

GELCH,
MELVYN M. MD

PSS 2-6-05

GELCH, MELVYN M. MD, 69, of 83 Loring Avenue, Providence, died Friday at RI Hospital where he practiced neurosurgery for the past 37 years. He was the husband of Joan (Kameny) Gelch.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, the son of the late Abram and Ida (Friedman) Gelch, Dr. Gelch received his BA in 1956 from Johns Hopkins University and his MD in 1960 from Harvard Medical School, where he continued to be involved in alumni activities. He was appointed Associate Clinical Professor of Neururgical Surgery at Brown University School of Medicine in 2001 and served on The Board of Governors at RI Hospital and was past president of The Staff Association. In 1981, Dr. Gelch was elected to the Providence Home Rule Charter Commission and served as its chairperson. Two years later, the Providence electorate passed a revised version of the Home Rule Charter. Dr. Gelch was elected a delegate to the RI Constitutional Convention where he was credited with the establishment of an ethics commission.

He was a community leader serving on the Board of Dorcas Place Parent Literacy Center and was presently serving as a Trustee on the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El in Providence. In 1999, Dr. Gelch established The Kameny Lectureship in Geriatric Medicine. He also served as Medical Officer, LT (MC) USNR, US Navy, April 1962-August 1963.

Besides his wife he leaves four children; Hugh Gelch, Auburndale, MA; Ilene Gelch Benghiat, Lexington, MA; Stefan Gelch, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; and Diane Gelch Simons, New York City, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Monday at 1:00 P.M. at Temple Beth El, Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Kameny Lectureship c/o Steer House, 100 Borden Street, Providence, RI 02903 or Temple Beth El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence, RI 02906. Shiva will be observed at his late residence, Mon. 7-9 and Tues.-Thurs., 2-4 and 7-9 P.M. The family was assisted with the arrangements by SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.