

## Henry w. (Hank) Blenis

Born in Albaney, New York, Hank received his early education in Revena, New York. After service in Europe with the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Army, Hank continued his education at S.U.N.Y. with a Bachelor and Masters degree in forestry. Later he added a Ph.D from Penn state.

Hank became “Temporary Director” of the maritime Forest Ranger School in 1949- somewhat of a record for longevity in a temporary position, because he held the position for 37 years.

Hank’s contributions to forestry in N.B. cannot be measured in words alone but must be looked at in the context of the lives he has touched over the decades as Director of the Ranger School. Consider as well the part that these people have and will contribute to their chosen profession; for 95 percent of these graduates are still active today.

Author, educator, outdoorsmen extraordinaire all describe Hank Blenis. He has written and published many articles on technical training, silviculture and management of our forest.

In 1979 he was awarded the K.L. Golding Award for Meritorious service in conservation. In 1983 he received an honorary D.Sc. from UNB. He has served as President of A.R.P.F.N.B. as well as Chairman of Maritime Section – C.I.F.

The Ranger School as it stands today is a far cry from the “temporary building” which a “temporary director” inherited almost 40 years ago. Hank’s devotion to the establishment of the Forestry Complex has been no less, than the devotion, time, and energy spent over the years establishing expertise, discipline and integrity in his students.

An expression used in the citation for his honorary degree at U.N.B. seems to sum up Hank Blenis most appropriately “Dr. Blenis represents the perfect fit to peg a hole.