Frank R. ("Kitch") Kitchell was born in Battle Creek, MI, to Francis Robert Kitchell and Jeanette Abbott on July 11, 1918. Frank and his three younger brothers were raised in Newburyport, MA. All four boys received scholarships to attend Governor Dummer Academy and Amherst College in Massachusetts. They all went on to receive graduate degrees from Harvard University (Frank – Law ’48; Peter – Architecture; Samuel – Business; Webster – Divinity).

Frank served as a Lieutenant Commander on a minesweeper in the Pacific Fleet during World War II (1941-45). Following the war, he attended Harvard Law School on the GI Bill. Upon graduating, Frank and two classmates drove west together, settling in Seattle where they found work, married and raised families – their children and grandchildren remaining close friends to this day.

Frank married Virginia Price, a Seattle native, in 1949. He practiced law for many years, as a partner in the Seattle-based law firm of Graham & Dunn. He remained active in the US Naval Reserve, serving in the Korean War. His years with the Navy may explain Frank’s strong interest and involvement in the Seattle waterfront. He took great satisfaction in serving for 13 years on the Seattle Port Commission (1961-74; Pres. ’64 & ’69), promoting the growth of the Port of Seattle, Seattle-Tacoma Airport and expanding trade with the Far East.

Frank served as a Director of the National Bank of Commerce and Rainier Bancorporation and was a Trustee of the Helen Bush School, The Pilchuck Glass School (1972-92; Pres. ’76) and the Seattle Artificial Kidney Center. He remained ever-thankful for the excellent education he and his brothers received at three fine schools in Massachusetts.

Frank & Virginia were active campers, canoeists and skiers, and especially loved spending time on Bainbridge Island with their close community of friends. Frank is predeceased by his three brothers and his daughter Sally (1982). He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Virginia, his three sons, Wiley (Marianne), Robert (Carolyn) and James (Carole) all of Seattle, and his ten grandchildren.

—Robert Kitchell