



## Ervin Ralph Blish

August 24, 1927 - June 22, 2013

Ervin Ralph Blish, age 85, died June 22, 2013 at home. Ervin was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 24, 1927, to George Ralph Blish and Ruby Jane (Troyer) Blish. He rode his bike to school, had a paper route from a young age, and worked part-time at Burroughs Adding Machine Company while attending Lincoln Central High School. Upon graduation at 17, he joined the Navy during World War II and was a proud member of Captain Eddy's Navy in the early study of radar. Through careful rationing of his GI Bill benefits, Ervin completed his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Nebraska in 1949, with additional credits in liberal arts.

Although considered the rakish upperclassman sailor in the Palladian Literary Society, Ervin pursued a movie date with freshman Louise Metzger. Despite her friends' concerns, a college romance began. He rode a motorcycle across 400 miles of rough 1950 Nebraska roads to visit Louise's family ranch in the Sand Hills.

After her graduation, Ervin and Louise married in Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 9, 1951. They first lived in Great Bend, Kansas, then moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1967 where Ervin became the chief engineer at Hoosier Energy.

Ervin worked for several electrical distribution and construction firms during his career as a Professional Engineer and was a

50-year member of the IEEE. Projects he oversaw included the construction of electrical power generating plants in Indiana and Kentucky; the Army's M-1 tank facility in Lima, Ohio; and the Citizens Fidelity Tower in Louisville, Kentucky. Recruited by the Agency for International Development during the Kennedy administration, he traveled to Ecuador and Peru to oversee the delivery of electrical power to remote areas high in the Andes.

Ervin was a reader from his early years. His hero was Clarence Darrow; his poets, Kipling and Robert Service. He was a lifelong liberal. He liked word puzzles and Nebraska Cornhusker football; many decks of cards were replaced before his children introduced him to Free Cell. He enjoyed being the clever patriarch of the family. The engineer in him was fond of dismantling, and usually fixing, household items.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Louise Blish; his children Angela O'Malley (Tim), Rebecca Carter (Steve), Jeanette Hathaway (Jeff), and David Blish (Susan); his grandchildren Alison O'Malley (Sean Larson), Emily O'Malley, Andrew Hinnefeld (Misty), Edward Hinnefeld, Elizabeth Hathaway (John Balbach Jr.), Brian Hathaway, Madeline Blish, and Abigail Blish; and great-grandchildren Maya and Charles Hinnefeld.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Robert George Blish.

Friends of the family are invited to a memorial service at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, 2013, at Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S Old State Road 37, Bloomington. An informal celebration of Ervin's life will continue until 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his name may be made to Shriners Hospitals, Goodwill Industries, or the Salvation Army.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at

[www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org).

# Tribute Wall

DO

“ Dear Jeanette, I was sorry to hear of your father's passing. Please accept my sympathies.

Douglas Walcerz - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

TO

“ Dear Louise, I was sorry to read of the passing of your husband, Ervin. His eloquent and loving obituary was very moving. I think often about your tales of growing up on the ranch in Nebraska. You are in my thoughts.

Tom Rhea - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

SA

“ Dear Becky,  
I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. My hope is that during this painful time you and your family find some comfort from remembrances of him. My thoughts are with you.

Sandie Hoff - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

MI

“ My condolences to the entire family. There was obviously a lot of adventure and enjoyment in his lifetime-certainly so much to celebrate in his memory.

Mike Beam - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

ST

“ To my old friend, Dave. I was deeply saddened to hear of your father's passing. I do hope you will accept the condolences of an old high school friend during your time of loss.

Steven Douglas - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

WN

“ *Dear Blish Family,*

*May you find comfort in the memories of your Husband and Father,  
May those memories last forever.  
With Sympathy.*

*Naomi and Wayne Johnson,  
Bloomington,IN, but now live in Anthem AZ.*

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**Wayne and Naomi Johnson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

SH

“ *Dave. My deepest prayers are with you on the loss of your father.  
He seemed like a lead an incredible life. We too are Husker fans! I  
have been back to Lincoln a few times and have visited the  
"stadium" and it puts me in awe. I will now think of him when I watch  
a game. Take care.*

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**Shelley Sautter** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

SU

“ *Dear Angie--*

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. It is difficult to lose a parent in all  
circumstances, and your mother is especially in my thoughts as  
well.*

*Thoughts and prayers are being sent you way.*

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**Susan Gulick** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JD

“ Dear Becky, Steve and Family, My heart goes out to you, and thoughts and prayers are with you. In deepest sympathy, Julie Bennett Dreesen

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**Julie Bennett Dreesen** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JO

“ Sending deepest sympathies to the entire Blish family, and especially to Louise and Becky. Though I didn't know Erv well, I remember him fondly, and it was lovely to learn more about his life through reading his fine obituary.

You are all in my thoughts.

Joyce Hinnefeld

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**Joyce Hinnefeld** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

MP

“ Peace and love to the family. No doubt that he was a great man.

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**Marni and Paul Karaffa** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

MI

“ Dear Becky,

Condolences on the loss of your father. May your happy memories of times together help you and your family through this difficult time and in the days to come.

Sincerely,

Mindy

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**Mindy Pavlik** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

DE

“ *My sincerest sympathies.*

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**Deanna Jessup** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM