



Herbert E. Carlson Jr.

September 15, 1942 - March 3, 2026

Herbert E. Carlson, Jr., 83, of Kensington, Connecticut and Lakewood Ranch, Florida, passed away on March 3, 2026, after a brief illness, surrounded by his family.

Herb was born on September 15, 1942, in New Britain, Connecticut, to Herbert E. Carlson and Irma (Swanson) Carlson. Herb grew up in New Britain and attended the Mooreland Hill School before graduating from The Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut, where he later served as chairman of his 50th reunion. Herb attended Dartmouth College, where he was captain of the golf team, and later earned his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1969. That same year he was admitted to the Connecticut Bar.

Herb began his legal career at the firm of Mangan and Greene and served as a public defender before joining the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice. Over the course of a distinguished career, Herb became one of the most respected prosecutors in the state, ultimately serving as Supervisory First Assistant State's Attorney at Hartford Superior Court Part A. He tried over fifty murder cases to verdict and mentored generations of young attorneys. Known for his integrity, fairness, and dedication to justice, Herb became the longest-serving prosecutor in the Division of Criminal Justice before retiring in 2012. In recognition of his extraordinary career and commitment to public service, he received the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice Lifetime Achievement Award.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Herb was deeply devoted to his family, church, and community. For 58 years he was an active and faithful member of South Church in New Britain, where he served in numerous roles including moderator, clerk for more than 30 years, senior deacon, chair of the nominating committee, head usher, and a dedicated, enthusiastic volunteer with the church's Feed the Need program.

Herb was also a passionate civic leader who devoted countless hours to improving the New Britain community. He was a founder, president, and chairman of the board of The Mooreland Hill School in Kensington for more than three decades. Since 1983 Herb served as president of the Robert C. Vance Charitable Foundation, helping to support numerous organizations and projects throughout New Britain. Under his leadership, the foundation funded the Robert C. Vance Distinguished Lecture Series and the endowed chair of journalism at Central Connecticut State University, and supported projects including the lobbies of the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Oncology Center at the Hospital of Central Connecticut, the dining room at the Klingberg Family Centers, the Vance Forum at the New Britain Institute, and many other community improvements. Herb also served as a trustee of the William H. Hart Trust Fund and held leadership roles with the Erwin Home retirement community in New Britain.

Herb was a proud member of Shuttle Meadow Country Club, where he celebrated a memorable hole-in-one on the sixth hole. He was also a member of Shuttle Meadow's Saturnites Club as well as the Dartmouth Clubs of New Britain and Sarasota, Florida.

In 1971, Herb and Cheryl made their home in Kensington, where they raised their two children, Matthew and Amanda. The couple spent many happy winter months in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Above all, Herb cherished time with his family and especially loved being a grandfather.

Herb is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Cheryl; his son Matthew H. Carlson and his wife Janneke of West Chester, Pennsylvania; his daughter Amanda B. Carlson and her husband Lawrence Whitman of Newtown,

Connecticut; and his three cherished grandchildren, Lilian Carlson, Hunter Carlson, and Carter Whitman. He is also survived by his sister, Cynthia Carlson of Farmington; his brother-in-law Jeffrey R. Carlson and his wife Donna of Wakefield, Rhode Island; his nephew Scott G. Carlson and his wife Judy of Kingsland, Georgia; and his niece Jody L. Carlson of Venice, Florida. Herb was predeceased by his parents, Herbert E. Carlson, Sr. and Irma Swanson Carlson, and by his stepmother, Elizabeth Malm Anderson Carlson. A principled man of deep conviction and faith, Herb will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Calling hours will be held Thursday, March 26, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. A memorial service celebrating Herb's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 27, at South Congregational Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Herb's memory may be made to South Church's Feed the Need program. Please share a memory or note of sympathy with Herbert's family at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

South Church
90 Main Street
New Britain, CT

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *The Snow family extends our heartfelt sympathy. I remember Mr. Carlson being a help to our family at South Church when my father passed away in 1967. Mr. Carlson also helped my Mom with minor legal matters concerning her "wild teen" Tim. A kind and gentle man who will be missed by all that knew him.
Sincerely Timothy Snow and family.*

Timothy Snow - March 26 at 02:09 PM

EN

“ *Friend. Mentor. Supervisor. I worked with Herb since joining Hartford Part A in 1989. I always liked Herb. He was always there to help with an issue in a trial or a case that I was handling. He'd listen.. evaluate.. and explain the "options".. without saying which one he'd choose. That was always MY decision. "It's the only way to learn", he'd say. Invaluable advice. And I learned. I miss our "Saturday morning" chats in the Office. I was usually working on a trial. Herb would typically be working on one of the many trusts with which he was involved.. esp Mooreland Hill.. a source of great pride for him. I miss his dry sense of humor. And he had a way of observing things about people that i enjoyed, too. A keen insight of human behavior. I hope his retirement days were full of joy and relaxation. Rest in Peace, my friend.*

Edward Narus - March 25 at 08:56 PM

MF

“ Dear Cheryl & Family -

We were very sorry to learn of Herb's passing. He was such an accomplished man, and is certainly leaving a lasting legacy. Herb was a thoughtful neighbor and when we had the occasion to chat with him when he went out for a walk or was getting the mail, our conversations were always very informative. He was so well versed in travel, sports, and history. Herb was stoic, but a proud father and often spoke highly of his children and their achievements. We will miss him, and are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

*With deep sympathy,
Brian & Micaela Fitzsimmons*

Micaela Fitzsimmons - March 23 at 07:21 PM

RK

“ *I spent many years working at the Hartford Part A Public Defender's Office during Herb's tenure in the State's Attorney's Office. I had contact with him countless times over the course of those years both in pretrial discussions as well as engaging each other at trial. I have the highest regard for him. Beyond his technical skills as an attorney, he was a scrupulously ethical and honest person. Any factual representations made by Herb in the course of pretrial discussions, or during trial, could be taken to truly represent his understanding of the issue at hand. I consider him a friend and a credit to our profession. RICHARD KELLY—Naples, FL*

Richard F Kelly - March 23 at 05:16 PM

CB

“ *To the Carlson Family,
Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved husband and father. His legacy will live on through your children and grandchildren. May his memory be a comfort to you in the difficult days ahead.*

*Sincerely,
Kevin and Chris Bruemmer*

Christine Bruemmer - March 21 at 02:56 PM

DM

“ *Herb was my first supervisor in Hartford Part A when I transferred there in 1998. He was the utmost professional. He took me under his wing and lead all of us with his quiet yet firm style. Herb had what we all needed as young prosecutors- our backs!! He showed us the right way to do things to carry out justice for everyone. Mr. Carlson made sure we all took care of the victims of crime and their families. We all owe so much to him. He truly was a great person.*



Donna Mambrino - March 20 at 08:26 PM

SP

“ Cheryl, Amanda, and Matthew.....I worked with Herb for four years in Part A, Hartford. He was my supervisor. I will always remember how helpful he was to me. What a wonderful mentor he was. Patient, kind, and always generous with his time I was so happy to be the master of ceremonies at the dinner when he received his lifetime achievement award, which he so richly deserved.

He certainly had his priorities in life in order. Loyal to his family, church, community, and his alma maters he was an exemplary citizen.

I am so sorry to hear of his passing. May he Rest In Peace.

Steve Preleski

Venice, Fl.

Steve Preleski - March 19 at 10:51 AM