

Jack I. Moore, bombardier, 42nd Sqd, 11th Bomb Group (H), 7th Air Force Pacific.

Jack Moore was a gregarious FM stereo radio pioneer who started the "smooth jazz" radio format in Minnesota on KTWN-FM in the late 1970s.

He also was a decorated Army bombardier in World War II, a golf fanatic and a proud Irish Catholic whose wife and 11 kids were a major part of his life.

Moore died of colon cancer Dec. 19 in New Brighton. The former Minneapolis resident was 89. "Jack was a pioneer in our industry. He had the first FM stereo station in the Twin Cities," said Steve Woodbury, outgoing chairman of the Minnesota Broadcasting Association. Moore was an independent owner known for starting FM radio stations, Woodbury said.

Moore, who was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasters Hall of Fame in October 2004, is credited with creating "smooth jazz," a format Radio & Records magazine called "the first pop jazz station ever launched." Similar programming is now heard on Cities 97.

The son of a lawyer, Moore grew up in Minneapolis and was an all-city hockey goalie at Edison High School in 1939, said his son Terry Moore. He attended the University of Minnesota a year before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943.

As a bombardier, Moore worked in the plexiglas nose cone of B-24s, dropping bombs on targets in the South Pacific during World War II. He was awarded a Purple Heart after enemy fire shattered the nose glass, injuring his eye, his son said.

After the war, Moore played guitar with the Men of Note, a Minneapolis big band, for a few years before being hired by WPBC-AM as a salesman in 1950. He handled about every job the station had in the next decade before leaving to become a partner in the fledgling WAYL-FM in Minneapolis.

In addition to his son Terry, Moore is survived by his wife of 57 years, Emily; three other sons, Rob, Brian and Chris; six daughters, Mary Moore, Linda Healy, Penny Moore, Mickey Moore, Sharon Hernandez and Julie Desmond; a brother, William Moore; a sister, Pat Scattarella; 31 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. One son, Jay, and a grandson, Matthew, preceded him in death.