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Dr. Melvin Hoffman funeral is Wednesday; vicitm of drowning

PROVIDENCE — A funeral for Dr. Melvin D. Hoffman, a prominent physician who drowned Saturday in a boating accident in Texas, will be held Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth El, Orchard Avenue.

Dr. Hoffman, who was a past president of the Rhode Island Medical Association, and a clinical professor at Brown University, died while sailing on Lake Conroe with a friend, Dr. Robert Lewy of Houston, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department said last night.

Dr. Hoffman, who served as the medical association's president in 1982 and 1983, opposed government intervention in the health care field by the Federal Trade Commission, and served on a "blue ribbon" commission appointed by Governor Garrahy to study how to meet the long-term health needs of Rhode Island's elderly.

When he left office with the medical association, he called on the organization to work more actively with consumer groups and advocates of improved medical care.

He was also a former president of the Rhode Island Heart Association, vice president of the American Heart Association, president of the Miriam Hospital medical staff and a member of the state Advisory Commission on Aging.

The Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., is in charge of arrangements.

HOFFMAN, DR. MELVIN