

PASSAGES

Navy doctor Sidney Brody, 96

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JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Capt. Sidney I. Brody, the first commanding officer of the Naval Hospital at Quonset Point and the first physician to pilot a Navy jet and land on an aircraft carrier, died Saturday at his home in Brookline, Mass., at the age of 96.

A native of Philadelphia and the husband of the former Muriel Myers to whom he was married 69 years, Brody was a pioneer in the field of aerospace medicine. When the Navy developed its F-9 jet, he was the first to take it to an altitude of 60,000 feet.

"He wanted to see how far he could push it, and what the effect would be on a pilot," one of his sons, Mitchell Brody, recounted Tuesday.

Commissioned a Navy lieutenant junior grade in the

Navy Medical Corps in 1942, Brody worked as a Navy flight surgeon in several venues including China and the Philippines when he developed his interest in flying, according to his wife.

"He didn't think being a flight surgeon was good enough and that he should be flying," his wife recounted Tuesday. "When he applied for flight school they accepted him immediately. I think it was because they wanted a doctor who could see what it was like firsthand."

By 1947, he had undergone training as a naval aviator and became the medical officer for Carrier Air Group 4, serving aboard the aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After becoming a physician and test pilot, he served as a liaison to the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and, in the early 1950s, was part of team that developed the first pressurized flight suit for pilots for high-altitude flights.

"I had no idea what he was doing because he never talked about it," his wife recalled Tuesday. "Half of the stuff he did I read about later. It was all so secret."

Brody eventually became the first senior medical officer aboard the Saratoga. Then, influenced by President John F. Kennedy's physician, Janet Travell, he developed innovative treatments for myofascial pain, discovering that sore throat pain often originates in the neck muscles.

In 1966, he became the first commanding officer at the Naval Hospital at Quonset Point, continuing there until his retirement as a Navy captain in 1970. It was then that he moved to Cumberland, where he continued to practice internal medicine for 28 years, focusing on chronic pain and immune disorders. He also taught for a short time at Brown Medical School and made rounds at Rhode Island Hospital.

He and his wife moved to Brookline in 1999. His survivors, besides his wife and his son, Mitchell, of Kfar Sava, Israel, are son, Raymond, Brody of Forest Hills, N.Y., a daughter, Diane Brody, of Brookline, and four grandchildren.

His funeral was Tuesday at Congregation B'nai Israel in Woonsocket with burial with military honors in B'nai Israel cemetery.

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ELSEWHERE

 **BRODY, DR. SIDNEY I.**, physician and retired Naval Aviator, 96, of Brookline, MA, passed away Saturday, October 23, 2010 at home. He was the devoted husband of Muriel (Myers) Brody, whom he married in 1940. He was born in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Brody held a private practice in Cumberland, RI and was a 28 year Navy Veteran, with distinguished accomplishments in Naval Aviation and Aerospace Medicine.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Mitchell of Kfar Sava, Israel, Raymond of Forest Hills, NY and Diane of Brookline, MA and four grandchildren, Claire and Andrew Discenza and Eli and Ariel Brody.

His funeral will be on Tuesday October 26, 2010 at 2PM in Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, RI 02895. Burial, with military honors, will follow in B'nai Israel Cemetery, Mendon Rd., Woonsocket. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Congregation B'nai Israel. www.holtfuneralhome.com

BRODY, SIDNEY