



Eric King-Smith

March 3, 1926 - June 24, 2023

Eric King-Smith aged 97 passed away peacefully Saturday morning June 24th. Eric was born in Melbourne, Australia on March 3rd, 1926 to Frederick and Irene King-Smith. When growing up in Melbourne, Eric attended Scotch College, a private high school, where he was awarded a 4-year full tuition scholarship based on his entry exams. He continued his schooling at the University of Melbourne, in Melbourne, Australia graduating with a bachelors degree with honors in Engineering in 1947. He completed a masters degree in Electrical Engineering in 1948 and PHD in Electrical Engineering in 1968.

In 1948 he worked with the Australian Commonwealth Civil Aviation department in Melbourne Australia, on navigational aids for civil aircraft. The distance measuring system he worked on is the basis for all aircraft distance measuring systems used today world wide. He also worked on electrical systems for the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation's Sabre Jet. Later he worked with Rola company in the manufacture of broadcast quality audio components including tape recorders, turntables and radios.

He rejoined the University of Melbourne in 1958 as a senior lecturer in Electrical Engineering. In 1961, he procured the first computer for the Electrical Engineering department, a dual processor analog computer called MUDPAC (Melbourne University Dual Package Analog Computer). He also consulted with industry on control systems for large coal mine shovels in

Victoria Australia, and flight control systems for early rocket development in Woomera Australia.

In 1965 when he took sabbatical leave, he took the family to the United States and spent the year as a visiting professor and special lecturer at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor Michigan. While in Ann Arbor, he decided to go back and develop a PhD in Biomedical Engineering. When he completed his degree in 1970 at the University of Michigan, he took a position at Medtronic Inc in St. Anthony Minnesota. While at Medtronic he was involved in wide ranging work including nuclear powered pacemakers and early artificial hearts.

In 1974, Eric took a position at Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M) in St. Paul Minnesota, and worked on early library theft prevention systems. He then went back into biomedical engineering where his major success was the 3M TENZCARE product. This was the first commercially successful TENS device (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulator) used to relieve local pain.

Eric retired in 1991, and to keep busy he tutored students at Breck School and others in the Twin Cities area well into his 70's. Throughout his life he was active in a wide variety of organizations including Jewish Education and his synagogues, acting, including in being an extra in the movie A Serious Man, and he loved attending Gilbert and Sullivan operetta's as well as concerts in the Twin Cities area. His love of music led to him playing recorder into his middle 80's in groups in the Twin Cities and Florida.

In his later years he enjoyed getting together with the far-flung children and grandchildren and enjoying their wide-ranging accomplishments. He was very proud of the people they grew up to be. In the last few years, he was able to greet the next generation in his three great-grandchildren.

Eric was preceded in death by his parents Frederick and Irene (nee Harlem) King-Smith, his brother Ronald King-Smith, his sister Valerie Jacobson, and his former wife Ruth King-Smith. He is survived by his wife Roxie King-Smith, his children Judith Uridge (George deceased), Bernard King-Smith (Lisa), Naomi King-Smith (Todd Werner), grandchildren Shawn, Laura (Andrew Gordon), Theodore (Brittany) , David, Arielle (Yaniv Wolf), Benjamin (fiancé Sarah) and Jonathan, great-grandchildren Calvin, Madison and Leo. He is also thankful for Roxie's children Gail (Reuben), Dan (Melissa) and Ann (Stuart), as well as Gail's children Ben and Sol for the relationship they developed with him.

Donations should be directed to Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis (JFCS) or a youth fund at the Adath Jeshurun Congregation in Minnetonka, Minn. For those in Australia the B'nai Brith Bernard Lustig scholarship fund in Melbourne Australia or Mount Scopus College, Melbourne Australia.

Graveside service 4:00 PM Tuesday, June 27 at Adath Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery, 3740 Winnetka Ave N, Crystal.

A gathering with those family members who are from out of town.

5:30 PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023

Springhill Suites - 1st-floor conference room

5901 Wayzata Blvd.

St Louis Park, MN

Shiva Service

7:00 PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023

Adath Jeshurun Congregation

10500 Hillside Lane

Minnetonka, MN

Funeral arrangements with Adath Jeshurun Chevra Kavod Hamet and

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Graveside Service for Eric King-Smith in memory of Eric King-Smith



Washburn-McReavy - June 26, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ I remember when "Cousin Eric" would come to Melbourne to visit from America. I was about 12 or 13 years old and he would bring a two inch thick Sears Roebuck catalog with him for us to pore over, marveling at the sheer number of choices of everything from clothes to appliances. I also remember birthday parties for Bernie, Judith, and Naomi in Moorabbin, and they attending my own birthday events put together by my mum, "Auntie Joyce". Like all of my family, Eric has lived a long and very productive life, in both hemispheres. I'm sure he's just as energetic in Heaven as he was here on Earth. He will be fondly remembered.

Sandi Clarke Cloutier - June 27, 2023 at 03:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Frederick King-smith



Mike Jacobson - June 27, 2023 at 08:33 AM



Dear Judy, Bernie and Naomi,

The news of your father's passing last Saturday brought great sadness, but also a flood of fond memories.

I remember clearly the halcyon days in the 1950s-'60s, when Frederick snr and Irene King-smith's three children - Frederick jnr, Ronald and Valerie (my mother) - and their young families lived within a few minutes' walk of each other's homes in Patterson Road, Moorabbin.

One occasion that springs to mind is when I cut my hand on a sharp gutter while climbing onto our garage roof. In my parent's temporary absence (it was a very different era!), Uncle Eric shoulder-carried me to the local GP who stitched up my wound.

The vast distance between Eric's original and adopted homelands was never too great for him to cross frequently, at first by air and latterly by phone and the Internet as the years took their toll.

His Australian accent remained stubbornly intact for more than half a century until his dying day, which must have intrigued his many American colleagues and friends!

With deep condolences and love, I wish 'a long life' to Eric's grieving relatives.

*Michael Jacobson
Sydney, Australia*

Mike Jacobson - June 27, 2023 at 09:03 AM

GF

“ *I loved Pop and appreciate how supportive and special he was over a huge chunk of my life. He was so kind to my mother and my siblings as a true gentleman and mensch. I loved him a lot, he was very special to me, a rock of sorts in life that is sometimes spinning out of control. He was smart, had a fantastic knack for stories, and was genuinely happy toward everyone he met. I'll miss you Pop. Sending you and yours love while you are in your eternal rest.*

Gail Freedman - June 26, 2023 at 01:07 PM