A tribute to a great man, Maurice H. Taghon, 92 of Branson, Mo.

He was born to immigrant parents from Belgium, Albrie and Marie Taghon, on a small farm north of Belle Plaine on June 23, 1920. He farmed with his dad until he joined the Air Force and became a fighter pilot. He later attended the University of Minnesota where he graduated as an engineer. He married Marilyn Bramblett from Tama, and they resided in Minnesota and had three children.

When he retired from Univac, he moved his family to Branson, Mo. When most people were relaxing in their retirement years, he opened a restaurant, getting up at 4 a.m. and staying until everything was done at closing time. He made many friends through the years in the restaurant business and always made time to sit and visit with them and tell a story or two. He loved life and it was always the smallest of things that brought him the most joy, and that twinkle in his eyes.

He left this earth on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marilyn Taghon; two daughters, Denise Powell of St. Louis, Mo., and Dawn Gideon and husband, Randy, of Branson, Mo.; one son, David Taghon and wife, Leonda of Springfield.

Surviving relatives in Iowa or originally from Iowa include his brother, John Taghon, Cleveland, Tenn.; nephew, Don Millers of Belle Plaine; Dan Taghon of Shreveport, Alain Taghon of Keokuk, and Roger Villier of Fort Worth, Texas; nieces, Jean Griffin of Marshall, Mo., Carol Demslow of Florence, Miss., and Susan Molaz of Portland, Ore.

He will be sadly missed as a husband, father and friend.

Forsyth Whelchel Funeral Chapel, Forsyth, Mo., was in charge of arrangements.