

GODFREY,
Sydney

A thank-you to some people who did things

Sydney Godfrey will always be on the list of people who make this job a pleasure and a privilege.

Sydney's graveside funeral was held Sunday morning in Lincoln Park Cemetery, in Warwick. There were about 20 people there.

The words at the grave and the words in his too brief obituary didn't do justice to this delightful man



**BOB
KERR**

who insisted on helping people until he just couldn't do it anymore.

Sydney was a volunteer. He worked at Rhode Island Hospital, helping people find their way through the often confusing maze of medical offices. He worked at Head Start and Hospice of Rhode Island. He visited nursing homes, sometimes just talking with residents and sometimes driving them to places they wouldn't have gotten to without him.

And he was a constant advocate for better treatment and greater dignity for those who are forced by age and illness to entrust their care to strangers. He was 87 when he died, and it was only a few months earlier that he had been insisting on getting back to his job at the hospital after an illness. In the end, though, the spirit was willing but medical problems made it impossible.

So thank you, Sydney, for being a good guy and a true friend to people who may never have even known your name.

And while I'm at it, on this day before the best day of the year, thank you, too, to other people who have quietly done good things in the past year and made all of us the better for it.

SYDNEY GODFREY, 87, of 95 Hillside Ave., a retired salesman, died Friday at Miriam Hospital.

He was the husband of the late Mary (Stern) Godfrey. Born in Providence, he had lived in Cranston most of his life before returning to Providence in 1996.

Mr. Godfrey attended Providence College. He was an Army veteran of World War II, and a member of Touro Fraternal Association. He was a volunteer worker at Rhode Island Hospital.

He leaves a brother, Stanley Rubinstein of Sharon, Mass; a niece and a nephew, Donald and Pat Rubinstein, both of Fall River; and several other nieces and nephews. He was the brother of three late sisters and two late brothers.

A graveside service will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.