

Kenneth Joseph “Bud” Ross

Ken Ross, 82, of Lakeport died in hospital in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, October 19, 2008

Ken was born on Merritt Ranch, Kelseyville, on May 26, 1926 to Joseph Joaquin Ross and Anna Santos Ross. He grew up on the Ross ranch outside of Finley with his four younger sisters. In 1961, he met his future wife, Alva, a young registered nurse from Illinois. They married and had three children who were also reared in Lake County.

He was an alumnus of Clear lake High School and Santa Rosa Junior College. Ken enlisted in the U.S. Navy at a young age, made the military his career, and served during WWII and the Korean War. He served on the USS Randall and the USS Scamp SSN-588, a nuclear submarine, where he was known as “Mungi Joe”.

After naval service, Ken returned to Lake County and worked as a peace officer for 16 years in the Lake County Sheriff’s Department where he was affectionately known as “Doc.”

Ken loved to laugh and was well known for his wonderful sense of humor. He was an outdoorsman all of his life and greatly enjoyed fresh and salt water fishing, hunting, golfing, and camping. A voracious reader, he had a fondness for spy novels, Native American history, and military history. Ken was also an avid gardener and an accomplished chef.

He is survived by sisters Leona Newman, Lois Thorne, Joanne Campbell, Judith Davidson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be a private memorial service for family and close friends on Saturday, November 15 in Lakeport, CA. The Ross family may be contacted for further information at (707) 263-0719. The family is deeply appreciative of the many friendships and kindnesses that sustained Ken over a long life well-lived.

Ken was a lifelong supporter of community work that supported tribal youth. Donations in Kenneth's name may be contributed to the David Risling Award, a scholarship for American Indian students at UC Davis. Donations may be sent to Judy La Deaux, Department of Native American Studies, One Shields Ave., Davis CA 95616.