Ron Emerson, 85, formerly of Toledo and Grinnell, died in Olathe, Kan., on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, following a brief illness. He had been in failing health for several months. A memorial service in Iowa is planned for the new year.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ron’s name to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Ronald Hugh Emerson was born June 20, 1930, in Toledo, the son of Lurie Bear Emerson and Earl Roscoe Emerson. He graduated from Toledo High School in 1948 and served in the U.S. Army until 1952.

In 1954 he married Carol Joan Hansen of Cedar Rapids and they settled in Toledo. Ron worked in insurance sales most of his life, first in Toledo and later in Grinnell, where the family moved in 1972. In 2014, Ron and Carol moved to Olathe, Kan., to be closer to family.

Ron was very active in the Jaycees and was a lifelong Iowa Hawkeyes fan.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Emerson of Olathe, Kan.; two sons, Michael Emerson of New York City and Patrick Emerson of Olathe, Kan.; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Melissa Emerson.