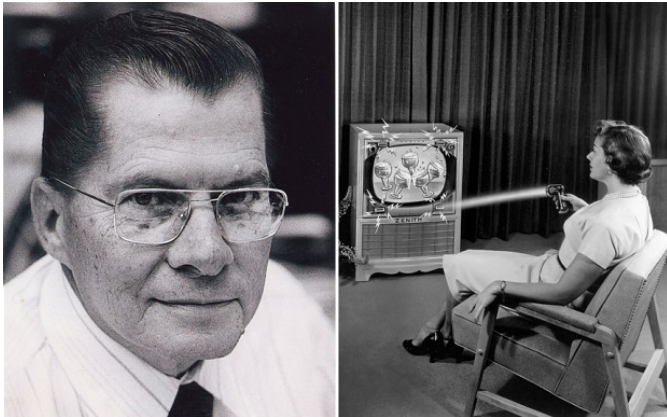


RIP Eugene Polley

Written by Marco Attard
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TV remote inventor Eugene Polley passed away age 96 from natural causes at a Chicago hospital.



Polley invented the TV remote-- making life a lot more comfortable for couch potatoes everywhere-- back in 1955 with the gun-like "Flash-Matic". It fired a light beam at 4 photo cells on each corner of the TV screen in order to turn switch between channels.

Original adverts described it as a "flash of magic light" that "you have to see to believe it." It wasn't perfect, mind-- sunlight affected the photo cells, changing channels at unexpected moments.

Polley was born in Chicago in 1915, and started his engineering career in 1935. His career with Flash-Matic makers Zenith Electronics lasted 47 years, earning him 18 US patents.

In 1997 Polley received an Emmy for his work together with fellow Zenith engineer Robert Adler.

Go [TV Remote Control Inventor Eugene Polley Dies at 96 \(BBC\)](#)