



## Mr. Herman M. Schneider

January 24, 1941 - July 12, 2021

Herman Martin Schneider, 80, of Lenox died peacefully at his home on Monday, July 12, 2021. He was born in Brooklyn, New York on January 24, 1941, son of Herman Robert and Marie Schneider.

After graduating from high school in Bernardsville, New Jersey, he attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received the Bachelor, Master, and Doctor of Science Degrees in Electrical Engineering. He was Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT from 1969 – 1973 where he joined General Electric's Project UHV in Lenox. In 1978 he was transferred to Pittsfield where he later became manager of the GE High Voltage Laboratory. He returned to the Lenox operation with GE in 1985 where his last position was Vice President and General Manager of the J. A. Jones Power Delivery Company, which he operated the facility in the last years before his retirement.

Dr. Schneider was a Life Fellow of the Institute of the Electric and Electronic Engineers. He was an expert in the insulation of high voltage transmission systems and continued consulting to electric utilities worldwide for many years. His major contributions were in the field of insulator performance. He also assisted several utilities in determining the causes of major outages including blackouts in the Western part of the United States.

He participated regularly as a volunteer at Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in Lenox and enjoyed walking, swimming, and traveling. He valued highly the companionship of his cat Lucky.

He leaves no immediate family but has many cousins also in Germany and Brazil, where he visited frequently. His best friend, Johan Alvarado, resides in Costa Rica where Herman had a second home. He supported Johan and his family to enable them to experience a better quality of life through education. The funeral service for Mr. Herman M. Schneider will be held on Monday, July 19th at 11:00am at Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240 with Joel Bergeland, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, officiating. An hour of visitation will be at 10:00am until the start of the service. In lieu of flowers, donations in Herman's memory may be made to either to Zion Lutheran Church or a Humane Society of one's choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home  
120 Main Street  
P.O. Box 152  
Lenox, MA 01240  
(413) 637-0699  
eroche120fh@gmail.com

## Service

JUL 19. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home  
120 Main Street  
P.O. Box 152  
Lenox, MA 01240  
(413) 637-0699  
eroche120fh@gmail.com

## Burial

JUL 19. 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

Mountain View Cemetery  
Housatonic Street  
Lenox, MA 01240

# Tribute Wall

“ I write this 5 years after Herman Schneider's death. A former student of his at MIT, I'm now 73 years old and still a practicing electrical engineer in Indianapolis.

*I as write this I'll call him "Schneider" but during our interactions he was always Professor Schneider to me. We were only 11 years apart in age but MIT had its decorum.*

*I recently described my time working for Herman to an engineer friend, prompting me to search Schneider's life course on the internet in the decades after I graduated MIT.*

*Schneider took me on as an understudy during what MIT called UROP, the period in January of each school year where students got exposure to research in their field of interest.*

*He had been my favorite instructor in core EE classes. He was fond of crisply-ironed shirts and cuff links when hippie attire dominated Cambridge life. In his 30s Schneider was a dead ringer for modern-day actor Patrick Fabian. I can't watch the TV series Better Call Saul without being reminded of him.*

*Prof. Schneider had a very meticulous instructional style. Some MIT profs lectured extemporaneously with illegible chalk board writing, but not Schneider. He was highly organized with impeccable handwriting that included colored chalk. If he had notes from which he lectured, they were invisible to us.*

*CPU clock speeds were not yet a thing in 1971 but had they been, Schneider's brain would have been 10x the speed of everyone around him: a brilliant man in a college where intellectual acumen was the currency of the era.*

*Some of my time as his UROP understudy was unsupervised because January always included Schneider's time away from MIT skiing in Wyoming. He must have trusted me in his absence*

*because I did experiments alone in a dark MIT basement using a 4000 microfarad capacitor charged to 4 kilovolts.*

*These UROP experiments studied how magnetic fields quenched electric arcs. The 32 kilojoule energy dump would vaporize several grams of brass from a buss bar, melt the plexiglass housing that contained it, and send a thunderous boom echoing down the halls of the building.*

*I had little comprehension of the safety risk I was exposed to but it certainly made a hell of bang that drew me deeper into electrical engineering when the rigor of MIT's math and physics classes pushed me away.*

*My thanks to Prof. Herman M. Schneider for launching me into a successful career at such velocity that I'm still flogging it 52 years later.*

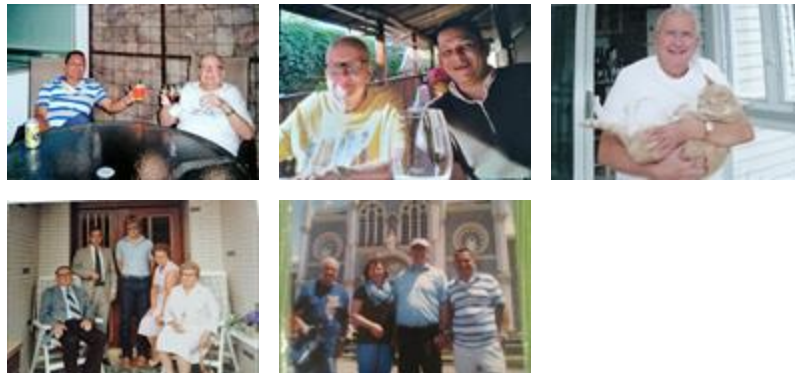
*James V. Olson, Jr  
SBEE 1974 Course 6-1  
Indianapolis, IN*

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**Jim Olson** - April 05 at 02:27 PM

JA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**JOHAN ALVARADO** - July 18, 2021 at 10:21 PM

AI

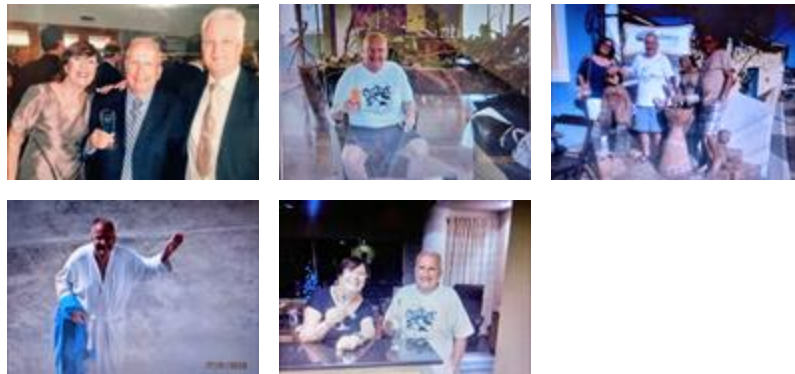
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Anneke Balder Iwers - July 18, 2021 at 05:00 PM

AI

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Anneke Balder Iwers - July 18, 2021 at 04:50 PM

AI

“ Dear Herman  
Life has given us many opportunities to share wonderful memories  
in Brazil, Costa Rica and Germany.  
These precious moments will be in our hearts forever.  
We will miss you a lot but you just left us earlier.  
Rest in peace with the blessings of God.  
Love from your brazilian family  
Anneke  
Larissa and Marco  
Christian, Cinthia and Vitoria

Anneke Balder Iwers - July 18, 2021 at 03:48 PM

JA

*Lindos recuerdos compartiendo con mi mejor amigo. Qué Dios lo tenga en la gloria! Gracias a la familia y amigos.*

JOHAN ALVARADO - July 18, 2021 at 10:04 PM

BI

“ Herman was a part of our lives.

*The first time you visited us, was in the time during the project of Itaipú, I was still a child. We were so excited to know and see our cousin from the USA. After it, it became regular that you stayed with us at our home in Porto Alegre. Drinking together with my father with a “manhattan” in your hand when we returned from school.*

*We laughed a lot together, you had a strong personality and your special habits (just like my father –maybe this runs in our family) gave cause for the most funniest things.*

*Can you remember the christmas in Germany? ... we took the wrong train back home... and together, cooking at the Dörte's home?... You loved the family events, always dancing, good food and fine wine.*

*Last time me and Mart met you was at Schiphol (NL), together with Johan, on a stop over on a way back to Costa Rica. It was a pleasure to see you then.. We shared the passion for cats, we could talk hours about our little felines.*

*Unforgettable moments makes life beautiful. Now was your time to go....rest in peace...see you at the other side.*

*All our love,  
Betina and Mart*

Betina Iwers - July 18, 2021 at 06:01 AM

KA

“ Herman was a blessing for my family, really a wonderful person. We will always remember him in our hearts, thank you Herman and thank you God ✨🇺🇸🇨🇷

Katherine Alvarado - July 17, 2021 at 11:53 AM

JA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



JOHAN ALVARADO - July 17, 2021 at 09:52 AM

DM

“ I will miss my friend of nearly 50 years. May he rest in peace.  
David Milone; Gilbert, AZ

David Milone - July 16, 2021 at 03:31 PM

JA

*Mi condolencias ala familia y amigos Johan Alvarado Herman mi verdadero amigo amigo de 17 años por siempre te llevaré por siempre en mi corazón hasta el día de mi muerte gracias todo muchas bendiciones.*

JOHAN ALVARADO - July 17, 2021 at 09:46 AM

BI

*Herman was a part of our lives.*

*The first time you visited us, was in the time during the project of Itaipú, I was still a child. We were so excited to know and see our cousin from the USA. After it, it became regular that you stayed with us at our home in Porto Alegre. Drinking together with my father eith a “manhattan” in your hand when we returned from school.*

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*Unforgetbale moments makes life beautiful. Now was your time to go.....rest in peace....see you at the other side.*

*All our love,  
Betina and Mart*

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**Betina iwers** - July 17, 2021 at 01:49 PM

CA

*Don Herman te vamos a extrañar mucho y te recordemos siempre gracias por todo 💜.*

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**Claudia Alvarado** - July 17, 2021 at 10:13 PM

MI

*Dear cousin Herman ,  
we have known each other for many decades. There are countless  
times in which you have visited us in Süderstapel/Germany.  
We made many trips in the area. You liked the island of Sylt best. The  
journey with the "DB Autozug" over the Hindenburgdamm has always  
fascinated and inspired you.*

*We gladly accepted your invitation to you in the USA and Costa Rica.  
Here, too, you brought us closer to "Your world". We particularly  
remember the visit to the "Cloud Forest" .*

*Thank you Herman for the great time with you. All the best for your last  
trip. We`ll see each other on the other side someday.*

*God bless you.*

*Wish you all the best*

*your Cousin Udo and his wife Maren*

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**Maren Iwers** - July 20, 2021 at 03:01 PM