



## **KENT BUTZER KELLEGREW**

H Co 382<sup>nd</sup>

Our beloved father, 94 years young, passed away April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Kent was born in Minnesota, but spent his childhood in Salina, Kansas, where he survived the ravages of the dustbowl.

He served as an Army corporal in the Pacific theatre during WWII. Wounded at Hacksaw Ridge, his battlefield return was cut short only by war's end. Several fellow soldiers credited Dad with saving their lives and stayed in touch throughout their lifetimes.

He returned to post-war Los Angeles where he met and married Mary McMullin. Kent graduated from USC with a BA in Education. He had a 32-year career as an LAUSD elementary school teacher and was active with UTLA. He also was a mover for Bekins during summers. Kent and Mary raised two sons.

Later, he married Bonnie Thompkins. Kent continued to substitute teach and volunteer into his late 80s. Throughout his life, he enjoyed calligraphy, reading, and any party. He walked daily, even with advanced throat cancer. He attended Wings Over Wendy (veterans group) and a men's discussion group up until the last weeks.

Our father was a kind, gentle, and tolerant man. He was an excellent listener and generous to a fault. He happily greeted each 'Top of the Morning' and everyday was 'Tip-Top'. His positive attitude was an inspiration to all.

Kent is mourned his sons Kent (Diane) and Scott (Denise) and grandchildren Brandi, Matt, and Eric. He is also missed by his stepchildren Andy, Lauri, Kerri, and Robert and grandchildren Jason, Brandon, Cassie, Jamie, Heather, Julie, Shawna, and Eric.

The family greatly appreciates the support of staff and friends at Hillcrest Royale and the gentle care of Buena Vista Hospice. If one so choses, please donate to Gold Coast Veteran's Foundation in Kent's honor (thanks to JC Oberst for his kindness).