FALL RIVER THE HERALD NEWS
Wednesday, August 18, 1999

HOLLAND,
Gen. Leonard

Leonard Holland, retired general

PROVIDENCE (AP) — U.S. and state flags in Rhode Island were lowered Tuesday in memory of retired Maj. Gen. Leonard Holland, commander of the Rhode Island National Guard for 22 years, who died in Atlanta

School in 1935.

He was drafted into the Army in 1941 and later, he entered Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. His military career lasted 42 years.

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HOLLAND,

Former National Guard commander, R. I. adjutant general for 22 years, Retired Maj. Gen. Leonard Holland

Retired Maj. Gen. Leonard Holland, who served for 22 years as the state's adjutant general and commander of the Rhode Island National Guard, died yesterday at a nursing facility in Atlanta.



Holland, 83, had been ailing since 1996, when he tumbled from an airplane staircase at T.F. Green Airport, fracturing his skull on the tarmac. The fall left him permanently disabled. In November 1998, a federal jury found Business Express of New Hampshire, owner of the airplane, responsible for Holland's injuries and awarded more than $7.2 million in damages.

Holland, who commanded the National Guard when it helped the state dig out from the blizzard of 1978, was adjutant general under five Rhode Island governors and was in office longer than any other adjutant general in the country.

While in office, Holland almost single-handedly secured from the Department of Defense a 79-acre tract at Quonset Point, which he developed into the state headquarters for the Air National Guard. On his retirement, the National Guard base at Quonset Point was named in his honor.

Holland was born in Providence in 1916 and educated in the Providence public schools. He graduated from Central High School in 1935.

dition, Notte's Republican successor, John H. Chafee, elected to keep Holland in office.

The adjutant general is the governor's chief military officer and head of the state's Army National Guard and Air National Guard. At the time of Holland's retirement, there were 4,400 people serving in the Guard.

In an interview at the time of his retirement, Holland discussed some of his proudest achievements.

"I've been in the company of governors and presidents and kings and queens," Holland said, "but I think one of the best moments of all came in 1979. There was a state employees strike at the Institutes for Mental Health, and the Guard went in there and ran everything for 10 days straight. When the strike was over, it was like the 'Bogey March' scene from *The Bridge on the River Kwai.* We gathered all the units outside the IMH to march off the grounds, and, you know, every one of those inmates who could stand, walk or crawl came out to see us off, to say good-bye."

Holland was also proud of the work the Guard did during the 1978 blizzard — setting up landing sites, bringing in supplies and helping dig out the highways.

"I think the Guard has touched everyone in Rhode Island at one time or another," he said. "I'm happy to have been a part of that."

HOLLAND, Leonard
Major General
R.I. National Guard
(Ret.)

August 16, 1999. Residence: 1714 Consulate Place, West Palm Beach, Fla. Beloved husband of Bernice (Berry) Holland. Devoted father of Richard Holland, Atlanta, Ga.; Glenn Holland, Los Angeles, Ca.; and Ronald Holland, Atlanta, Ga. Dear brother of Harry Holland, Boca Raton, Fla.; Marvin Holland, Providence; Zelda Kolodney, Pawtucket; and the late Hye Holland, Mollye Weiner and Florence Stone. Adored grandfather of six. Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. at Temple Emmanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hasbro Chil-