Jacob Katz, 79; founded chemical firm

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. — Jacob Katz, 79, founder and owner of the former Universal Chemicals Corp. of Ashton, Cumberland, died Wednesday in the Boca Raton Community Hospital, Boca Raton. He was the husband of Beatrice (Klemer) Katz.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Hyman and Matilda (Rosen) Katz, he had lived in Rhode Island until 1976, when he moved to Florida.

Mr. Katz graduated with a degree in science from Rhode Island State College, now the University of Rhode Island, in 1933, and later also received his master's degree there.

He founded Universal Chemicals in 1946, and retired in 1975.

Mr. Katz was a member of the congregation of Temple Emanu El of Providence.

He was a 50-year member of the American Chemical Society, a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, and a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Technion Society and the American Oil Chemists Society.

Besides his wife he leaves a daughter, Fredda Levitt of Miami; a son, Herbert N. Katz of Cranston; a sister, Claire Frankel of Providence; a brother, Joseph Katz of East Providence; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., with burial in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

KATZ, JACOB