

Ernest W. Liska (1945-2019)

Ernst Liska was born on March 4, 1945 in Woodbury, New Jersey. Following high school, he entered Drexel University where he earned a degree in Chemical Engineering. Ernie was always grateful for the scholarship that he received to help with his education.

After college, Ernie was drafted during the Vietnam War, starting his Army career with basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. With a strong academic and technical background, Ernie began Officer Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He continued his studies at Oklahoma University, eventually earning an MBA.

Ernie's military service took him to Vietnam, where he was assigned to an artillery unit, and then to Germany, serving at a Nike missile base. Achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he later continued his military service in the reserves. Following his military duties, Ernie was employed at the Pentagon where he worked in the office of the Secretary of Defense. Throughout a career spanning 26 years in the military and with the US government, Ernie was respected for his knowledge and ability to relate to both military staff and fellow workers.

Ernie was a kind and giving man touching many lives while tirelessly doing things for others. Whether taking people to the doctor, grocery store, or church or visiting in nursing homes and feeding the homeless or providing support to various programs and committees at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, he was always giving. He was instrumental in the development of many activities and organizations, as well as services to individuals in need. Partnering with Warriors Journey Home, he helped to start a local support group for veterans; he assisted in the creation of LINKS, an after-school tutoring program for students from Akron City Schools; and over the years, he offered transportation to many individuals, including participants of the InterFaith Caregivers program. Devoted to helping children, Ernie was also involved in a special outreach ministry at Robinson CLC, a neighboring school in the Akron Public Schools system.

Of course, his family was a huge recipient of his giving and love - the annual summer beach trip with the whole family was his favorite time. From children to grandchildren and then great-grandchildren, he supported and watched over them all. Whether babysitting them all summer long, getting them on or off the school bus, or putting them through college, he was always there to meet the need. His wisdom and love were invaluable and served to guide family members throughout his life.

