

Charles H. Witten**Date of Death:** 11/1/2011

Charles H. Witten Sr., 85, of Elizabethtown, KY, formerly of Upton, departed this life on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011. He was born on March 16, 1926 to the late Libby and Euell Witten. He was a proud member of the United States Navy from 1944-46. A lifelong learner, Mr. Witten went on to receive degrees from the University of Notre Dame, University of Kentucky, University of Michigan and University of North Carolina. He served his fellow man as a loyal professional in the fields of environmental health, communicable disease control, rural health program development, health management and primary health care systems. After serving as Hardin County assistant county agent for the University of Kentucky from 1953-54, he went to work for Quaker Oats Company as a feed consultant where he remained until 1961. He then began to serve as the principal environmentalist for the Hardin County Health Department until 1964. From 1964 to 1986, he held numerous positions for or was in some way associated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the federal agency responsible for administering civilian foreign aid. He served his nation in this capacity in Liberia, Africa, the Philippines and Vietnam, all countries facing very difficult challenges during a very volatile time in world history. He volunteered for assignment in these countries out of loyalty to his nation's needs and his love for people during this challenging time in the world using his education, experience and determination to do his part in furthering world stability, education and health. He received many Letters of Commendation and appreciation awards including the Vietnamese Health Medal, 1st Class for Assistance in Refugee Operations. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Frieda Robbins; a brother, Everett Witten; a daughter, Peggy Thompson; a son-in-law, David Thompson; and a great-granddaughter, Shelby Thompson. Mr. Witten is survived by his wife, Belen M. Witten of Elizabethtown.