Dan Barge, Jr., is one of what must be a very few engineers who have moved an entire town. The success of that project—the relocation of Eddyville, Kentucky, in order to make way for the construction of Barkley Dam and Reservoir—is indicative of the power of Dan Barge’s professional vision and commitment to a job well done.

Mr. Barge graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1943 with a degree specializing in civil engineering. In 1981, he was named Vanderbilt’s Distinguished Alumnus, due in great part to his continuing dedication to and support of that university. He was the 1972 president of the Vanderbilt engineering alumni association and is a member of the Committee of Visitors for the university’s engineering school.

In 1955, Mr. Barge co-founded the engineering consulting firm Barge, Waggoner and Sumner with two of his college classmate. The company originally offered civil engineering and surveying services, but with the addition of William H. Cannon as a principal in 1972, it gradually expanded its scope to become a full-service design firm with almost four hundred employees in eleven offices in Tennessee, Alabama, and Ohio. In Alabama, the firm has offices in Huntsville, Montgomery, and Dothan. Barge was elected chairman of the board early in 1985, after serving as president for nearly thirty years; he has served as chairman emeritus since 1988.

The firm has done work ranging from widening bridges and highways to improving airports and developing shopping centers, dams, and railroads. Among the important Alabama projects Mr. Barge has accomplished are the relocation of the Aerophysics Research Facility from California to Huntsville in 1991, various improvements at Redstone Arsenal, airport improvements throughout the state, and widening of bridges on I-65 in Birmingham and on I-10 in Mobile.

These are but a tiny sampling of the range of his efforts in Alabama and Tennessee. Mr. Barge’s forty-eight years as an engineer have been filled with hard work and dedication to his profession and his fellow engineers. Many engineers have expressed appreciation for his support of them throughout their careers, as well as his unifying effect on all members of the engineering profession with whom he had personal and professional contact.

Of his many professional affiliations, Mr. Barge was especially active in the American Society of Civil Engineers, serving as that group’s national president during 1987. Currently, he serves as chairman of the ASCE Committee on Honorary Membership, and he is also active in the American Public Works Association, the American Consulting Engineers Council, the Engineers Association of Nashville, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the Society of American Military Engineers. Among his civic activities is his membership in the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Of Mr. Barge, Edward O. Pfang, executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers, said, “His vision, persistence, and technical accomplishments in the realm of engineering surpassed even his most accomplished peers.”

Mr. Barge was married to the late Frances Marie Stevens of Huntsville for thirty-three years. They had six children, two sons and four daughters. He married Alice Vaughan Floyd in 1982. Between them, they have seventeen grandchildren.