Obituaries

KAGAN, SAMUEL

Samuel C. Kagan dies at 75; ex-businessman, ex-legislator

NARRAGANSETT — Samuel C. Kagan, 75, of 97 Kingstown Rd. died Friday at South County Hospital. He was the husband of the late Ruth (Goldman) Kagan.



Born in Russia, a son of the late Harry and Ethel (Brody) Kagan, he lived in Providence most of his life.

Mr. Kagan was the founder and operator of the Kagan & Shawcross Insurance Agency for 43 years before retiring in 1979. A Democrat, he served in the Rhode Island House of Representatives from 1937 to 1976, and had previously been an alderman in the City of Providence.

As a representative in the early 1960s, Mr. Kagan pushed for the formation of the Public Transit Authority, intended to bring together all the state's public transit lines into one agency. He supported eliminating fares and making the state's mass transit system a public utility, dependent on tax revenues.

During the early 1970s, Mr. Kagan supervised the redrawing of the state's political districts to comply with the 1970 census, and headed a governor's commission studying the problems of handgun control.

In 1975, Mr. Kagan drew bitter criticism when he failed to act on a bill which would have allowed South Kingstown police to make arrests in a section of Narragansett. The bill, which had already passed the Senate and was overwhelmingly supported by the local community, died in the House Corporations Committee, which Mr. Kagan headed.

Mr. Kagan, who was a deputy House majority leader, also headed a committee to look into building an jetport and industrial park on the Rhode Island-Connecticut state line, and headed a House commission to study medical malpractice. In 1974, Mr. Kagan was the first member named to the newly-formed state Solid Waste Management Corporation.

He was a member of Temple Beth Am Beth David, Warwick.

Mr. Kagan leaves a son, Steven G. Kagan of Providence; a daughter, Mrs. Rose K. Marx of Highland Park, Ill.; two brothers, Jack Kagan of Warwick and Bernard C. Kagan of Pembroke Pines, Fla.; four sisters, Mrs. Bea Davis and Mrs. Rose Kolodny, both of Sunrise, Fla., Mrs. Anne Orodenker of Cranston, Mrs. Marian Goldfine of Woonsocket, and three grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held today at 3 p.m. at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.