

Noted volunteer 'Becky' Bernat; aided blood center, other causes

PROVIDENCE — Rebecca Bernat, of 670 North Main St., a former Outlet Co. clerk who was named the Volunteer of the Year this month by Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr. and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, died Thursday at Miriam Hospital.

"Becky," as Miss Bernat was known, was honored as one of the longest-serving volunteers in the RSVP's Johnston, North Providence and Providence region, having volunteered for the Rhode Island Blood Center and numerous other agencies for nearly two decades.

A native of Boston, and a daughter of the late Haskell and Lena (Comras) Bernat, she moved to Providence with her widowed mother and siblings in 1921 and later went to work as an accounts-receivable clerk at the Outlet department store in downtown Providence for 54 years until it closed, in 1982.

At the RSVP's annual recognition luncheon this month at the Roger Williams Park Casino, Miss Bernat said she had decided to start volunteering at the blood center after receiving blood herself during a hospital stay.

She then went on to use her clerical experience to guide other agencies with their processing of bulk mail, including the United Way, the YMCA, the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island the the Department of Elderly Affairs.

"Why do I volunteer? Because I love it," she said in an interview two weeks ago. "You meet such lovely people. And you don't have to stay in the house alone. It's beautiful."

Miss Bernat was a member of the Women's Association of the former Jewish Home for Aged, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Israel. She was financial secretary of the Charlesgate North Resident Association and a member of the Cranston Senior Guild.

She leaves two nephews, Haskell M. Glantz of Newton, Mass., and Rabbi Haskell M. Bernat of Aventura, Fla.; a niece, Shirley Cohen of Silver Spring, Md.; and three grandnephews and six grandnieces. She was sister of the late Frances Glantz and Samuel and Solomon Bernat.

A graveside service will be held Monday at noon in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

BERNAT, Rebecca 'Becky'

October 19, 2000. Residence Charlesgate North, Providence. Beloved Daughter of the late Haskell and Lena (Comras) Bernat. Devoted Aunt of Haskell M. Glantz, Newton, MA; Shirley Cohen, Silver Spring MD; and Rabbi Haskell M. Bernat, Aventura, FL. Great-Aunt of Philip, Deborah, Erica, Joshua, David, Aviva, Dina, Paula and Rhonda. Great-Great-Aunt of 4 nieces and 5 nephews. Loving Sister of the late Frances Glantz and Samuel and Solomon Bernat. A Graveside Service will be on Monday at 12 noon at Lincoln Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the RI Blood Center, 405 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908. Shiva will be private. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.