

Zumdick, Harry 1921 - 1999

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Harry Zumdick, railroader, devoted dad

J. Harry Zumdick, who worked 42 years for C&O Railroad, died Thursday at his Covington home. He was 78.

The railroad was the only employer Mr. Zumdick ever had, and he served it and his fellow co-workers with distinction, said a son, Daniel Zumdick of Erlanger. He was the past president, treasurer and member of the board of trustees of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks. His work was interrupted only for World War II, when he served in the Army, earning a Purple Heart. "He was on a troop transport ship in the Pacific Ocean that was torpedoed," Daniel Zumdick said. "He spent 30 hours or more in the water until he was rescued." He worked hard to support his wife and eight children, who were raised in the home on 21st Street in Covington that he purchased in the 1950s. The home remains in the family today. "Taking care of his family was the first thing on his mind," his son said. St. Benedict Church in Covington also was a big part of Mr. Zumdick's life. He served as the former president, treasurer and director of the church's Holy Name Society, and was a member of the parish council. "Anything dad got involved with, he was the type of person who got totally involved," Daniel Zumdick said. "He didn't just sit on the outskirts." Mr. Zumdick also was an avid golfer.

Other survivors include his wife, Grace Mary Zumdick; daughters, Denise Michels of Williamsburg, Ohio, Faye Busse of Fort Mitchell and Anita Murphy of Latonia; sons, Matthew Zumdick of Florence, Nicholas Zumdick of Fort Wright, and Kurt Zumdick and Phillip Zumdick, both of Covington; a brother, Robert Zumdick of Covington; and 16 grandchildren.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday at St. Benedict Church. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at the church. Burial will be in Mother of God Cemetery, Fort Wright. Memorials are suggested to St. Benedict William Rehtin Holy Name Society Scholarship Fund, 338 E. 17th St., Covington, Ky. 41014. Linnemann Funeral Home, Erlanger, is handling arrangements.

