Lloyd Bachman: 1920 to 2010

Lloyd Bachman fell in love at his family's business — with horticulture and with a fellow employee, who would become his wife, Marion. Working alongside cousins and siblings — and eventually children, nephews and nieces — at Bachman's in Minneapolis, Lloyd had a life that blended his passions almost seamlessly: He could be deeply immersed in his plants, while at the same time cracking jokes with his brothers and sisters. Lloyd lived to see his family's business, the country's largest family-owned florist, celebrate 125 years in business. His death July 16 at age 90 prompted his family to share some of Lloyd's own recollections about his role at the Twin Cities' leading florist.

In an interview last October, Lloyd said, "They kind of pinned a title on me as the horticulturist or the flower grower of the bunch." That was an understatement, the family said in a statement. "He was the 'king of quality,'" said CEO Paul Bachman of his uncle "Bachman's has always been known for the quality of its product and he was the one responsible for that.

A Renaissance man who could play the violin and make everyone laugh, Lloyd was most at home in the greenhouse, Paul said. "Whenever I picture him, I see him surrounded in a sea of flowers, content and happy."

Lloyd has been recognized for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the College of Agriculture and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. He served as a charter member and advisory member of the United Minnesota Horticulture Committee, and he was deeply involved in the North Central Florists' Association, Society of American Florists, Minneapolis Men's Garden Club and numerous floricultural associations.

"Lloyd inspired all of us with his passion for quality, his love of plants and flowers, his expert knowledge, and his commitment to Bachman's, his family, and the community," the family statement read. "Everyone that knew Lloyd will agree that his sense of humor will be remembered as a part of his legacy, as well."

He is preceded in death by Marion and son Todd, another floriculture icon known for his sense of humor and generosity, whose tragic death at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 devastated the industry and the Twin Cities community.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Lindquist Bachman of Buffalo; daughter, Lynn Bachman of Eden Prairie; daughter-in-law, Barbara Bachman of Farmington; granddaughters, Sara (Brian) McGregor, Susan (Lee) West, Karen (Matt) Thull, Elisabeth (Hugh) McCutcheon; great-grandchildren, Laura and John McGregor, Thomas and Tyler West, Lauren, Hannah and Vincent Thull and Andrew McCutcheon; step children, Jim (Mary Ann) Lindquist, Merrilyn (Dave) Tauscher, and Joanne (Steve) Borgwardt; and numerous step grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Amanda Long
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