



Gerald G. Friedel, P.E.

November 3, 1951 - August 13, 2016

Improving our communities. Shaping the world around us. Creating value by design. Not only did Gerald (Jerry) Friedel live his life according to these words, he embodied them. Family, work, community and the world around him were all approached with the same tenet. While he served as a leader in the firm and an engineer to clients, Jerry also served as a friend, mentor and trusted advisor to all.

Less than a decade after graduating from the University of Delaware with his Bachelor's of Civil Engineering, Jerry, along with fellow engineer John Davis, made a bold move: in 1983 they started a fledgling consulting firm they affectionately referred to as "*The Back Alley Engineers*". The one-room brick office in Salisbury is still there; a short alley walk between our current office at One Plaza East and the former office on Baptist Street. Soon after they got started, Don Bowen joined them and Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc., was born.



It's been over thirty years now, and DBF has become one of the largest and most respected professional consulting firms on the Eastern Shore - due in large part to Jerry's leadership. He ushered in many of the firm's present principals, associates and project managers; brought in the Towns of Hurlock, Berlin and Milford as the first of many municipal clients; initiated the firm's expansion into Delaware and then Easton; oversaw the consolidation of AMA; helped to establish our firm's bylaws enabling stable ownership transition; and, over the years, has served as a friend and mentor to many of us. In short, Jerry has seen an alley office of two transform into the organization we have today.

Jerry Friedel *(continued)*

Well-known in many of the Shore's municipalities, Jerry was a key figure for many years in the Maryland towns of Berlin, Delmar, Easton, Hurlock, Pittsville, Snow Hill, St. Michaels and Trappe. Working on projects that included water supply treatment, storage and distributions systems; wastewater collection and treatment plants; roadway improvements; stormwater management projects; spray irrigation facilities; well upgrades; and street reconstructions, he also contributed to commercial, educational, and residential projects - a few of which are listed on this page.

After more than thirty years of providing services that have improved the lives of many here on the Eastern Shore, Jerry chose to move into semi-retirement in order to have more time to spend with his family and to pursue his personal interests. In 2014, he stepped down as the president of DBF and assumed the role of office manager and senior engineer for the firm's Easton office. In addition to the services he provided for DBF, Jerry also served on the Board of Directors for the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Governors for the Tred Avon Yacht Club, and volunteered as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair for the ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor Program.

Despite all of the demands on his time, Jerry managed to spend some days pursuing his favorite hobby: being on the water. An avid craftsman, he fully restored a 1933 dovetail workboat, the Dorothy Lee, which led as a pace boat for the Cambridge Power Boat Regatta. Sharing time on his boat with family and friends, crabbing and fishing, was a great source of enjoyment for Jerry as well as those around him.

It is impossible to fully detail in this tiny space all of Jerry's contributions to Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc., and to the residents of the Eastern Shore. The void created by his absence is already immense. His business acumen, management and engineering skills will be missed, but it is the loss of his friendship which will impact us the most.


NOTABLE PROJECTS
Municipal

- **Berlin, MD:** water storage and distribution projects; Rte. 346 East and West sewer extension and rehabilitation; wastewater treatment expansion and spray irrigation system improvements; street reconstruction projects
- **Delmar, DE/MD:** water treatment plant and well pump modifications; water distribution system; pump station upgrades; wastewater treatment plant upgrades; roadway improvements projects
- **Easton, MD:** on-call engineering and plan review; water, sewer & roadway design for Talbot Commerce Park; roadway improvements projects; stormwater improvements & SWM ordinance; Rails-to-Trails extension
- **Hurlock, MD:** water supply wells, treatment, & water distribution system improvements; sewer collection system upgrades; wastewater treatment plant upgrade; storm drain improvements
- **Snow Hill, MD:** water supply, distribution system & elevated storage tank improvements; sewer system improvements

Commercial

- Pecan Square, Salisbury, MD
- North Pointe Plaza, Salisbury, MD
- College Square Shopping Center
- The Commons, Salisbury, MD
- Harris Teeter, Easton, MD

Educational

- The Orchard Student Housing, Salisbury, MD
- Bennett Middle School, Salisbury, MD
- Miscellaneous project for University of MD - Eastern Shore

Residential

- Bayville Shores, Fenwick Island, DE
- The Preserves at Irons Landing, Sussex County, DE
- Seagrass Plantation, Sussex County, DE
- Village of Hope, Salisbury, MD

Jerry Friedel (continued)

DBF REFLECTIONS:

"Jerry developed a distinguished list of municipal clientele that became the backbone of the firm and the foundation from which we were able to grow. His entrepreneurial spirit was motivating to many of us, and is something that will be embraced for a long time to come." - DBF President Michael R. Wigley, AIA.

"Earn the client's confidence. Protect them and their communities. Add value to people's lives, and they will remember it.' Those were not just words; it was the way Jerry lived his life. He taught me to take pride in my relationships with clients." - DBF Associate Josh Taylor, P.E.

"Calm, cool, collected...short, sweet, and to the point, that was Jerry. He led our company in that manner, even when things got rough. He not only taught me the business but also how to handle the business. The importance of building relationships with clients and offering them the best we had. He gave me this opportunity, guided me to where I am today, and helped my family to establish our roots here on the Eastern Shore. I can't thank him enough for that. He was more than a boss or mentor, he was a friend that will be truly missed by many." - DBF principal Jason Loar, P.E.

"Challenge yourself and others to undertake what you may think is a difficult task. Consider innovative and alternative solutions.' Often tasked with difficult challenges, Jerry always knew he could assemble a team to complete the task. He was a great leader, mentor and friend." - DBF Associate Andrew Welch, P.E.

