



## John Kenneth Blendheim

John Kenneth Blendheim was born in Ketchikan, AK, to Carl & Inga Blendheim in 1926. His brother Arthur was born two years later.

The family moved to Ballard in 1932. Shortly thereafter, his father's boat, FV Reliance, was lost at sea and all aboard perished. Soon after, his mother was institutionalized with MS. The boys spent the next several years at Everett's Lutheran Boys home. They were adopted by Martin & Elsie Nilsen and moved to Edmonds.

Ken graduated from Edmonds HS and joined the Navy. He served in WWII on the USS New Mexico. After his discharge, he married his high school sweetheart Donna Mae Wilcox. He graduated from Western Washington Univ. and taught at Edmonds Jr. High.

A man's man and athlete, he nonetheless loved their 5 daughters. The family moved to Bellevue after he went to work for Boeing. His working career ended early with his diagnosis of MS. Nothing stopped Ken from becoming a professional socializer! He loved the coffee klatch at the Sons of Norway, and was a 65 year member of the American Legion. He always had a ready smile and enjoyed his many friends.

Ken died peacefully in his sleep 1/11/13. Ken was preceded in death by his wife Donna. He is survived by his brother Arthur Nilsen; five daughters, Sue Johnston (Burdett), Kris Longley (Darwin-deceased), Marta Knox (Marvin), Jonnee Blendheim, and Gina Roberts (Mark); three grandsons and two great granddaughters. No service at his request. Donations may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/index.aspx>

*Published in The Seattle Times on January 13, 2013  
Thank you to Fred Frederickson [EHS'58] for this alert.*