James L. Bratton


He was born Dec. 14, 1931, the son of John Ira Bratton and Mary Salome Vance Bratton. His childhood years were spent on a farm near Gate, Okla. In 1947 the family moved to a farm near McCune, and Mr. Bratton still owned the family farm.

He graduated from McCune High School in 1950 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After receiving his honorable discharge in 1954, he attended Pittsburg State University parttime and earned a bachelor of science in general studies with concentration in psychology in 1973.

In the 1960s Mr. Bratton began working as a computer programmer, working for several companies before retiring in 1989 from Target Saws Inc., Kansas City. He was a member of Woods Memorial Christian Church, where he served as an elder and substitute Sunday school teacher. He was a Mason.

On Aug. 1, 1957, he married Dorothy Elizabeth Farris in Gladstone, Mo. She survives at the home.

Additional survivors include three daughters, Elizabeth Prindle of Oak Grove, Mo., Susan Hitchcock of Warrensburg, Mo., and Janet Bayless of Camdenton, Mo.; a brother, Arthur Bratton, Gladstone, Mo.; a sister, Ruth Ann Egbert, McCune; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a half-brother, David Bratton of Houston, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Woods Memorial Christian Church, Excelsior Springs. Burial will be in the Masonic Cemetery, Excelsior Springs, with military honors provided by the Excelsior Springs Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 741 and American Legion Post No. 236. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. today at the Polley Funeral Home, Lawson, Mo.

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