

# Kenneth Edward Ryther

- May 13, 2016

Ken was born on March 24, 1946 in Glendale, California to Doris Irene and Leslie Victor Ryther. He died on April 6, 2016.

He was raised in Needles and Barstow, California and graduated from Barstow High School in 1964. He joined the Navy in 1965 and became a Corpsman and Operating Room Technician at San Diego Navy Hospital. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital before being deployed to Vietnam. In 1967, he served a three-month tour on the USS Okinawa. Then in September 1967, he was attached to the Marines and served a tour at the 3rd Division Marine Field Hospital in Dong Ha. Upon returning from Vietnam, he was stationed at Long Beach Naval Hospital. Ken graduated with the first class of Physician Assistants from Duke University in 1972 and received national certification in 1973.

In 1972, Ken moved to Delta Junction with his wife Kathy and their daughter, Kjerstin. Two years later their son, Kenny was born in Fairbanks. Ken was the first care provider when the Delta Junction Medical Clinic opened in 1972 and practiced there until 1984, when he opened Jarvis Medical Clinic. Ken was active in the community, serving on the city council for several years and elected as Mayor in 1975. He was a volunteer fireman and worked tirelessly teaching and assisting the EMTs. He was a member of several service organizations in Delta Junction. As the first president of Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants, he led the forming of the Alaska Chapter. He also served as a board member at the national level of American Academy of Physician Assistants. He moved to Anchorage in 1988 and to the lower 48 in 1995 but loved Alaska and returned in 2006. Fishing and hunting were his favorite sports. He also had his private pilot's license and loved flying in Alaska.

He is preceded in death by his parents and grandmother Mae Agnes Kidd. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Kjerstin and Dan Boorstein; son, Kenneth David Ryther; and his three grandchildren, Oliver, Benton, and Linnea Boorstein, all of Anchorage.

A service is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016 at 2 p.m. at Rest Haven Cemetery on Jack Warren Road.