

Charles J. Owen

June 6, 1922 - November 21, 2011

Charles J. Owen, 89, of Phoenix, Ariz., died Monday, Nov. 21, 2011.

He was born June 6, 1922, the son of the late George Owen and Lilly Brayton Owen in New Bedford, Mass. Owen enlisted in the United States Army after finishing high school, and served as a Tech 4 in the 751st Field Artillery Battalion throughout a tour of Europe. He was honorably discharged in 1945, and returned to the New Bedford Textile School (now the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth).

He and his brother, Hartley, together attended Michigan State University and received their Bachelor of Science degrees. Charles also earned his Master of Science degree at MSU, and then he attended the University of Pittsburgh, where his Doctorate of Science and Engineering was conferred in 1962. As a metallurgical engineer, he worked for U.S. Steel before moving to his lifelong home in Owego, N.Y., and working the rest of his career as an advisory engineer at IBM.



His love of gardening led to his second career of raising cattle and crops at his farm in South Owego, N.Y. He farmed with his family until he was no longer able. He spent the last several years splitting time between the farm and his daughter's Phoenix home. He also loved the beach, and traveled whenever he was able.

Charles is survived by a son, James H. Owen of Owego, N.Y.; a daughter, Elizabeth Owen Russell of Thermopolis; a brother, George E. Owen of Dartmouth, Mass.; two grandchildren; three nephews; five nieces; and his best friend, Madeleine Keller of Phoenix, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years, Bernice Elaine (Madden) Owen in 1996; brother, Hartley Owen; and his parents.

A service will be held in New York at a later time. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix, Ariz., or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Owego, N.Y.

Arrangements are being handled by Messinger Mortuary in Scottsdale, Ariz.