Samuel Roy Hodges

On Nov. 29, 2015, Samuel Roy Hodges, lovingly surrounded by his family, made a swift journey across Jordan’s chilly waters to meet his heavenly Father and a beloved host that has gone on before.

“Roy,” as he was affectionately called by his grandchildren and many friends, was born on Nov. 10, 1924, in Ragley, La., to Samuel Henry and Julia Elizabeth “Bessie Lee” Hodges. The youngest of eight children, he entered the U.S. Army on Nov. 18, 1943. He served in the 2nd Infantry Division (2nd Indianhead Division) and entered the European front of World War II just days after D-Day. He fought in the major battles of the European Theatre including the Battle of the Bulge and the Liberation of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. A highly decorated World War II veteran, he loved this great country and attended many military events, even traveling back to Pilsen for their 65th Liberation Festival. His most recent award came in November 2014, when he was presented with France’s highest decoration, the French Legion of Honor Award, for his service in France during World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1945 and went on to work as a buyer for Cities Service Oil Refinery. He retired in November 1983 after 37 years of service.

Roy met the love of his life, Ouida Donald, just shortly after returning from his service to our country. They were married on Sept. 11, 1950. Residents of Moss Bluff, they were pillars and faithful servants at Apostolic Temple in Lake Charles, La. A devoted husband and loving father to three children, he was “second to none” and his presence here on earth will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Bessie of Ragley; his four sisters and three brothers; and his loving wife of 63 years, Ouida Donald Hodges.

He is survived by his two daughters, Sherry Griffin of Lake Charles and Marcia Bankens of Moss Bluff; and his son and wife, Thomas and Joann Hodges of San Antonio, Texas. To his 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, he was larger than life and they will feel the absence of his great love.

Funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, at the Apostolic Temple Church in Lake Charles. Pastor Ricky Treece will officiate. Burial will follow in Magnolia Cemetery in Ragley under the direction