Vernard “Shorty” Pitzer

SULPHUR—Vernard Gordon "Shorty" Pitzer, 90, died Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, in a local hospital.

He was a native of Hydro, Okla., and had been a resident of Sulphur for 66 years, coming from Ponca City, Okla. Vernard was a charter and very active member of First Christian Church. He served as a volunteer for Care Help of Sulphur and Habitat For Humanity and was a member of the American Welding Society and the Maplewood/Hollywood Lions Club, receiving the Lion of the Year award for 1983-1984. Vernard retired from Citgo after 37 years of service.

Survivors include two children, Beverly Morrison and husband Bill of Sulphur and Darrell Roy Pitzer and wife Jan of Stewartsville, N.J.; his daughter-in-law, Diane Pitzer of Sulphur; eight grandchildren, Cathy West, Monica Elrod, Lisa Debosier, Jett Lynn Pitzer, Tommy Buchmann, Donny Lee Pitzer, Stephen Pitzer and Jennifer Pitzer; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Freda Mae Pitzer; his parents, Roy and Nellie Pitzer; a son, Richard Lee Pitzer; his sister, Lucille Jones; and his two brothers, Frank and Ralph Pitzer.

His funeral will be at 2 p.m. today, Jan. 17, in First Christian Church of Sulphur. The Rev. Michael Dickson will officiate. Burial will be in Mimosa Pines Cemetery South in Carlyss under the direction of Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home. Visitation is from noon in the church.

The family would like to thank the staff of Stonebridge Place and Christus St. Patrick Hospital for their excellent care of Vernard. Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.hixsonfuneralhomes.com.