

BLAZAR,
Howard A.

Howard A. Blazar, 76, of Newton, ophthalmologist, WWII veteran

A service will be held today for Howard A. Blazar of Newton, an ophthalmologist, who died Saturday in his home of prostate cancer. He was 76.

Born in Providence, Dr. Blazar earned a bachelor of arts degree as a pre-med student at Brown University in 1938. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and in his senior year was nominated to be a Rhodes scholar. He earned his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1942.

Dr. Blazar completed an internship in 1942 at Rhode Island General Hospital in Providence before doing his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

During World War II, with the rank of captain in the US Army, Dr. Blazar served as a medical officer in Europe and received a Bronze Star and a Silver Star.

In 1949, he opened his ophthalmology practice in Boston and became affiliated with Beth Israel Hospital. Before retiring in 1991, Dr.

Blazar treated more than 33,000 patients. From the late-'50s to the mid-'60s, Dr. Blazar was a consultant at the MIT Health Clinic. He was also head of the ophthalmology department at New England Medical Center during the 1960s, and taught at Tufts University. He was called as an expert witness in many legal cases.

Dr. Blazar was a member of several medical associations, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the New England Society of Ophthalmology and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

He leaves his wife, Lillian (Nation); three sons, Alan of Newton, Richard of Newton and Paul of Hudson; two daughters, Jeannie Blazar of Newton and Sally Blazar of Brookline; two brothers, Leonard of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Sheldon of North Bethesda, Md.; and seven grandchildren.

The service will be held at 1 p.m. in the Levine Chapel in Brookline. Burial will be in Sharon Memorial Park in Sharon.