

# Edwin C. Burnham

March 29, 1932 - March 20, 2012

Edwin "Ed" C. Burnham, devoted and loving husband and father, died unexpectedly on March 20, 2012, following a successful surgery.

Ed was born in Hackensack, New Jersey on March 29, 1932, but was raised in the little town of South Windsor, Connecticut, across the river from Hartford. He was Edwin and Helen Burnham's youngest child of two, the other being their daughter Elizabeth. He later moved to California in the early 1950's, after discharging from the Army, where he served as a medic.



After moving to Los Angeles in 1954, he answered his true calling-to be a [fireman](#). He successfully joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1957 and began a career spanning three decades that saw him defend property and save lives all over the Los Angeles basin until he retired in 1979 with rank of Captain. In 1972, on a group skiing trip with fellow firemen, Ed met the love of his life, Arlene Schaeffer, a flight attendant for United Air Lines. They were married in Monterey, California, a year later, on January 21st, coincidentally the same date as his sister Betty's wedding anniversary.

Over the next 39 years, they would live on Maui, Hawaii, and in Marina Del Rey, Oxnard, and lastly, Ventura, California. They experienced many adventures as they traveled around North America, as "Wagon Masters" for the RV caravan tour company, "Tracks to Adventure," and through their own wanderlust. While working for "Tracks", and as a Medic and fireman, Ed had occasion to save lives and bring comfort to those in serious need.

Over the years, Ed demonstrated his story-telling and writing talents through his popular "Channel Views" column in the Ventura County Reporter. He used his personable nature in his public relations work, including his successful efforts to support the Camarillo Air Show for several years. He took great pride in his daughter's talents in these same directions.

He is survived by his best friend and wife of 39 years, Arlene, his only child, Victoria, and her significant other, Shane Smith, of Chandler, Arizona; his three nephews Gordon, David, and Howard Bennett and their families of New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and New York, respectively; his dear cousins Donald Segee, Ruth Sturke, James and Peter Burnham, as well as his numerous other beloved cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents, Edwin G. and Helen M.; his sister Betty and her husband Howard; his wife's parents, Joe and Charlotte Schaeffer.