COLUMBUS, Kan. – Norman Brown Blankenship, 66, 515 W. Olive St., died at 1:43 p.m. Thursday at Maude-Norton Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Blankenship was born May 8, 1923, at Cornwall, Va. He moved to Columbus from Cornwall in 1951. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in education from Pittsburg State University. He also received a master's of science degree in guidance and counseling, and a master's degree in business administration from Cornell University. He also attended Texas A&M College, University of Arizona, University of Oregon, University of Oklahoma and Harvard University.

He worked for Vicker's Inc., Joplin, from 1952 to 1960. He was employed as a guidance counselor and a business teacher at West Mineral High School, West Mineral, beginning in 1960. He then taught at Southeast High School in Cherokee until 1966. He was the first director of SEK-CAP Inc. in 1966. Before working for SEK-CAP [sic], he started the Head Start program in Southeast Kansas in 1966.

Later, he worked for the Kansas Council of Agricultural Workers and the U.S. Department of Labor. He returned to the Columbus area in 1980. He was a certified economic developer for the Inter-Tribal Council of the Wyandotte Indian tribe of Oklahoma from 1980 until his retirement in 1982.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He received several medals during his naval career and numerous awards for his work with minority groups while serving with governmental agencies. He served on the advisory committee of the Business Assistance Center of the University of Oklahoma. He also served on the advisory committee of the Governor's Manpower Commission in Kansas and Oklahoma. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Columbus and Phi Delta Kappa.

He married Norma Hopkins on June 21, 1951, in Columbus. She survives.

Also surviving are a son, Thomas Matthew Blankenship, West Mineral; a daughter, Marcia Ruth Box, state of Kansas; and four grandchildren. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Columbus City Cemetery. The Rev. David Miller will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. today at Bath-Naylor Funeral Home, Weir.

The family will be at the home of Harris Hopkins, 413 W. Pine St., Columbus.

COLUMBUS -- Norman Brown Blankenship, 66, of Columbus, died at the Maude Norton Hospital in Columbus at 1:43 p.m. Thursday, April 19, 1990.
He was born in Cornwall, Va., on May 8, 1923, to Ferris Blankenship and Martha Walters, and graduated from the honors program with a Regents Diploma from Watertown High School, Watertown, N. Y., in 1941.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, the Korean conflict, on the atomic bomb tests, and was a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve until 1960.

Mr. Blankenship married Norma Hopkins of Columbus on June 21, 1951, and lived in the community since that time.

He held a bachelor of science in education, a master of science in guidance and counseling, and a masters in business administration. He did his undergraduate work at Pittsburg State University and Cornell University and graduate work at Texas A&M, University of Arizona, University of Oregon, University of Oklahoma and Harvard University.

He worked for Vickers, Inc., from 1952 until 1960 when he began teaching at West Mineral High School and then at Southeast High School until 1966. He was the first director of SEK-CAP, Inc., writing and implementing the Head Start programs, transportation and Neighborhood Youth Corps programs in southeast Kansas.

Under his direction the SEK-CAP renovated Shimmerhorn Park in Galena and the Riverside Park in Baxter Springs.

Later he worked for the Kansas Council of Agriculture Workers, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Economic Development. Returning to the area in 1980, he worked as a certified economic developer for the Inter-Tribal Council and the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma until his retirement.

He also was a part time instructor for several years at Labette Community College.

Mr. Blankenship received several medals during his naval career and numerous awards for his work with minorities while serving with governmental agencies. He served on the Advisory Committee to the Business Assistance Center of the University of Oklahoma, the Governors Manpower Commissions in Kansas and Oklahoma.

He was a member of the Methodist Church of Columbus, Phi Delta Kappa, and other professional organizations.

Survivors include his wife, Norma of the home; one daughter, Marcia Ruth Box of Carona; one son, Thomas Matthew Blankenship of West Mineral; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son, Stephen Dale Blankenship in 1975.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Saturday at the Columbus City Cemetery with the Rev. David Miller, pastor of the Columbus Methodist Church, officiating. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. today at the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home in Weir. The family will be at the home of his brother-in-law Harris Hopkins, 413 W. Pine, Columbus.
COLUMBUS, Kan. — Norman Brown Blankenship, 66, of Columbus, died at 1:43 p.m. Thursday at Maude Norton Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Blankenship was born May 8, 1923, at Cornwall, Va. He moved to Columbus from Cornwall in 1951. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Pittsburgh State University. He also received a master's degree in guidance and counseling, and a master's degree in business administration from Cornell University. He also attended Texas A&M College, University of Arizona, University of Oregon, University of Oklahoma and Harvard University.

He worked for Vickers Inc., Joplin, from 1955 to 1969. He was employed as a guidance counselor and a business teacher at West Mineral High School, West Mineral, beginning in 1969. He then taught at Southeast High School in Cherokee until 1980. He was the first director of SEK-CAP Inc. in 1968. He was the first director of SEK-CAT, started the Head Start program in Southeast Kansas in 1966.

Later, he worked for the Kansas Council of Agricultural Workers and the U.S. Department of Labor. He returned to the Columbus area in 1980. He was a certified economic developer for the Inter-Tribal Council of the Wyandotte Indian tribe of Oklahoma from 1980 until his retirement in 1982.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He received several medals during his naval career and numerous awards for his work with minority groups while serving with governmental agencies. He served on the advisory committee of the Business Assistance Center of the University of Oklahoma. He also served on several advisory committees of the Governor's Manpower Commission in Kansas and Oklahoma. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Columbus and Phi Delta Kappa.

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