

## Richard Bloch, "UMKC friend", dies at 78

[Fadhel Kaboub](#) Sept. 18. 2004

Richard A. Bloch, H&R Block co-founder, cancer survivor and a long time friend and supporter of the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration and UMKC, died of heart failure July 21st at the age of 78.

"Richard Bloch is the epitome of the type of leader that the Bloch School aspires to produce," said a message at UMKC's Bloch School website.

Bloch was remembered for the entrepreneurial talent that helped him and his brother, Henry, start H & R Block, a business specializing in income tax preparation. While Henry Bloch managed the company from its Kansas City headquarters, Richard Bloch crisscrossed the country, opening offices throughout the nation.

By 1962, H&R Block had 206 offices in 34 states. H&R Block's worldwide reach extends into 11 countries today.

"Dick was a true entrepreneur, and his energy and talents helped create the path that makes H&R Block the professional and accessible company it is today," said Mark Ernst, H&R Block's current chairman and chief executive.

"His personal integrity and commitment to helping people remain an important part of our company's culture," Ernst said.

Bloch refocused his energies and efforts on cancer survival when he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 1978. At the time, he was told that he had only three months to live.

After two years of aggressive therapy, he was able to overcome the disease. Bloch and his wife, Annette, then dedicated their lives to helping other cancer victims and their families.

In 1980, the two started the Cancer Hot Line, a volunteer organization, of more than 500 cancer survivors and the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation ([www.blochcancer.org](http://www.blochcancer.org))

Vangie Rich, the foundation's administrator, told the Associated Press that the foundation would continue its work.

"We will go forward with a very positive attitude and fulfill the mission he put forth," Rich said.

[www.kcaurora.com](http://www.kcaurora.com)

Copyright © 2004 The Kansas City Aurora