Ronald G. Bates, 96 of Montezuma, passed away Monday, May 14, 2012, at the Montezuma Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Montezuma. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, at the Community Hope Church in Montezuma. Interment was in the Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Community Hope Church. Friends may send condolences or sign the online guestbook at www.hollandcoblefuneralhomes.com. Holland-Coble Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Ronald Glen Bates, son of Cecil and Bessie (Lester) Bates, was born on Dec. 18, 1915 in Gibson. He attended Gibson High School until the eleventh grade, when he went to help on the family farm. On Feb. 1, 1938, Ronnie was united in marriage to Evelyn Mohr at the Oskaloosa Methodist Parsonage. To this union one daughter was born, Barbara. Ronnie farmed in the Deep River area for several years until 1956 when Ronnie and Evelyn moved to Montezuma. After they moved to Montezuma, he went to work for Carpenter Feed in Brooklyn and later the ASCS Office in Montezuma. After he retired, Ronnie worked part time at H & J Fertilizer in Montezuma. He served on the Montezuma City Council for several years. Ronnie enjoyed gardening; his rose garden, farming, raising cattle and especially spending time with his family. He was a charter member of the Community Hope Church in Montezuma.

His memory will be cherished by his wife of 74 years, Evelyn, of Montezuma; his daughter, Barbara (Jerry) Minner of Malcom; his two grandchildren, Randy (Rhonda) Minner of Malcom and Brenda (Gary) Smith of Malcom; his five grandchildren, Rance Minner, Peter (Kyra) Smith, Raschelle (Daniel) Wurzer, Amber Smith and Rebecca (Luke) Bailey; his five great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, William, Edith, Lillie and Micah; his brothers and sisters, Merle (Jean) Bates of Ft. Worth, Donald (Elaine) Bates of Keswick, John (Joetta) Bates of Montezuma, Paul Bates of What Cheer and Verla Tish of Gibson; as well as several nieces, nephews and friends.

Ronnie was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Bessie Bates; his brothers, Eugene Bates, Ned Bates, Tom Bates and Gerald Bates; his sisters, Agnes Hourihan, Dorothy Bates, Marlene Bates, Margaret Tarvin and Charlene Bates.

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