

Dr. Irving Beck dies; former medical chief at Miriam, Lying-In Hospitals

PROVIDENCE-DR. IRVING A. BECK, 86, of 700 Smith St., a physician and consultant in internal medicine for many years before retiring in 1980, and later the senior medical consultant to the Rhode Island Medical Center for 10 years, died yesterday at Roger Williams Medical Center. He was the husband of Edith (Woodhead) Beck.



A lifelong Providence resident, he was a son of the late Harry and Elizabeth (Temkin) Beck. Dr. Beck was a graduate of Brown University, where he majored in biology and was a member of the Debating Union and Phi Beta Kappa. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School with the highest academic honors, and completed his residency training in 1939 at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and served as a captain in the Medical Corps, assigned as chief of laboratory services in the 48th Evacuation Hospital (Rhode Island Hospital Unit). He served in a base hospital in the China-Burma-India Theater. He was a member of an Army commission that explored problems of malaria. He returned to the United States as a major and was briefly the deputy chief of medical services at Camp Edwards in Massachusetts.

In 1962, Dr. Beck became chief of the medical service at Miriam and former Lying-In (now Women and Infants) Hospitals, and consultant in internal medicine to Rhode Island and Roger Williams Hospitals. In 1962 he was chosen as the first clinical faculty member to counsel students in Brown's new master's

degree program in biomedicine. He was president of the Providence Medical Association, governor (for Rhode Island) of the American College of Physicians, president of the Rhode Island Diabetes Association, and president of the American Osler Society.

Known also for his literary scholarship and medical historiography, Dr. Beck taught a course in medical history for decades at Brown with Prof. G.E. Erikson. He chaired the state medical society's committee on library services and was a trustee of the Brown and Harvard Medical School libraries.

He was awarded Brown Medical School's W.W. Keen Award "for distinguished achievements and service to the community and to Brown University."

In 1986 he was awarded the Ralph O. Claypode Memorial Award by the American College of Physicians. He was a member of the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine in Boston, the John Russell Bartlett Society, the John Carter Brown Library, the Friday Night Club, the Grolier Club and the Italian History Club.

Besides his wife, he leaves three daughters, Louise Beck of Kensington, N.H., Ruth Beck of East Greenwich, and Barbara D. Beck of Wawtertown, Mass.; two brothers, Aaron T. Beck, M.D., in Pennsylvania and Maurice Beck in Michigan; and six grandchildren. He was the father of the late Stephen Milton Beck, and brother of the late Bernard Beck and Beatrice Beck.

The funeral service will be held today at 1:30 p.m. at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

BECK,
Dr. Irving

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January 25, 1998. Residence: 700 Smith St., Providence. Beloved husband of Edith (Woodhead) Beck. Devoted father of Louise Beck of Kensington, NH; Ruth Beck of East Greenwich; Barbara D. Beck of Wawtertown, MA; and the late Stephen Milton Beck. Dear brother of Aaron T. Beck of Philadelphia, PA; Maurice Beck of MI and the late Bernard Beck and Beatrice Beck. Loving grandfather of James and Kate Bahn; Allison and Spencer Longo; and Shimon, Jennifer and Michael Bashki. Funeral services will be held Monday at 1:30PM at the MAX SUGARMAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 458 Hope St. (corner of Doyle Ave.), Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Brown University Medical School. Shiva will be observed at the Village at Elmhurst, 700 Smith St., Providence. Monday, 7-9PM; Tuesday and Wednesday.