



## Charles Richard Schriber

August 24, 1930 - January 14, 2013

Charles R. Schriber, Jr., left this world in the evening of January 14, 2013, at the Colonial Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Houston, where he had lived and been lovingly cared for during the past three years. He had experienced numerous physical challenges during the last several years, particularly following a broken hip while walking his beloved dog Perrito in September 2009, from which he generally began a slow decline including moderate memory impairment. After his accident, he channeled his signature willpower and successfully achieved independent mobility with a walker, a source of significant pride (and admiration), but declined again beginning last spring. However, until the end, he enjoyed visits from and ever-growing love with family members and friends. Charles is survived by his wife, Beatriz, and by five children: Kathy and Alex in Houston, Robie in Sacramento, Daniel in Omaha, and Nicholas in New York. He has one grandson, Thorin, and two step-grandchildren, Ellen and Charlie. He is also survived by his sister Carolyn, brother-in-law Kenneth, and two daughters-in-law, Nancy and Gail. Charles Schriber was born on August 24, 1930, to Charles R. Schriber, Sr., and Willie B Depwe Schriber in Orange, Texas, where his family has deep roots and continues to maintain the family's Depwe Cemetery, resting place for many of Charles's ancestors since the days when Texas was its own country. His family moved several times following his father's work as a drilling foreman ("tool pusher") in the Shell oil fields, and they enjoyed a network of family members in East Texas and South Louisiana. Among Charles's

activities as an early teen was the DeMolay Society of the Masons. His father, Charles Sr., himself a Mason, was a very active outdoorsman, but what Charles Jr. inherited from him was his bedrock character marked by a quiet and stable force. He especially cherished his time at Morgan City High School, where he lettered on the football team (as a tackle, #63) and received a broken nose that, while subtle, endowed his face with a singularly distinguished character for the rest of his life.

Charles first attended Lamar University for two years. Upon taking the entrance exam at age 16, he was accused of cheating because he did so well – until he repeated the outstanding performance in the re-test. Next he transferred to Baylor University, where he majored in accounting. There he met and married Corida Burge of Dallas. After college, Charles became a Certified Public Accountant and joined Price Waterhouse in Houston in 1951. They lived in a small Houston apartment that is still standing and gave birth to their first child, Kathy. They soon moved briefly to New Orleans, but then settled in Orange, where Nicholas and Daniel were born. There they joined the Episcopal Church, both having been raised Baptist. Charles worked as accountant for Slade Towing Inc. and as Controller for Livingston Shipbuilding. The family moved back to New Orleans in 1971, where Charles joined Pelto Oil. During this time, he enjoyed attending Saints football games, Mardi Gras parades, and the general ambience of New Orleans, to which later in life he would often return for vacations with Beatriz, Alex, and Robie. Charles had been a lay-reader at St. Paul's Church in Orange and continued those duties at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans. In 1976, Charles transferred to Pelto Oil's parent company, Southdown Inc., a Fortune 500 company in Houston, where he took the helm as president and enjoyed overseeing a diverse range of subsidiaries, including Pearl Brewery, a cement manufacturer, a candy company, and a winery. Charles's tenure at Southdown was among his proudest achievements, and he especially valued working closely with CEO Larry Hirsch, who was a source of inspiration and became a lifelong friend. Charles and Corida were divorced in 1978.

A series of pivotal events marked the next few years. In 1980, he met Beatriz Ortega, from Mexico City, who was on an audit assignment in Houston with Touche Ross. Over the next several years, he gave up smoking cigarettes cold-turkey, adopted a healthier lifestyle, and began pursuing new experiences meant to enrich his life. Charles and Beatriz were married in 1985 and raised their two twin daughters, Alexandra and Roberta, in Houston. Charles never learned Spanish to any significant extent, but became very comfortable in a bi-lingual household and cherished the aspects of Mexican heritage and culture, including practice of the Roman Catholic faith, ultimately considering himself an “honorary Mexican.” Among the many things he gave in turn, he offered his daughters an amplified love for the English language that paralleled his devotion to education and allowed them to live up to the “Schriber” (meaning “writer”) name.

Charles left Southdown during the mid-eighties crisis in the petroleum industry, and experienced a period of concern about his next career step. However, before long he was hired as chief financial consultant in a large and successful patent lawsuit for the engineer-inventor Charlie Barney that lasted several years and was an additional major achievement in his life. Once when asked what other professional accomplishments he was particularly proud of, Charles responded that he in fact developed a particular special technique in double-ledger accounting in the sixties which at the time he considered fairly revolutionary.

Although most of his adult life was dominated by being a provider for his family and fulfilling his vision of a responsible adult in American society, he enjoyed reading (especially historical fiction), music (especially Beethoven), friends (especially ones with good stories), and, most of all, sharing time with his immediate and extended family. He had periods of strong interest in attending and watching baseball and football games on TV or in person with family and friends, among these his long-time “baseball buddies” Henry Houston and R. J. Frost. Upon retirement, he found special joy in being more

directly involved in the day-to-day life of his last two children than his career had previously allowed him, and he also enjoyed visits from his grandson, Thorin.

In his seventies, Charles was unclear of any meaningful label to describe his spirituality. He respected all three of the church denominations he had been a member of, but his own feelings of the ultimate became more abstract. "I know there's an important meaning to all this, but I no longer have words to describe it." In his final three years, he became more open to aspects of the alternative spirituality brought by Beatriz, and also enjoyed the Episcopal services at Colonial Oaks, where he often would participate again as lay-reader.

One of the major values in Charles's life-attitude was the importance of being useful. Providing both material security and a sense of order for his family was important, though he always maintained a down-to-earth informality. Achieving a modest degree of wealth never altered his sense of basic middle-class values. He was a man of simple tastes and a general satisfaction with life. But none failed to notice Charles's quick wit, generally comprised of dry irony and a sense of comedic timing that was, not surprising for an accountant, almost mathematical.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 497-2121  
[david@dettlingfuneral.com](mailto:david@dettlingfuneral.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Richard Schriber*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Charles Richard Schriber*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Charles Richard Schriber*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Charles Richard Schriber*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Richard Schriber.*



January 18, 2013 at 03:52 PM



“ *Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Charles Richard Schriber.*



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January 18, 2013 at 02:49 PM