OAK RIDGE, Tenn. —

Dr. Effin Thomas Graham, 87, of Oak Ridge, died Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge after a long illness.

He was born May 30, 1923, in Uniontown, Pa., the son of William Jacob and Rena McClelland Graham.

Dr. Graham was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army in the New York 177th Battalion in the Pacific, and was a recipient of three Bronze Stars.

He received his BS, MS and PhD in horticulture from Pennsylvania State University. After seven years as professor at Texas A&M, he became professor of horticulture at the University of Tennessee, where he retired in 1990.

His passions were his family, his work and hiking with his dogs.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brother, William Graham; and granddaughter, Rachel Pendray.

Dr. Graham is survived by his wife of 57 years, Vivian Halley Graham; son, Owen Graham and wife, Danine, of Knoxville; daughter, Eleanor Meunier and husband, Russell, of Oak Ridge; and three grandchildren, Kenneth and Wendy Graham of Oak Ridge and Charles Pendray of Houston, Texas.

In keeping with his wishes, no services are planned.

The family asks that any memorials be in the form of contributions to the Oak Ridge Animal Shelter.

Weatherford Mortuary is handling the arrangements. An online guest book can be signed at www.weatherfordmortuary.com.