. He was a hard worker and an intense guy. Although we were competitors, I reached out to Jeff for help on a few key things, like a white paper for C of 100 on supporting the Delaware River channel deepening and on how to create a funding source for ecological restoration projects in Delaware watersheds. I had a good talk with Jeff back in March at George Haggerty's retirement party. He was in great spirits as usual, talking about his travels and his son's business. I will miss Jeff's energy, enthusiasm, wit and ideas. May he rest in peace. Marian Young

August 22 at 8:02 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Rose Remembrance to the Bross family.

August 22 at 6:47 AM





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**Rebekah Comer Hanks** posted:

I could not pick one memory. Jeff was everything a man should be. He ALWAYS thought of others. My family and I adore Jeff and will not forget his kindness. I know he is busy in heaven just as he was here 🍷

August 21 at 8:15 PM



# Media

**Jeffrey Bross**

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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a video to the **Memories Album** album.

August 25 at 5:15 AM



**Carol Comune** August 25 at 10:07 PM

What a beautiful family full of love and joy...I'm heartbroken to hear this news Sis. Love and my condolences to you and your family.



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jeffrey by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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