GOLDSTEIN, HARRY

JVH 4-14-2006

Harry Goldstein, 94

PROVIDENCE — Harry Goldstein, 94, died Feb. 23. He was the husband of Ruth R. Goldstein.

He graduated from Classical High School in 1929, magna cum laude, and Brown University in 1933, Phi Beta Kappa and Francis Wayland scholar. In 1936 he graduated from Duke University School of Law with the honor of the Order of the Coif. At the time he took the Rhode Island bar exam, he received the highest score recorded in the state.



Upon graduating from Duke, Mr. Goldstein served briefly in the Social Security Administration in Baltimore before being drafted into the Army in World War II, serving as a supply sergeant and an orientation official for newly enlisted troops.

After the war Mr. Goldstein returned to Providence to devote his professional life to the city. From 1949 to 1964 he served as Assistant City Solicitor, winning many landmark decisions in its favor, especially in the field of zoning, for which he was nationally known. He appeared before the U. S. Supreme Court on the city's behalf.

In 1964, Mayor Joseph Doorley appointed Mr. Goldstein the first Jewish commissioner of public safety in which he was a fervent and frequent spokesman for the police and fire departments. During his tenure he conceived and built a state-of-the-art communications center. After retiring from this post, he became a special assistant to the attorney general under the Hon. Julius Michaelson and the Hon. Dennis Roberts II. He also served as a member and later as chairman of the Zoning Board of Review. After retirement, he served on the Ward Committee of the East Side of Providence.

Mr. Goldstein was a past president and member of the Jewish Fraternal Association, a member of Temple Emanu-El, the Knights of Pythias and the R.I. Bar Association.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Edythe G. Victor, Esq., of Erwinna, Pa., and Stephanie Heine of Norwalk, Conn.; and five grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Anne Stone, George Goldstein and the Hon. Abraham Goldstein.

Contributions may be made to Chabad, 48 Savoy St., Providence, RI 02906.