

Covington, Thomas Lee 1916 - 1997

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Ft. Wright's Thomas Covington, gave generously to poor; loved ham radio

Thomas L. Covington of Ft. Wright gave almost everything he had to charity. Mr. Covington, 81, died at 7:57 a.m. Tuesday at St. Luke Hospital West, Florence.

He was a retired engineer for Cincinnati Bell and a member of First Presbyterian Church in Covington, where he served as a deacon, an elder and clerk of session with the church. "He was very religious," said a daughter, Diana Doll of Union. "He gave to numerous charities. He gave a lot of money to his church. And he gave money to poor people for shoes or coats at the soup kitchen. He gave everything he had."

Mr. Covington was a member of Telephone Pioneers of America and the Toastmaster Club. He was an amateur radio operator and a soup kitchen volunteer. Mr. Covington began tinkering with ham radio as a youngster. He developed an interest in communications that led to his work at Cincinnati Bell, his daughter said. "He did ham radio until he got ill," Mrs. Doll said. "He talked to people all over the world."

Other survivors include his wife, Ruth Kampsen Covington; daughters, Carolyn Whelen of New Fairfield, Conn., Nancy Covington of Ft. Mitchell, Joyce Steffen of Florence, Marlene Lyons of Dry Ridge, Lee Ann Gamm of Owenton and Janice Jaber of Cold Spring; a sister, Irene Kaldy of Katy, Texas; 22 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the church. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Stith Funeral Home, Florence. Entombment will be in St. Mary Mausoleum, Ft. Mitchell. Memorials are suggested to the church, 1400 Highland Ave., Covington, Ky. 41011.