

JIM SCHRODER

1918 - 2013

Jim Schroder was born and raised in Guelph, attending GCVI for high school. While attending GCVI, Dr. Schroder was manager of the school basketball team, active in football and the GCVI Athletic Association. In addition, he participated in social events such as the Christmas At Home dances. Following high school, Dr. Schroder attended the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) graduating in 1942 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation, he joined the army, serving with the Royal Canadian Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

After the war, Dr. Schroder joined OVC as an assistant in research. In 1949, he was awarded the Mayo Foundation Fellowship to study at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic. In 1950, he earned a Master of Science in comparative pathology from the University of Minnesota, then returned to Canada, serving as a professor at OVC in the Department of Pathology from 1951 to 1964. In 1969, he became the Director of the OVC Central Animal Facility and received the honour of being the first animal care coordinator at the University of Guelph. Throughout his career, he advocated for creating systems for the care and maintenance of laboratory animals at institutions across Canada. Aside from his achievements in academia, Dr. Schroder was also the first member of the University of Guelph faculty to be elected to the House of Commons.

Dr. Schroder was elected as a Liberal MP into the House of Commons in 1980, and represented Guelph from 1980 to 1984. In the years of his parliamentary service, Dr. Schroder was a member of several committees, and was appointed Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. In 1982, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology and National Health and Welfare. As Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare, Dr. Schroder was responsible for piloting the Canada Health Act through the House of Commons.

While celebrated for his decorated careers in both academia and politics, Dr. Schroder's defining characteristic is his kindness. The word best suited to describe Dr. Schroder is perhaps compassion, as demonstrated through his love for animals, his respect for others, and especially his distinguished service for his community. Dr. Schroder led many organizations in his home city of Guelph, including the Guelph Rotary Club, for which he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his exemplary community service. He has also served as Chairman of Guelph and Wellington Advisory Board of the CNIB, United Way, Wellington District Health Council, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. As an advocate for the arts, Dr. Schroder was also a strong supporter of the River Run Centre. In the words of the former Mayor of Guelph, John Counsell, Dr. Schroder's career "has been a lifetime of achievement."

Dr. Schroder passed away peacefully at home in December 2013.

Submitted by Judy Huang
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