Ervin G. Bublitz

Sept. 12, 1934 — July 23, 2014


Ervin was born Sept. 12, 1934, in Winona, to Ervin and Alone Bublitz. He attended Winona public schools and after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from St. Mary’s University in Winona, Erv graduated with a Master of Science degree in sociology from Winona State. He went on to earn his doctorate in sociology from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1970, Erv returned to Winona State to teach sociology and later serve as department chairman. He was also the coordinator of the criminal justice program, the law enforcement program and law enforcement internships. He loved his work as an educator and is remembered by his students as eloquent and cantankerous. Erv was a generous benefactor to Winona State, giving hundreds of scholarships to students in sociology, social work and criminal justice studies.

Ervin’s love of art and the West led him to donate his collections of Southwest Native American pottery, Frederic Remington bronze sculptures and Navajo rugs to Winona State University. His contributions may number at least 200 pieces of art on campus. After he retired in 2010, Erv divided his time between his home in Winona and his homes in southern Colorado and southern New Mexico.

Throughout his life, Ervin spent many thoughtful, peaceful and happy hours out on the Mississippi River with his beloved golden retrievers. He was an avid duck-hunter following the fine example of his dad. He kept bees and was proud of his backyard garden’s tomatoes, green beans and Swiss chard. He picked blackberries along the St. Mary’s walking paths. Erv was a lifelong member of the YMCA in Winona. He loved his family and was a dedicated uncle to his nephews and nieces.

Ervin was preceded in death by his parents; and his brothers, John, Bill and Robert. He is survived by his sister, Bonnie Woodford; and her husband, Roland; by his sister, Sally Hanner; and her husband, Lester Dore; and by his sister-in-law, Sally Bublitz (Rob); his sister-in-law, Betty Bublitz (Bill); many nieces and nephews; and by his golden retriever, Dusters.

Erv planned a celebration of his life which will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the East Hall of Kryzsko Commons on the Winona State University Campus. A reception will be held immediately afterward. Private burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona.

Online condolences or memories may be left for Erv’s family at www.watkowski-mulyck.com. Entrusted to our care--Watkowski-Mulyck Funeral Home.