



## Bernadette M. Herold

February 4, 1966 - March 23, 2018

On March 23, 2018 Bernadette Maria Theresa Herold of DeBary, Florida passed away far too soon from this world after a brief illness. During her life she was a beacon of kindness to family, friends, students and colleagues - perhaps best expressed by a poem written for Bernadette by one of her students, who wrote in gratitude to her - "So Patient and Kind, Your Warm Heart Shines, through Everything You Do - Every Day".

Bernadette was surrounded by family at her passing. Brian Stienstra, her loving husband of 27 years, and her loving sons James and Robert Stienstra, aged 24 and 20 years, supported Bernadette to the end, and mourn her deeply as do all of her family. Her mother in law Tina Stienstra and sister in law Lynda Stienstra of Chatham Ontario Canada came immediately to Bernadette's bedside, followed by Bernadette's brother and sister in law Richard and Josephine Herold of Unionville, Ontario Canada. Despite their prayers and hopes, it was not to be, and Bernadette passed on to her family's everlasting and profound grief.

Bernadette was born in Hamilton, Ontario Canada on February 4, 1966, the daughter of Helmuth and Edith Herold of Kitchener, Ontario Canada, who were there in spirit by Bernadette's bedside. Bernadette was preceded in death by her father in law the late Henry Stienstra (2003) of Chatham, Ontario Canada.

Bernadette is also survived by Brian's sister Janet and brother in law Tony Hoekstra of Chatham Ontario, Brian's brother Ken and sister in-law Joanne Stienstra and Brian's brother Dwayne Stienstra all from Norwich Ontario, Bernadette's nieces Amanda and Stephanie of Toronto Ontario, Tanya Ferguson of Chatham Ontario, Alicia and Natalie Stienstra of Norwich Ontario, Bernadette's nephews Stephen Hoekstra of Chatham Ontario, and Jason Hoekstra of Shannonville Ontario, as well as her extended family in Austria, Europe with whom she reconnected in August 2017 at a joyous family reunion.

Perhaps in her proudest moment, Bernadette, a dedicated ESE teacher was awarded "Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) Teacher of the Year for Sabal Point Elementary" at a ceremony just two days before her passing. With privileges of the award stretching into 2019, Ms. Herold will remain in spirit at Sabal Point. Besides family, therefore, Bernadette's students, poets and fans alike - her "Kiddo's" - and Bernadette's teaching colleagues at Sabal Point Elementary School will also miss Ms. Herold, as will everyone who ever knew her.

All who wish to pay their respects are invited to attend on Wednesday March 28, 2018 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the DeGusipe Funeral Home, 9001 North Orlando Avenue, Maitland Florida.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Bernadette with Memorial Donations in her name to the American Diabetes Association or the American Autism Association or American Autism Society.

# Previous Events

## Reception

MAR 28. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel  
9001 N. Orlando Ave  
Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 695-2273  
todd@degusipe.com  
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

MAR 28. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel  
9001 N. Orlando Ave  
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# Tribute Wall

FW

“ On behalf of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo, we are very sorry to hear about the loss of Ms. Bernadette M. Herold. Our deepest condolences to the entire Herold family.

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**Faculty of Arts, University of Waterloo** - May 14, 2018 at 02:18 PM

HV


“ Bernie was a truly beautiful person. I had the incredible good fortune to call her one of my dearest friends since we first met in Grade 9 History class at St. Mary's High School in Kitchener and I've loved reading the tributes to her on this page. Everything written here about Bernie in her work as a teacher is what I know and cherished about her as a friend.

She was the kind of friend you could call any time about any issue and you'd have her full, non-judgment support. Through high school and University, people were drawn to Bernie, especially if you felt outside the mainstream in some way. She was so warm, kind, open-minded, witty and gave such hysterical commentary on issues of the day.

Thank-you for being such an amazing sister/friend Bernie. I will miss you so much.

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**Helen Victoros** - April 02, 2018 at 10:39 PM

 Nancy Poit

“ *This woman will be remembered by many. She was such a selfless, loving person. She accepted my son for who he was and met him where he was at. She was always there for all of her students. She worked hard to make sure her students’ needs were met.*

*Thank you for creating such a loving environment for my son Bernie. We will never forget the roll you played in his early years. You will be missed greatly. Cayden will always remember “Herold County,” as he calls it.*

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**Nancy Poit** - March 30, 2018 at 10:36 PM

DC

“ *Bernie was the consummate professional. I had the pleasure to work with her students for 3 years. She displayed a kindness that few people have. She will be missed by all teachers, support staff, and students alike. Today is a very sad day for me. R.I.P. Bernie*

*Coach Carlton,*

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**darren carlton** - March 30, 2018 at 03:06 PM

DC

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Bernie's students for 3 years. She was the consummate professional. She had a kindness to her that few people have. She will be missed by so many teachers, assistants, and teachers alike. Today is a very sad day for me! I will always remember you!*

*Coach Darren Carlton*

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**Darren Carlton** - March 30, 2018 at 01:26 PM

HM

“ *Bernie was a wonderful teacher and colleague. Her heart was full of kindness and unending wisdom with a little sarcasm on the side. She taught me a lot about working with students with special needs and her impact on me will continue on throughout my career.*

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**holly mac** - March 28, 2018 at 11:03 PM

LR

“ *Mrs. Herold was my son's 1st grade teacher and she was truly patient and caring with him and all her students. He progressed so much in the year that she taught him and I am eternally grateful for the kindness and care she showed him. May she rest in peace. I am sorry for you loss.*

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**Luz Ruiz** - March 28, 2018 at 09:15 PM

 Amy  
Neilson

“ *I had the honor of being Mrs. Herold' s assistant this year. She was truly a beautiful person. She always made me laugh. She always listened to everything I had to say and cared about my opinion. The patience and caring she gave her students was amazing. Her knowledge of so many things astounded me. She was like an encyclopedia of funny, interesting, and amusing facts. I wish I could of shared this information with her family at the memorial but I could not find the words. I will miss her every single day. I will never meet another living soul as wonderful as her.*

*Amy Neilson*

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**Amy Neilson** - March 28, 2018 at 09:08 PM

MW

“Bernie was an extraordinary teacher, who showed strength tempered with wit in the most challenging and rewarding profession. Everyday she led by example, smiling, upbeat and positive. Her classroom was always a happy place for her students to feel safe and comfortable. Her students were taught with an interactive, hands on approach which not only made learning possible, but fun. It has been an honor and privilege subbing for her the past seven years. Thank you, Bernie, for sharing your knowledge, gift of teaching, humor, and passion for life. You will be greatly missed!

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**Melody Wilson** - March 28, 2018 at 03:31 PM

SS

“Our condolences and deepest sympathies to you Brian, James, and Robert for the untimely loss of your wife and mother Bernie. Please take some comfort in knowing that you and she are in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

We were always struck by Bernie’s unwavering commitment to her “kiddos” which was recognized by her well-deserved Teacher of the Year award. Brian, we enjoyed our recent outings with you and Bernie and we will miss her wry wit, smile, and laugh.

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**Steve Tina Smith** - March 27, 2018 at 06:09 PM

AS

“Bernie was more than a fiend, she was an amazing mentor. She always knew what to say to make you feel better. She loved her job and did it with passion. She cared for her students with love and persistence. I will always be honored to have learned so much from her. She will always live in my heart.

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**Andyara Sandoval** - March 27, 2018 at 05:22 PM

LT

“ Love, Allyson, Walt, Shekhar & the Convergys team purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Bernadette M. Herold.



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**Love, Allyson, Walt, Shekhar & the Convergys team** - March 27, 2018 at 04:30 PM

JG

“ She was such a sweet and gentle person. She always took the time to talk to me when I needed her. She was an amazing teacher and loved her kids. I will miss having her here at Sabal Point. Jo-Ellen Griffin

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**Jo-Ellen Griffin** - March 27, 2018 at 03:27 PM

CB

“ My child was one of the many, many students who were touched by Mrs. Herold's kindness, dedication, compassion, and humor. I cannot adequately express how special she was to us, particularly to my son. I can only say he truly loved Mrs. Herold, we will never forget her, and our hearts are broken at her passing. We hold onto all of our special memories of his time in her classroom, and we pray for her family, her friends, and her colleagues at Sabal Point.

CTB

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**Carolyn Baksa** - March 27, 2018 at 02:53 PM

DK

“ I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. SHE WAS A JEWEL AND ALWAYS WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE. REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES!!! " GOD KEPT HER AS A WREN IN THE BUSH.

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**Dr. Barbara Kirby-Bentley** - March 27, 2018 at 02:37 PM

SA

“ I had the privilege to work with Ms. Herold and see the impact she had on her students and the great care that she put into making their experiences individualized and personalized to their needs. It really takes a special person to do this and that is what Ms. Herold was. She did it with great grace and humor which showed in her classroom. She was a help to me and made me feel welcome whenever I came to her classroom and that any feedback I had was valuable even though she had years of experience. She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Sarah - March 27, 2018 at 02:18 PM

GE

“ I was new to Sabal last year when I met Mrs. Herold. As a new counselor, there was so much to learn. She always took the time to answer any questions I had and to help me in any way she could. I loved to sit in on her IEP meetings. Through her meetings, I always got a sense of who the child was. I could tell that these were her babies and she was taking the best care of them. She took so much time with parents, making sure that they understood everything. I learned a lot from her and I will miss her.

Genevieve - March 26, 2018 at 10:50 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Bernadette M. Herold.



March 26, 2018 at 10:34 PM

HH

“ *Helmuth H. purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Bernadette M. Herold.*



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**Helmuth H.** - March 26, 2018 at 09:25 PM

SS

“ *Our condolences and deepest sympathies to you Brian, James, and Robert for the untimely loss of your wife and mother Bernie. Please take some comfort in knowing that you and she are in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.*

*We were always struck by Bernie's unwavering commitment to her "kiddos" which was recognized by her well-deserved Teacher of the Year award. Brian, we enjoyed our recent outings with you and Bernie and we will miss her wry wit, smile, and laugh.*

*Steve and Tina Smith*

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**Steve and Tina Smith** - March 26, 2018 at 06:53 PM



“ *68 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory** - March 26, 2018 at 12:46 PM