

2 June 2017

Kennebec Shipmates:

It saddens me to inform you that LT. Les Blake passed away 23 April 2017. He suffered from a combination of Parkinson's Disease, Cancer and Alzheimers. Obituary is attached.

Les reported aboard the Kennebec in 1967 as the Chief Engineer. He had come up through the Ranks and was commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer (LDO) meaning that all his sea duty would be in Engineering. Later he was still aboard when the Kennebec was decommissioned on 29 June 1970

Normally LDOs had no use for newly minted Ensigns. For some reason Rex Livengood and I connected with Les and the 3 of us stayed friends for almost 50 years. Our wives were also friends as we periodically visited each other.

A year ago Les called me. He was in declining health and wanted to speak with old shipmates while he still remembered who they were. Fortunately he was able to attend one final reunion in North Dakota.

Eternal Fair Winds and Following Seas my Old Friend.

Earl W. Rupp  
LT - USNR

## Charles Leslie "Les" Blake Jr.



Les was born in Canton, OH, lived in the Victor Valley for 51 years. He passed away in his home on April 23, 2017 due to Prostate Cancer/Parkinsons Disease. He retired with the US Navy after 21 years, enlisted as a seaman, retires as a Commissioned Lieutenant. He was a Therapist-Rehab counselor at J.O.B. Services for 14 years. Les earned his A.A. & B.A. from Victor Valley College. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy R. Blake of Victorville, CA; his daughters, Annmarie (Bruce) Pickens of Kelso, WA, Kathy Blake of Victorville, CA, Renee (Deceased) (Mike) Field of Deriddes, LA, and Carol (Richard) Boten of Apple Valley, CA; his sons, Michael (Kris) Blake of Golden Valley, AZ, and Charles (Tricia) Blake of Apple Valley, CA. 12 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Service will be held on May 19, 2017, 2pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Hesperia, CA with Pastor Brad Viken officiating. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Green Valley Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

**May 19, 2017**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Hesperia, Ca 92345**