



Jonathan Paul Blitz

February 22, 1959 - September 29, 2024

Jonathan Paul Blitz, age 65, of Crown Point, Indiana, formerly of Charleston, Illinois, died on September 29, 2024. Jon was born February 22, 1959, in Norwalk, Connecticut, the youngest child of Paul and Betty Blitz.

Jon met his wife of 40 years, Erin (Williams), as students at the University of Puget Sound. After graduating, they packed his VW Bug and moved to Colorado. There, while Jon completed his Chemistry PhD at Colorado State University, they had their first child, Ian. Upon completion of his post doc with Batelle at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, Jon and his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where he worked as an industrial chemist. In Cincinnati, Jon and Erin had their second child, Jordy, and third child, Thorin. Seeking more engaging work that included research and publishing, Jon accepted a job as a professor at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. While working at EIU, Jon applied and won a competitive Fullbright Scholarship allowing him and his family to live in Australia for half a year.

In 2009, Jon was diagnosed with brain cancer. He subsequently participated in a trial treatment, successfully resulting in remission. After this experience, Jon sought new challenges in the form of union advocacy, for which it turned out he had a particular penchant. Jon served as Vice President, lead contract negotiator, President of Eastern's union branch, and then Treasurer of the

union's Illinois chapter. Utilizing his unwavering determination, pragmatism, and strategic approach to life, Jon substantially improved the incomes and working conditions of his colleagues, ultimately earning his name on University Professionals of Illinois' wall of fame.

As a husband and father, Erin stated she "had no complaints" regarding Jon's conduct (which if you knew her, you would understand is the highest honor bestowed). As with everything else, Jon brought a calmness, easy-going, intentional, humorous, and thoughtful approach to family life. Never lashing out or letting emotions of the moment negatively impacting his relationships, he was always someone on which you could rely. Jon's colleagues saw these characteristics as well, making lifelong friends wherever he worked. His family loved and admired him, as he imparted his values of kindness and gentleness, which were expertly balanced with measured assertiveness.

Jon is survived by his wife, sons: Ian (Emily) of Chicago and Thorin (Natalie Weill) of Jericho, VT, and daughter, Jordy Novak (Andrew), and grandson, Jona Ray Novak of Crown Point, and brother Terry Blitz (Laurie) of Mesa, AZ. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Marsha Hollister.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. CDT until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, Indiana with Rabbi Diane Tracht officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to Malnati Brain Tumor Institute (MBTI) at Northwestern. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT 6. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Memorial Service

OCT 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

RS

“ Jon was very helpful to me in suggesting restaurants and places to visit when my wife and I visited the Chicago area to attend a Thanksgiving church conference held in Schaumburg in 2013. I will always remember his generosity and upbeat personality. It was a privilege knowing Jon since I first met him in 1995 when he worked as a consultant for PQ Corporation. I am sure he is missed by many, but his memory lives on in his children and all the many people he touched during his life.

Ron Shinomoto - January 07, 2025 at 12:25 PM

JC

“ Jonathan was and will always be a valued colleague, a wonderful collaborator, and a friend. A friendship born from sometimes adversarial organizational philosophies. Jon was respectful and open to listen to and consider alternative ideas and points of view. His was a gentle but unwavering soul. I will miss corresponding with him in our retirement. My sincere and heart-felt condolences to Erin and all Jon's family.

Jeff Cross - October 06, 2024 at 08:08 PM



Thank you Jeff! I know Jon considered you an admirable adversary.

Erin Blitz - October 07, 2024 at 03:22 PM

KH

“ Kai H. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jonathan Paul Blitz.

Kai H. - October 06, 2024 at 03:56 PM

LH

“ Li Zhong & Hongshan He planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jonathan Paul Blitz.

Li Zhong & Hongshan He - October 05, 2024 at 11:20 PM



“ I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket was purchased for the family of Jonathan Paul Blitz.



October 05, 2024 at 11:20 PM

LJ

“ Love, Nicole & Jason planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jonathan Paul Blitz.

Love, Nicole & Jason - October 05, 2024 at 07:11 PM

LJ

“ Love, Nicole & Jason purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jonathan Paul Blitz.



Love, Nicole & Jason - October 05, 2024 at 07:11 PM

PE

“ Phillip, Uyen and Alexia Earl purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jonathan Paul Blitz.



Phillip, Uyen and Alexia Earl - October 05, 2024 at 11:39 AM

SC

“ Shaun Clark planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jonathan Paul Blitz.

Shaun Clark - October 05, 2024 at 11:05 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jonathan Paul Blitz.



October 05, 2024 at 11:05 AM

JA

“ Jon's gift was to give himself fully to his commitments: science, community, friendship, and family. He never let anyone down. My favorite memory is of Jon and Erin enjoying a Mark Knopfler concert on October 2, 2015.

John Allison - October 03, 2024 at 08:57 PM



Thank you John! That was a great concert!

Erin Blitz - October 07, 2024 at 03:20 PM

DE

“ Department of Chemistry, EIU purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jonathan Paul Blitz.



Department of Chemistry, EIU - October 03, 2024 at 05:32 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Jonathan Paul Blitz.



October 03, 2024 at 03:35 PM

JM

“ Sent today to UPI members across the state:

A message from UPI President John Miller:

With great sadness and profound respect for our friend and colleague, we mourn the passing of Jon Blitz. Jon fought a great battle with cancer. While the cancer defeated his body, it never defeated his spirit.

Jon will forever be in the annals of the University Professionals of Illinois. As an activist at Eastern Illinois University, Jon served on several negotiating teams including Chief Negotiator during very challenging fiscal times. Jon also served as a delegate to the UPI House of Delegates, several chapter offices, and finally as the Chapter President at EIU. He also served as a delegate to the Illinois Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of Teacher. In Jon's last position, he took on the challenge of serving as the Local Treasurer where he helped update and improve the fiscal standing of the Local.

Jon was respected for his insight, calmness, willingness to help, humor, honesty, and moral strength. He was a true friend to many, myself included. He brought a passion and compassion and a willingness to challenge to everything he did with us.

We were always honored to call Jon our friend and so there was great joy when he made an appearance at our annual House of Delegates dinner last March. We honored Jon by restarting our Wall of Fame with his induction. To have him present at this event was a gift.

Thank you to his family and especially his wife Erin for lending his time to us and all our members.

You will be missed, Jon.

John Miller - October 02, 2024 at 07:58 PM



Thank you John for the wonderful tribute! Jon's work with the union was something he was truly passionate about.

Erin Blitz - October 07, 2024 at 03:19 PM

TR

“ A core memory I have of Jon is when I asked him what his "flavor" of chemistry was over a dinner - was it at our house? your house? probably your house! - not too long after we had moved to Charleston. We had done the usual round of getting to know each other questions with everyone else there, most of whom were in some way affiliated with EIU. I asked Jon my question and he was silent. Erin, you said, "oh he's not used to people asking about his area of interest" And then, he and I began to talk. Over the years that we lived around the corner from your family, I had ample opportunities to talk with Jon and your kids, over many an excellent meal. The year before we moved away, I remember eating burgers with Jon at the Labor Day cookout, where he told us of his newer role with the union. I am not surprised he excelled in this! Jon's friendship to us is a treasured memory. Sending you and your kids our love and support <3 Teresa, Eric, and Julia Hake

Teresa Rowell - October 02, 2024 at 01:30 PM



Thank you Teresa for the wonderful memory! I'm so sorry we didn't get to take the retirement road trip to North Carolina and the east coast we had planned.

Erin Blitz - October 07, 2024 at 03:00 PM