

## In Remembrance of Fred Erdman

It is with a very heavy heart that I write that on December 21, 2021, Robert “Fred” Erdman passed away at the age of 81. Fred was a Life Member having joined ASHRAE in 1972, was a licensed Mechanical Engineer and never retired. Fred loved working, and was one of the most knowledgeable engineers in the city. I first met Fred when I was trying to find a summer job after my freshman year in college in 1991. Fred was the mechanical department head at Frankfurt Short Bruza and he agreed to meet with me even though I showed up at the office without making an appointment or even calling ahead. Fred thanked me for coming by, showed me around, told me about the work they did, then showed me the door telling me they didn’t have any openings. But he was very friendly about it because he knew my dad from his days working at The Benham Group and Fred always thought very highly of my dad. I ended up working at The Benham Group during each of my summer and winter breaks during college and then fulltime once I graduated in 1995. However, I made the move from Benham to FSB in 2001 when I was hired by Gary James, the mechanical department head at the time, who took over when Fred moved into a senior production engineer position at FSB. I joked with Fred that he wouldn’t hire me but Gary would. In 2008, I took over the mechanical department head position when Gary became a Principal with FSB, and I became Fred’s boss! Fred and I worked very closely together for over 13 years from 2001 through 2014. Many times, we worked on the same projects, but even when we worked on different projects, we still, daily, bounced ideas off each other, solved problems together, went to lunch together, and attended training events together. I’m very thankful for all that I learned from him. I admired his work ethic and I greatly enjoyed his sense of humor. Here is Fred’s obituary:

*Robert Frederick “Fred” Erdman, Jr., passed away December 21, 2021, following a brief illness. He was born January 23, 1940, in Oklahoma City, the son of Dr. Robert Frederick Erdman, Sr. and Mary Frances Cornett Erdman. Fred’s father was a dentist in the US Navy. Growing up in a career Naval Officer home, Fred lived in many places, attending 16 different schools. He graduated high school from Lake Forest Academy in Chicago, IL, before returning to Oklahoma to attend OU. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from OU and later earned an MBA from Central State University in Edmond. Fred served six years in the US Military during the Vietnam war. He returned to Oklahoma and began a 57-year career as a Mechanical Engineer, including 37 years at the architectural-engineering firm of Frankfurt, Short and Bruza. He was a member of numerous engineering societies. Fred was an avid fisherman and enjoyed visiting the Southwest and Canada, as well as rain forests. He was a member of a Mini-Cooper Car Club and enjoyed traveling with the group. He was also an avid sports fan and a 35-year season ticket holder for OU football. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Lynette; one son, Dr. Charles Erdman and wife, Dr. Sharon Anne Raghubar of Suffolk, VA; four grandchildren, Isabel Carpenter and husband 1st Lt. Scott Carpenter, Sam Erdman, Gabrielle Erdman, and Ian Zimmermann; and two brothers, Erich Erdman and wife Linda of Florida, and Glenn Erdman and wife Amy of New York. His parents and one brother, Cornett, preceded him in death. A memorial service will be Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 2pm at Smith & Kernke N. May Chapel.*

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