

Kenneth W. Little

November 22, 2014 - 8:33am

Kenneth W. Little, age 87, died peacefully at Pacific Care Center in Hoquiam on Monday, Nov. 10, 2014.

Born Aug. 31, 1927, in Spokane, Wash. to William and Marguerite, he went to grade school in Spokane. The family moved to Seattle and Ken graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle before enlisting in the Army. When asked about his time in the military Ken would dryly respond: that his years of service amounted to being a "bed pan commando and manning a typewriter stateside" unlike his brother who had "fought on a battleship in the Pacific." After discharge from the Army he took advantage of the GI Bill and received his Bachelors Degree from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore.

Ken played on the University Tennis team and zealously engaged in campus fraternal traditions. His future wife Iris's interests during that time were her music studies, and Ken. Following graduation from Pacific he headed to Alaska for the summer in order to earn the money that would allow him to continue his studies in the social services. Iris saw that Ken's graduation could likely mean a parting of the ways and not content to let the moment slip by she reached out to him in the north country by sending him a tie she had lovingly knit and enclosed a note that said "this is the tie that binds, and you can take that any way you want". Ken and Iris were wed on June 8, 1952. The newlyweds headed to Chicago so that Ken could continue to pursue his studies receiving a Masters degree from George Williams College in Group Work Administration.

His education led him to a career with the YMCA, which was always a part of his life, and eventually brought him to Grays Harbor where he was Executive Director of the Aberdeen YMCA from 1967 to 1972. After his years at the "Y" he became a Mental Health Professional with Evergreen Counseling Center until his retirement.

Ken enjoyed sailing, tennis and most of all bridge, achieving the rank of "Gold Life Master." Interested in his Scottish heritage he was a member of the "Clan Little Society" He had been a member of the Lions and Rotary International. He also volunteered in the building of the Lady Washington.

Survivors include his wife Iris, a younger brother Frank Little of Seattle, two sons Don (Diane) and Brian (Julie) of Aberdeen. Ken was preceded in death by his daughter Kathy Howard of Spokane, great-grandson Porter Rudd and older brother Bob Little. He had four grandchildren Becky Rudd (Mike), Darcie Dingman (Andy) of Spokane, Dana York (Mike) from Olympia and Drew Little (Sarah) of Aberdeen and four great-grandchildren Joey Dingman, Emily and Tyler Rudd and Kaitlyn York.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 in the afternoon Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014 at the Aberdeen Elks Lodge, 1712 South Boone Street.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to:

YMCA of Grays Harbor, 2500 Simpson Ave., Hoquiam, WA 98550

Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, PO Box 2019, Aberdeen, WA 98520

