

Paul Marcus Mikelson, 84, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at his home in Bella Vista. Paul was born on March 23, 1925 in New England, North Dakota, the eldest son of Rev. Martin and Selma (Olson) Mikelson.

In 1943, he graduated from high school in Ringling, Montana and enlisted in the United States Navy, serving aboard the Attack Transport USS Alpine in the Pacific Theatre. Upon his honorable discharge, Paul attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Here he met and was united in marriage to Shirley Ann Fladager in 1948. After graduating in 1950, Paul embarked on a 40 year banking career which took him and Shirley from Maddock, Sheyenne and Grand Forks, North Dakota to Winnetka, Illinois and to Bemidji, Minnesota. He was active in many civic organizations. Paul had a zest for life and a wandering spirit.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley; his parents; sisters, Magdalene Mikelson, Pernilla Rathgeber; Rudella Halvorson; brother, John Mikelson and granddaughter, Kari Hanson.

Survivors include son, Tom Mikelson (Pam) of Thompson, North Dakota; daughter, Mary Hanson (Greg) of Bloomington, Minnesota; brother, Reuben Mikelson (Irene) of Billings, Montana; grandson, Jake Mikelson (Trish) of Northwood, North Dakota; granddaughters, Kirsten Gensrich (Mike) of Northwood, North Dakota; Megan Mikelson of Thompson, North Dakota and Emily Hanson of Bloomington, Minnesota; grandson, Anders Hanson of Bloomington, Minnesota; four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a Family Graveside Service at Washington Lutheran Church, Rural Northwood, North Dakota at a future date. Arrangements are by the Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas.