

John F. Blake Jr....Littleton, formerly of Chelmsford, seniors volunteer; 81

LITTLETON — John F. Blake Jr., a World War II veteran and former Chelmsford resident who had been an active volunteer assisting Greater Lowell senior citizen organizations, died Tuesday, Aug. 20, at his home in Littleton. He was 81.

He was born in Greenfield on Dec. 20, 1920, a son of the late John F. and Ellen (Wrisley) Blake. He was educated in Lowell schools.

In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy, serving as an armed guard on merchant ships during World War II. Mr. Blake was a member of the Lowell Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Chelmsford American Legion Post 313.

Following his military service, Mr. Blake lived on New York City's Staten Island and Old Bridge, N.J., before settling in Chelmsford. He worked in Chelmsford schools, retiring as head custodian in 1985, and later was employed as a school bus driver for various companies in the area.

He was a board member of the Council on Aging, and had volunteered at Meals on

Wheels and the Mealsite, helping many elders with their appointments and shopping as well as friendly visits.

Survivors include a son, John F. Blake III and his wife Cynthia of Westford; a daughter, Arlene Blake and her husband Russell "Butch" Linstad of Chelmsford; four grandchildren, Christina Beauchesne and her husband Eric, and Pamela and David Linstad, all of Chelmsford, Patricia Blake of Tewksbury and her fiance, Edward Leger; a great-grandchild, Jack Beauchesne; three stepgrandchildren; three great-stepgrandchildren; two brothers and their wives, Clifford and Janette of Hudson, and Raymond and Theresa of San Jose, Calif.; three sisters, Rita Dupuis of Chelmsford, Irene Hill of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, and Sandra Weston, residing in California; also many nieces and nephews. He also leaves his former wife, Rose (Parese) Blake of Chelmsford; and a close friend, Judith Lally of Littleton, and her family.

He was also the brother of the late Howard Blakes and Judith Nickles.

BLAKE — Of Littleton, John F. Jr., Aug. 20. Survived by a son, John F. Blake, III and his wife Cynthia of Westford, a daughter, Arlene Blake and her husband Russell (Butch) Linstad of Chelmsford. Four grandchildren: Christina Beauchesne and her husband Eric, Pamela and David Linstad of Chelmsford, Patricia Blake of Tewksbury and her fiancé Edward Leger. One great-grandchild, Jack Beauchesne, 3 stepgrandchildren and 3 stepgreat-grandchildren. He also leaves two brothers and their wives: Clifford and Janette of Hudson, N.H. and Raymond and Theresa of San Jose, CA, three sisters, Rita Dupuis of Chelmsford, Irene Hill of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, and Sandra Weston of CA, many nieces and nephews, his ex-wife, Rose (Parese) Blake of No. Chelmsford and his dear friend, Judith Lally of Littleton and her children and grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Howard Blake of Texas and Judith Nickles of Fla. Visiting hours will be at the Badger Funeral Home, 347 King St., Rt. 2A/110, Littleton on Thursday from 7-9. Funeral will be on Friday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Faulkner St., Ayer at 11 AM. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Heart or Lung Association.

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