OBITUARIES

Bernard C. Gladstone, 56; was lawmaker, counsel to Lot

PROVIDENCE — Bernard C. Gladstone, 56, of 89 Faunce Drive, who as a state representative was a strong force in promoting the establishment of the state lottery system and served as legal counsel to the Lottery Commission since its creation in 1974, died yesterday at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.



Mr. Gladstone, a Democrat, represented House Dist. 5, Providence, from 1961 to 1974, and throughout his years in the General Assembly, he pushed for the required constitutional amendment to allow a state-operated lottery.

Rhode Island voters overwhelmingly passed the amendment in a 1973 referendum and, when the House voted the bill creating the system in 1974, Mr. Gladstone told his colleagues, "You will be extremely proud of the results."

He was named counsel to the Lottery Commission in the spring of 1974 and served without pay until the end of that year when he left the legislature.

Peter J. O'Connell, lottery commission director and a close friend of Mr. Gladstone, yesterday said that "the people setting up the lottery depended heavily on Bernie" and praised his loyalty "to the commission members and to me."

While best known for his legislative promotion of a state-operated gambling system — as early as 1961 he strongly supported amendment proposals — Mr. Gladstone was also active in Providence politics, and was a leader of the Third Ward Democrats on the East Side.

He headed a special city education study commission, appointed by then-Mayor Joseph A. Doorley Jr., which recommended an appointed, rather than elected School Committee, and a sharp reduction in that panel's fiscal autonomy. Doorley proceeded to implement those recommendations.

In the legislature, Mr. Gladstone was a consistent critic of what he saw as an inordinate amount of tax-exempt property in Rhode Island.

In 1963, he introduced a measure that would outlaw professional boxing in the state. Boxing, he said, had degenerated to "a system of brutality."

Mr. Gladstone was the husband of Harriet (Fishbein) Gladstone.

He practiced law in Providence and was a member of the firm of Gladstone and Zarenga. He was president of Temple Beth Sholom, Providence, for 15 years.

He was president of the Congregational Presidents of Rhode Island, a member of the board of directors of the Providence Hebrew Day School and a past officer of B'nai B'rith. He was awarded the Masada Award in 1976 for his role in that year's Bonds for Israel Drive. He was a member of Roosevelt Lodge, F & AM.

He was also a member of the American Bar Association, the Rhode Island Bar Association, the American Trial Lawyers Association, the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association and the American Arbitrators Association.

GLADSTONE, BERNARD C.

Born in Fall River, Mass., Aug. 3, 1923, he was a son of Alexander K. Gladstone of Providence, and the late Etta (Maker) Gladstone.

He was graduated from Hope High School in Providence in 1941, earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1947, and received a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1950.

Besides his wife and father, he leaves three sons, Bruce W., Jeffrey H. and Scott C. Gladstone, all of Providence; a daughter, Mrs. Andrea G. Saltzman of Cranston; two brothers, Arthur Z. Gladstone of Lake Forest, Ill., and Larry Gladstone of Houston; a sister, Mrs. Norma Soforenko of Springfield, Mass., and a grandchild.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. today at Temple Beth Sholom, Camp Street. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.