ERNEST JOHN WILCOX

Ernest Wilcox, 66 of Montezuma, passed away peacefully Monday, May 4, 2015 at his home in Montezuma. Memorial services were held Friday, May 8, 2015 at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma with military rites given by the Blakely-Stevens American Legion Post #169. Burial was in in the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma. Memorial contributions may be made in the family’s name to go towards the Engineering program at the University of Missouri. Holland-Coble Funeral Home of Montezuma is in charge of arrangements.

Ernest John Wilcox, the son of Bevan and Ruth (Howell) Wilcox, was born on June 19, 1948, in Oskaloosa. He graduated from Montezuma High School with the class of 1966 and received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri in 1970. Ernie was drafted into the United States Army in 1970, serving most of his time in Virginia before he was honorably discharged in 1972. Ernie worked for Ideal Manufacturing in Oskaloosa for a brief time before starting Wilcox All Pro Tool East of Montezuma in 1973.

Ernie was an amazing inventor. At age 16, he began making tools in his parents' garage, and by age 19, he had his first U.S. Patent. Throughout his life, he was the author of numerous patents. Ernie was a member of the Montezuma United Methodist Church and the Blakely-Stevens American Legion Post 169 in Montezuma.

Ernie is preceded in death by his parents, Bevan and Ruth Wilcox and a brother, Edgar Wilcox.

He is survived by three brothers, James Wilcox of Deep River, Leigh (Barbara) Wilcox of Des Moines and Daniel (Elaine) Wilcox Johnson City, Tenn.