



Jerome "Jerry" C. Axelrod

April 16, 1941 - March 26, 2026

Jerome "Jerry" C. Axelrod, age 84, of Houston, Texas, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2026, in the city where he was born and spent the majority of his life. A man of deep integrity, intellectual curiosity, and quiet generosity, Jerry leaves behind a legacy of leadership, mentorship, and enduring relationships.

Jerry was born on April 16, 1941, in Houston to Abe I. Axelrod and Dora B. Axelrod, both of blessed memory. He was also predeceased by his brother-in-law, Dr. Fred B. Kessler, and his first wife, Vicki Fish Axelrod, the mother of his children.

He is survived by his daughter, Lauryn Axelrod of West Pawlet, Vermont; his son, John Axelrod (Anastasia) of Chardonne, Switzerland; and his beloved grandchildren, Joshua Montgomery of Montreal, Canada, Tallulah Axelrod of Berlin, Germany, and Maximillian and Aaron Axelrod of Chardonne, Switzerland. He is also survived by his former stepchildren, Lindsey Whitman (Ben) and Brent Greenfield (Tessa) of Houston, step-grandchildren Allison and Jonathan Whitman; and his sister, Jean Kessler of Houston.

From an early age, Jerry distinguished himself as a natural leader. He served as Head Prefect at St. John's School in Houston in 1959 before attending Harvard College. At Harvard, he was elected to the Student Affairs Council in

his freshman year, joined the DU Eating Club, and was a member of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals. He graduated with honors in 1963.

Following college, Jerry joined his family's office supply and furniture business, Texas Office Supply, serving clients throughout the Southwest. After 14 years, he transitioned into financial services, where he built an extraordinary career marked not only by personal success but by his commitment to mentoring others. Over decades, he became one of the nation's top producers, serving both retail and institutional clients across the country.

In 1984, Jerry was recognized as one of the top producers in the United States by Registered Representative Magazine. Throughout his career, he worked with leading firms including White, Weld & Co., Drexel Burnham, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Smith Barney, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Stark Capital Management and Skyward Financial. At each firm, he earned a reputation for excellence, integrity, and genuine care for his clients and colleagues. He took particular pride in the personalized attention he gave to his clients, as well as building and training teams whose members went on to become leaders in their own right.

Despite numerous professional accolades, Jerry remained humble, always crediting his success to the people with whom he worked and the relationships he cultivated.

Beyond his professional life, Jerry was deeply committed to civic and cultural causes. He was an original member of the first Board of Trustees of the Houston Children's Museum and an original board member of Orchestra X—Houston. He also served as a board member of the Jung Center in Houston and Bennington College in Vermont.

Jerry's dedication to community and justice was reflected in his work with the Anti-Defamation League, where he served on the Southwest Regional Board and as its Chair. He was also involved with the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, and served on the advisory board of Houston Interfaith Ministries. A passionate supporter of the arts, he contributed to numerous cultural organizations throughout Houston.

Those who knew Jerry remember him as a man of principle and warmth—honest, energetic, and deeply empathetic. He believed in doing one's best, in "under-promising and over-delivering," and in treating others with respect and kindness. He combined a sharp intellect with humility and a lifelong curiosity about the world.

The great joys of Jerry's life were his children and grandchildren, in whom he took immense pride and with whom he shared deep love and connection.

Jerry's life was defined not only by his achievements, but by the countless people he guided, supported, and inspired. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. The family would also like to express profound gratitude to his loving caregivers, Evelyn, Maria, Wanda and Monica, as well as the devoted care of the staff at Davita Galleria and his physicians.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel's Gordon Chapel, 5600 North Braeswood, Houston, Texas.

A livestream of the service is available at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85803990856?pwd=mTa1Pcvu4VoigcXr4T9LguvWfdASZJ.1>

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jerry's honor may be made to the Anti-

Defamation League at <https://support.adl.org>.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **12**. 2:30 PM (CT)

Congregation Beth Israel
5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.
Houston, TX 77096

The Gordon Chapel

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *I'll always remember Jerry with a smile on his face, offering wisdom in a gentle, friendly and respectful way. My sincere condolences to the Axelrod family. We'll all miss Jerry.*

Scott Hochberg

Scott Hochberg - April 08 at 05:57 PM

MF

“ My wife Deborah joins me in extending our deep condolences to the family and friends of Jerry Axelrod and all who cherished knowing him, as we did.

In his leadership roles, Jerry demonstrated not only pragmatism, but his fine character, integrity, and regard for other people.

One of my fondest memories of Jerry is when I was elected chair of the ADL Southwest Region for my first term in 2002. Jerry, without being asked, invited me to lunch and offered up all the support and help I would want or need before I knew I wanted it or needed it. I always appreciated him doing that as just one example of how kind and thoughtful he was.

Jerry helped me get comfortable about sending my son to attend St. John's School by sharing with me Jerry's good memories of his time there, and the fact that even decades ago his Jewish religious identity was valued and respected. My son ended up experiencing the same acceptance.

I fondly recall how Jerry could show great pride in his childrens' successes without claiming that he deserved any credit for their accomplishments.

Jerry was not self-absorbed, and he did not complain about any troubles he was experiencing, even while undergoing uncomfortable and long-term medical care.

He maintained a positive outlook and always cheerful demeanor. His memory will be for a blessing.

Mark S. Finkelstein & Deborah Barnette

Mark S. Finkelstein - April 07 at 11:34 AM

LM

“ Lisa Toubin McLendon lit a candle in memory of Jerome "Jerry" C. Axelrod



Lisa Toubin McLendon - April 05 at 11:02 AM

BG

“ Last week marked the passing of a man who has been in my life since I was 7 years old, including 29 years as my stepfather.

Jerry was there for life milestones and events: my first dog, my first job, my first loss of a close family member, family trips to places near and far, birthday celebrations at Brennan’s, high school, college, and law school graduations, a special tour I hosted for family while working at The White House, my wedding with the love of my life.

Some of what I remember most was part of daily life: talking about the latest current events over dinner at some of his favorites like El Tiempo, Willie G’s, or Grotto, learning the importance of physical health and hard work during my youth when accompanying him to Saturday morning workouts at the University Club followed by visits to his office in the Galleria Financial Center, experiencing the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat while watching Oilers and Rockets games at the Astrodome and The Summit, giving me advice on personal and career decisions, seeing how much he loved his favorite dessert (German Chocolate Cake) that I made from scratch for his birthday, and when he would check in to let me know he was thinking of me or to send well wishes, which continued uninterrupted after he was no longer my stepfather.

I will always be grateful for the presence of Jerry in my life, the times we shared together, and the memories that were created. May he rest in peace.

Brent Greenfield





Brent Greenfield - April 01 at 11:59 PM

BP

“ *Our Family’s go back many generations! Jerry was a true mensch and good friend to all. His kindness will be missed.*

The Proler Family

Bitsy Proler - March 30 at 06:38 PM