Blackie was born in San Antonio, TX to Harry and Mary Powell and was one of 6 siblings. Blackie joined the Navy during WWII and was stationed on a tender in the Pacific Theater, where he was involved in several battles. After the Navy, Blackie joined the Merchant Marines and then went on to become a commercial fisherman. He also spent some time in the woods as a logger and gold miner. Blackie came to Oroville, CA around 1979. Blackie started receiving general assistance from Butte County in late 1980. He felt he needed to give back to the county for their help, and he started volunteering his time at the county administration building. He soon became a fixture with his warm smile and his willingness to help out. When Blackie started receiving social security, he continued on with his volunteer work. Prior to Christmas of 2012, Blackie never missed a day the building was open for over 30 years. All his friends/family here at Butte County are going to have a Celebration of Life for Blackie on Friday, Jan. 11, 2013 starting at 12:00 p.m. at the county administration building, 25 County Center Dr., Oroville, CA. Arrangements were entrusted to Ramsey Funeral Home 530-534-3877