

Hatton, James William 1939 - 2006

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James William "Bill" Hatton, ex-policeman

Gruff on the outside, sure. James William "Bill" Hatton certainly was that.

"To talk to him, you'd think he was gruff, but underneath, a big softie," his wife, Mary Hatton, said Wednesday. "He had a voice like a bullhorn, but that came with taking care of seven boys."

Both parts of that gruff/softie contradiction led Mr. Hatton to volunteer his time after retirement to clean up Linden Grove Cemetery, after overseeing Kenton County prisoners doing the same on work detail when he was with the Kenton County road department.

On Friday, Mr. Hatton, 66, will be buried at Linden Grove, which is just a half-block from his home. He died Tuesday at St. Elizabeth Medical Center South, Edgewood.

"He loved that Linden," Mrs. Hatton said. "It was pretty bad at first. But they got it looking pretty good. He worked there seven days a week when he retired (in 2001)."

Born and raised in Covington, Mr. Hatton left Holmes High School in the 11th grade in 1961 to join the Army. He was a driver for a medical battalion and also worked as an MP.

After leaving the Army in 1963, he returned to Covington and earned his GED. From his Army years, he grew fond of police work, and served seven years on the Kenton County police force before shifting over to the county road department.

He was involved over the years in snow removal, drove a dump truck and backhoe, cut grass, and began supervising prisoners doing cleanup on back roads. That led him to Linden Grove Cemetery.

He retired from there after 20 years, but never left Linden Grove. His wife said there was little time for hobbies, what with raising seven boys and three girls.

"We'll miss him," she said. "He was just a basically good person."

Other survivors include sons, Mark Hatton of Batavia, Ohio, Tim Hatton of Taylor Mill, Jim Hatton of Bromley, Don Hatton of Covington, Dave Hatton of Florence, Jeff Hatton of Burlington and Mike Hatton of Ludlow; daughters, Terri Hatton and Michelle Van Huss, both of Covington, and Cheryl Grome of Southgate; sisters, Peggy Egan of Covington, Betty Louer of Erlanger and Joy Smith of Sharonville, Ohio; 21 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be at noon Friday at Don Catchen and Son Funeral Home, Covington. Visitation will begin there at 10 a.m. Friday. Burial will be in Linden Grove Cemetery, Covington.

Memorials are suggested to Kenton County Fraternal Order of Police or Special Olympics of Northern Kentucky, P.O. Box 393, Florence, Ky. 41042

JAMES W. HATTON

COVINGTON - James William "Bill" **Hatton**, 66, died Tuesday at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Edgewood.

He was a Kenton County police officer, manager of Linden Grove Cemetery and worked for the Kenton County road department. He was an Army veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Mary **Hatton**; sons, Mark, Tim, Jim, Don, Dave, Jeff and Mike **Hatton**; daughters, Terri **Hatton**, Cheryl Grome and Michelle VanHuss; sisters, Peggy Egan, Betty Louer and Joy Smith; 21 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. to noon with service following Friday at Don Catchen & Son Funeral Home, Covington. Burial will be in Linden Grove Cemetery, Covington