



Orwell Arthur Erickson

April 20, 2018

Orwell Arthur Erickson, age 97, of Minneapolis, MN, passed away on April 20, 2018. He lived at the Northfield Retirement Community at Cannon Valley Suites for nearly four years.

Orwell was born in Dalton, Minnesota, on March 26, 1921, to Oscar and Anna Erickson. He attended a country school where he graduated from the Eighth grade. He entered into military service (Army Air Force) in 1942 and trained to be an aircraft mechanic. He became the crew chief of a B-29 aircraft and served in Guam until 1946. He received a Bronze Star.

After WWII, Dad married Gwendolyn Hallett in Fergus Falls, MN on June 8, 1946. He attended carpentry school in Minneapolis and graduated in 1949 as a Journeyman Carpenter. He worked as a Building/Remodeling Contractor and built the family home in St. Louis Park. He established a construction company with Merrill Nilsen (Nilsen-Erickson Inc.) He and Gwen resided in the home at 7639 West 14th Street for 56 years. The couple had three daughters.

Gwen and Orwell were active members at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, and he was a member for 69 years. Orwell enjoyed singing in the choir and was on various committees, including the Building Committee. They moved to Calvary Cooperative (Golden Valley) in 2000 and Orwell lived there until 2014, when he moved to Northfield Retirement Community. At Calvary

Coop, he served on the Activities Committee, Finance Committee and as Chairman of Men's Coffee for many years.

He retired in 1984. During Orwell's retirement years, he enjoyed playing the guitar, violin and keyboard. He built an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar. He repaired many violins and donated some to local school orchestras. He also enjoyed woodworking, gardening and writing the stories of his life. He volunteered as a cook for Loaves and Fishes for twelve years.

Orwell will be remembered for his kindness, sense of humor, words of wisdom and his grateful heart. His legacy is faith and love.

Survivors include daughters Susan Braxmeier (Topeka, KS), Cathy Bennetts (Northfield, MN) and Laurie Erickson (Crystal, MN); four grandchildren: Sarah (Ian) Connel, John (Stephanie) Bennetts, Rosalyn (Jamey) Cooper, and Austin Braxmeier.

Three great-grandchildren: Liam and Claire Connel; Nolan Cooper.

The Celebration of Life Service for Orwell will be Monday, April 30, 2018, at the Northfield Retirement Center Chapel, 11 a.m. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. Memorials preferred to American Bible Society or Smile Train.

Tribute Wall

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“ *My deepest sympathy to all of Mr. Erickson's family at this sad time. I so enjoyed seeing Laurie's posts and videos of him on Facebook over the years. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Rest in Peace.*

*Sue Hendrickson
Hermantown, MN*

Susan R Hendrickson - April 28, 2018 at 10:41 PM