JVH 1-20-2002 KAPLAN, RABBI PHILIP

Rabbi Philip Kaplan, 88

PAWTUCKET — Rabbi Philip Kaplan, a respected educator and volunteer in Rhode Island, died on Jan. 2. He was born in Albany, N.Y., the son of Anna and Abraham Kaplan. He grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., attended Yeshiva University High School and College and received rabbinical ordination from Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 1942.

In 1945 he married Esther Koffler, daughter of the late Sarah and Charles Koffler of Providence.

He served as a congregational rabbi for 36 years. He was a judge on the Rabbinical Court at the Rabbinical Council of New England in Boston for 40 years, and served as the president of the council for eight years. He served as a chaplain for 20 years at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Providence and at the Walpole Prison in Massachusetts.

Rabbi Kaplan was a member of the Rabbinical Council of America, and the Yeshiva University Alumnae. He served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, was a charter member of the Attleboro Ministerial Association, president of the Attleboro Mental Health Association, and president of the Big Brothers of Attleboro. He received awards from the Israel Bonds Association. In 1959, he and his wife were presented to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip on their visit to Sarnia, Ontario where he had a pulpit.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Andrea D. Lieberman and her husband Dr. Michael J. Lieberman of North Bellmore, N.Y.; a son, Dr. Allan S. Kaplan and his wife, Cheryl, of Toronto, Ont.; a brother, Dr. Solomon Kaplan of New Rochelle, N.Y.; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Rabbi Philip Kaplan Memorial Fund of Yeshiva University, c/o Rabbi Herbert Dobrinsky, 500 W. 185th St., New York, N Y 10033.