J.L. was born in Oberlin, La., on July 8, 1919, and was a longtime resident of Lake Charles, where he worked and retired from City Service Oil Refinery. To anyone who knew him, he never met a stranger.

J.L. was a loving husband, always saying with pride about his wife Ruth, “She’s mine,” when approached by an acquaintance. Daddy was a truly wonderful father and grandfather, always willing to help his daughters and others, especially his family.

As a U.S. veteran, J.L. served his country from 1940–1945 during World War II and was stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines. He served as an Army Medic (on a ship from 1940–1942), helped build airstrips for C-47 bombers, bridges and roads and two prison camps for the Japanese.

Daddy was a proud Cajun who spoke fluent Cajun French, and in his last few years he loved when various nurses chatted back and forth in French with him. In his earlier days, usually when talking with his brothers, he spoke French, sometimes liking that Momma didn’t understand French.

Daddy loved to hunt and fish and spent much of his free time utilizing his excellent carpentry skills; he made our kitchen cabinets and was constantly tinkering with

J.L. leaves to remember his life his wife, (Evie) Ruth Manuel; their children, Gloria Manuel and Glinda Manuel McGee and her husband Cody; his grandchildren, Mandi McGee Bebee and her husband Brad, Tara McGee Bourgeois and her husband Jason and Spencer McGee; his great-grandchildren, Alexis Bebee, Kole Bourgeois, Karson Bourgeois; and honorary great-granddaughter, Kiley Fundeburk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Poley Manuel and Ella Chaumont Manuel; and his eight brothers and sisters, Anthony Manuel, John Manuel, Freole Manuel, Lee Lewis Manuel, Earl Manuel, Anna Mae Manuel Darbonne, Charity Manuel Courville and Baby Girl Manuel.

The family would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to Brighton Bridge Hospice, especially Joyce Fischer, LPN, and to Resthaven Nursing Home for the care they gave Daddy. Many didn’t know and we chose not to tell Daddy, that he was suffering from leukemia in his last few years.

As Daddy wanted his body donated to LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport, there will not be a funeral. A memorial honoring J.L. is set for Sunday, Nov. 29, at noon at Resthaven Nursing Home. If anyone has comments or questions, they can email