



# Railsplitter Obituary



## **Robert M. Erffmeyer, Major General. U.S. Army, Retired**

April 20, 1926 - September 20, 2012

Erffmeyer, Robert M. (US ARMY-RET) of Wauwatosa passed away at home surrounded by his family and reunited with his wife, Helen on Thursday, September 20, 2012, age 86 years. Beloved husband for 59 years of the late Helen M. (nee Olson). Dear father of Nancy Helen (Chris) Petchel, Amy Lou Erffmeyer, Wendy Lee (Terry) Braatz, Sandra Sue (Larry) Patterson and Holly Belle (Dan) Bauer. Loving grandfather of Josie (Matt) McKenney, Sydney Petchel, Stacey Rademacher, Mandy, Adam and Allie Braatz, Andy, Tony, Austin and Aaron Patterson and Lilly Bartel and two great grandchildren, Emmalee and Brody McKenney. Further survived by other relatives and friends.

Robert was president of the Erffmeyer & Son Company (ESCO) and skillfully grew the business during his 60+ year tenure. His leadership and respect for company employees and skill and knowledge in serving its customers will be sorely missed.

He had a 40 year career in the military, starting with his enlistment as a naval aviation cadet immediately out of high school (St. John's Military Academy) during WWII and ending with the position of Commander of the 84th Division, retiring as a Major General.

During his command, he was selected to be a member of the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee – a reserve and guard military advisory committee to the Secretary of The Army. Robert was also a 33rd Degree Mason and Honorary Member of the Supreme Council (AASR, NMJ). He was Commander and Chief of



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the Wisconsin Consistory and a member of both the Red Cross of Constantine and the Royal Order of Jesters (Past Director). Robert is a graduate of University of Wisconsin – Madison, graduating with a Ph B in Economics. During college, he joined ROTC and received his commission upon graduation. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He served as a board member for number of organizations, including St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, the Masonic Valley of Milwaukee and the Village at Manor Park. He also acquired a pilot's license and flew for many years. Robert's personal interests included military history, most especially the civil war. He was a member and supporter of the Civil War Round Table and Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, tracing his ancestry to the infamous Iron Brigade. Most importantly, he was a phenomenal husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.