

Joseph Earl Blume, age 79, of Herman, Minnesota, passed away on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Essentia Health Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota, after a brief illness.

Joe was born on September 15, 1946, in Wheaton, Minnesota, to Harold and Elizabeth "Betty" (Newberger) Blume. The second of eight children, he grew up on the family farm south of Herman, where he developed the steady, dependable approach he took to everything in life. As a young man, he showed beef cattle at the Minnesota State Fair and served as president of the Future Farmers of America chapter at Herman High School, graduating in 1964.

After attending North Dakota State University for a semester and participating in Air Force ROTC, Joe enlisted in the United States Navy. Following boot camp in San Diego, he served four years in Naval Air Intelligence, traveling the world aboard the aircraft carriers USS Kitty Hawk and USS Forrestal. While serving on the Forrestal during the Vietnam War, he survived the devastating fire of July 29, 1967, in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Following his military service, Joe earned his private pilot's license, farmed, and worked at the parts counter of Blume Equipment. While visiting his Navy buddies in Colorado, he met Susan Wright, a teacher from Minnesota who was there spending the holidays with her family.

Joe and Susan were married on June 10, 1972, at St. Charles Catholic Church. They made their home in Herman before moving to the family farm, where they raised their children, Andrea and Greg. Joe farmed for more than 50 years, working alongside his brothers and later his son, raising sugar beets, corn, wheat, soybeans, sunflowers, and alfalfa.

Deeply committed to his community, Joe served through the Herman American Legion, the Herman Development Corporation, St. Charles Catholic Church, and the Herman-Norcross School Board. Above all, he cherished his seven grandchildren and enjoyed cheering them on at their activities. He had a lifelong love of photography and was often spotted with his camera in hand, capturing happenings around Herman. Known for his quick wit, endless curiosity, and gift for striking up a conversation with just about anyone, he was also fond of gifting the \$2 bill, and was famous for his enthusiastic "Go Navy!" during the annual Veterans Day program.

Joe is survived by his wife of 54 years, Susan; daughter Andrea (Jeff) Tilkes of Savage; son Greg (Heidi) Blume of Herman; grandchildren: Hunter (Sophie), Lauren, Natalie, Zander, Brielle, Mya, and Ryder; brothers Walt (Patt), Paul (Beth), and Fr. David Blume; sister Pat (Greg) Knight; 18 nieces and nephews; and a large extended family and friends who will forever hold him in their hearts.

He was preceded in death by his twin infant daughters, Christine and Colleen; his parents, Harold and Betty Blume; his parents-in-law, Ralph and Margaret Wright; sisters Ginny Summer and Kathy Bacon; and brother Mike Blume.



In Loving Memory Of
Joseph Earl Blume
September 15, 1946 ~ June 18, 2026



In Loving Memory Of Joseph Earl Blume

Date of Birth
September 15, 1946

Entered Into Rest
June 18, 2026

Memorial Mass

3:00 PM, June 25, 2026

St. Charles Catholic Church, Herman, Minnesota

Celebrant

Fr. Jose Chettoor

Organist

Marilyn Backman

Soloist

Peggy Corey

Gift Bearers

Natatie Tilkes & Zander Blume

Lectors

Jim Wright
Lauren Tilkes
Michelle Jones

Alter Servers

Nathan Olson
Olivia Olson

Eucharistic Minister

Fr. David Blume
Katy Blume
Joan Kirkeide

Urn Bearers

Joseph's Grandchildren

Military Rites Provided By

C. Walter Larson American Legion Post #378

Burial

Lakeside Cemetery, Herman, Minnesota