DEATH NOTICE

BLOOM



MADELEINE SCHNEIDER BLOOM
(Age 83)

Madeleine Schneider Bloom, a leader within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and one of the small number of women in that department's senior leadership, died on November 7, 2026, of cancer.

Madeleine was born in August 1943 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. She lived in Potomac, Maryland for 50 years. Her father was Harry Schneider, an attorney with the now-defunct Civil Aeronautics Board. Her mother, Kate Landesman Schneider, was a teacher in Montgomery County.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Gilbert Bloom; her daughter, Heather Bloom, whose accomplishments as an attorney brought her great joy; and three grandchildren, whom she adored and took great pride in celebrating, especially their academic achievements. She is also survived by her sister, Suzanne Schneider (husband, Robert Levy), three nieces, and one nephew.

She was an avid reader her entire life, especially enjoying crime novels and U.S. history. She had a keen memory and would readily recite Macbeth or nursery rhymes on cue for her family. She also enjoyed travel and had visited almost every U.S. state. She enjoyed attending plays and watching documentaries.

Madeleine had a distinguished career; she was the first Director of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Asset Management within DOT. She joined the FHWA in 1976 as the Chief of Legislation and Strategic Planning, hired by Ed Rollins, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs in DOT, under President Ford. In 1990, she was elevated to Director of Policy Development. Over her 37-year career, she represented DOT before state and local governments, the private sector, engineering organizations, and academia, in positions within the FHWA, Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. She was responsible for strategic planning, legislative initiatives, and reports to Congress on transport economics including investment requirements, excise tax policy, and contributions of transportation to growth and productivity.

Madeleine received numerous performance awards throughout her career including the Presidential Meritorious Rank. She was a member of the Transportation Research Board Asset Management Task Force and served on the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Asset Management Task Force and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Asset Management Group. She was the author of numerous articles and publications relating to transportation policy and transportation asset management, and spoke to groups nationally on how asset management can contribute to sound transportation investment for the 21st century. She also represented DOT at numerous European Conferences.

Madeleine graduated from Smith College in 1965. Her first job in politics was as an aide to Vice President Hubert Humphrey. During that time, she attended the infamous 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, when Humphrey was nominated for President. She remembered smelling the fumes from the tear gas drifting through the streets during the Vietnam War protests. She went on to be selected by Congressman Henry Reuss of Wisconsin as a Congressional Fellow for the House Banking and Currency Committee in 1971, before beginning her distinguished career at DOT.

Her work was recognized by several presidential administrations. William Coleman, Jr., the Secretary of DOT under President Gerald Ford, presented Madeleine with "The Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement" in 1976. The 39th President, Jimmy Carter, signed a notice inducting Madeleine into the U.S. Senior Executive Service on September 30, 1980. The 40th President, Ronald Reagan, held a reception on the White House Lawn for the 246 women who were members of the "Executive Women in Government." It was a hot summer day on September 19, 1983. Although more than eight months pregnant, she went to work and traveled to the White House Lawn; President Reagan noticed her and quickly got her a chair.

Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of DOT under Ronald Reagan, held monthly breakfast meetings from 1983 to 1987 with the executive women in DOT, including Madeleine. There were only 12 women in such positions in DOT at that time. During George H. W. Bush's presidency, DOT Secretary Sam Skinner presented Madeleine with an award for work on the "Surface Transportation Assistance Act." In 1994, Bill Clinton signed an Outstanding Meritorious Service Award in the Senior Executive Service Branch for Madeleine in 1994. In November 1997, DOT Secretary Rodney Slater presented her with the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement—Gold Medal. And Secretary Mary Peters, George W. Bush's head of DOT, celebrated her "outstanding 37-year career" at Madeleine's retirement party.

In retirement, she continued reading, enjoyed movies, loved watching baseball and football (especially the Washington Commanders), and often fell asleep while doing crossword puzzles.

* * *

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Private service. All services entrusted to Sagel Bloomfield Danzansky Goldberg Funeral Care.