

Dwight H. Swope, 73, longtime Social Security administrator, died at 2:30 a.m. today at his home at 2100 Jefferson Ave.

Mr. Swope retired in 1980 after 40 years with the Social Security office. He had been head of the local office from 1956 until his retirement. After his retiring, Mr. Swope worked as a CPA from his home.

He was born and raised in McCutchanville, and attended Indiana University in Bloomington. He graduated in 1936 with a degree in business administration. He entered the IU law school in Indianapolis and got a part-time job with the state employment office there. A year later the office promoted him and he quit school.

In late 1938 while still working for the state, he saw a federal job notice on a Post Office bulletin board and decided to apply for it. His federal career began a year later.

Mr. Swope went to Washington, D.C., for a training course as a field representative for the new Social Security program. His first assignment was in Indianapolis. In 1941, he became assistant manager of the New Albany district office. In 1950, he was sent to Vincennes to open a Social Security office there and be its manager. Mr. Swope stayed there until he was named to head the Evansville office in 1956.

Mr. Swope took his job far beyond the confines of his office. He was a frequent speaker to civic groups and conducted pre-retirement seminars for industry and labor groups. For many years, he wrote a weekly column in The Evansville Press. Mr. Swope also helped establish other services and programs for people his office served.

In the early 1970s he was founder of the Southwestern Indiana Council on Aging and was the council's president in 1980.

Mr. Swope enjoyed music. He was instrumental in getting the city recreation commission to start sponsoring the popular senior citizens' dances, which often featured the music of Art Engels' band, with Mr. Swope on the trombone. He had been an officer for many years in the musicians union.

Mr. Swope was a World War II veteran, and a member of the Funkhouser American Legion Post, and past president of the Northside Kiwanis Club.

He was a member of the Methodist Temple and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Surviving are his wife, Grace; daughters, Joyce E. Taylor and Sue Duvall; a son, David, all of Evansville; a sister, Nancy Glackman; and a brother, Paul Swope, both of Evansville; and five grandchildren.

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