



Ernest Lightfoot Kohnke

February 20, 1935 - May 16, 2022

Ernest Lightfoot Kohnke, 87, of Houston, passed away May 16, 2022. Ernie was born February 20, 1935, in New York, New York to Ernst and Hilda Lightfoot Kohnke. He is preceded in death by his parents, and he is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ruth Mae, daughter Debbie McGalin and her husband John, son Ernie Kohnke and his wife Marjena, grandchildren Kendall McGalin, Ernie Kohnke and Lexi Kohnke.

Ernie grew up in New York City and graduated from Stuyvesant High School and from City College of New York, with a degree in chemistry. In college, Ernie worked a part-time job running elevators at the Empire State Building. He moved to New Jersey to start his career with Exxon as a chemist and retired as a Human Resources manager. In 1973, he transferred to Houston and remained there until retirement, after 35 years of service.

Ernie enjoyed travelling the world with his family, volunteering as a tutor in math at Nottingham Elementary and Stratford High School and helping seniors with tax returns through the AARP. Ernie loved to paint, research his genealogy and was a member of The Houston Racquet Club. Ernie was intelligent, caring, and could make anyone laugh.

There will be a celebration of his life, at the Houston Racquet Club, 10709 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024, on Friday, June 10th from 5:00 to 7:00

pm. In lieu of flowers please consider a charitable donation in Ernie's honor to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, Citizen's for Animal Protection (CAP), or The Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **10**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Houston Racquet Club
10709 Memorial Dr. Houston, Texas 77024

Tribute Wall



“ Ernest Lightfoot Kohnke

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ Ernest Lightfoot Kohnke

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ Ernest Lightfoot Kohnke

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ Ernest Lightfoot Kohnke

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ Ruth Mae, I just heard about Ernie's passing. I am so sorry. He was the greatest boss and friend. We had such a good group at Coal & Minerals. My prayers are with you and your family. Love, Lisa Bibb Furry.

Lisa Bibb Furry - June 23, 2022 at 08:54 PM