

PJB 3-10-08

PROVIDENCE

 **BROWN, BERTRAM M**, 93, of Providence, Rhode Island, a pioneer in the plastics industry, died March 9th, 2008 at home. He was the husband of Phyllis (Rosen) Brown; they were married for 65 years.

Son of the late Charles and Lillian (Bearman) Brown, he was born in Seattle, Washington but grew up and lived most of his life in Rhode Island.

He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Chemistry from Rhode Island State College (now University of Rhode Island) and was doing graduate work for his PhD at MIT when World War II began. He was an instructor at Rhode Island State and Northeastern University prior to joining the US Naval Reserves. He received a commission as Ensign and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. As Chief of Subsection PR6B in the Ammunition Department of the Bureau of Ordnance, he was responsible for the procurement and distribution of artillery, small arms ammunition and the demolition materials for the Navy and Marine Corps. Upon release from active service he received citations for his outstanding performance from the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance.

After World War II, he entered the plastics business, becoming a prominent businessman in Rhode Island. He was founder, president and general manager of the Rosbro Plastics Corporation and the Tico Toys Corporation. He was also president of R and B Realty Corporation, and served as an officer or director of E. Rosen Co, Erco Corporation, International Realty Corporation, Lonsdale Realty Corporation, Hope Erco Corporation and American Chemical Works, Inc. After his retirement from the plastics business, he remained active in real estate. Mr. Brown was one of the founders and first presidents of Southeastern MA and RI Chapter of the Society of Plastic Engineers; and he was a board member for many years. He was a member of the American Chemical Society for over sixty-five years.

Mr. Brown had an enduring involvement with Camp Jori and with Vocational Resources in Rhode Island. At Vocational Resources, he served as president for three of his ten years on the board. At Camp Jori, he served as president of the board for five years, chairman of the Camp Committee and scholarship committee for many years and was made an honorary president of the board. He has been honored by Camp Jori, URI Hillel, and Vocational Resources. He established scholarship funds for science students at URI and Simmons College.

In addition, he was an organizer and member of the troop committee for Cub Pack #66 and Boy Scout Troop #6 in Pawtucket, he served as Committeeman for the Boy Scouts from Blackstone Valley. He served as a Board Member, then later an Honorary Board Member for The Jewish Family Service and for Temple Emanu El as well as a Board member for the Jewish Home for the Aged. Also active in Hillel Foundation at URI, he served as the president for three of his many years on its Board of Directors.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his four children: Charles and his wife Elizabeth (Waldman), Ronald and his wife Sharon (Jacobs), Judith and her husband Larry Pryor, and Elisabeth and her husband Alan Groveman; nine grandchildren: Emily and her husband Jeff Fialky, Garrett Brown and his wife Alyssa, Molly Donovan and her husband John, Daniel Groveman and his wife Mary, Ezra Pryor, Pamela Brown, Zachary Brown, Rebecca Groveman and Arianna Groveman, and six great grandchildren: Ann, Jack and Nora Donovan, Jonah Brown, and Melonie and Aaron Groveman.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, March 10th at 1:30 pm at Temple Emanu El, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Camp Jori, PO Box 5299, Wakefield, RI 02882 Or URI Hillel, 34 Lower College Road, URI, Kingston, RI 02882. Shiva will be observed at Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Boulevard #337, Providence, RI 02906 on Monday evening, March 10th from 7-9 pm and Tuesday, March 11th from 2-4 pm and 7-9pm. Arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.