KAY, Howard

PJ-B 1/11/1997

Howard Kay, who led Navy base transformation, dies



Journal-Bulletin files

HOWARD KAY was "a man who always looked you in the eye."

By JERRY O'BRIEN
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

NEWPORT — Retired Navy Capt. Howard N. Kay, whose leadership in the 1970s transformed the Naval Education and Training Center from a struggling base without a fleet into the Navy's premier educational facility, and whose vigorous opposition to casino gambling helped galvanize a statewide movement, died Thursday at home. He was 71.

A man of boundless energy and fierce principle, Kay threw himself fully into military assignments and personal interests, leaving behind him a wake of memories cherished by his friends and colleagues.

For years he dutifully took notes at endless meetings of the state Lottery Commission, whose policies he abhorred. An anti-smoking advocate, he picketed the sponsorship of a Newport tennis tournament by a tobacco company. He battled litter and fought to expand school breakfast programs.

Though committed to a host of

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civic activities, he remained dedicated to his family and to the appreciation of fine art, those who knew him said.

"Here was a man who always looked you in the eye and always knew what he thought was right," said Bryant College president Ronald K. Machley, a former congressman, who first met Kay in 1974 shortly after Kay's arrival in Newport as commander of the Navy base.

"He was upright, straightforward. He would argue for the right, and he didn't care what the consequences were. Often this is a quality that can get a person into trouble. In his case, his ability to persist gives us a great legacy."

Machtley was a junior officer at the time, as well as a painter. Captain Kay and his wife, Liliana Kay, bought one of the young lieutenant's paintings at a local art show. Machtley never forgot the kindness.

A veteran of Vietnam and Korea, Kay had served for 27 years before his final assignment in Newport. Born in Milwaukee, Wis., he was

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KAY, Irwin

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KAY, Irwin M.

November 25, 2001. Residence: 85 Sheffield Rd., Cranston. Beloved husband of Adele (Finberg) Kay. Devoted father of Paul Kay of Cranston, and Lisa Goncalves of Naples, Italy. Dear brother of the late Sheila M. Kay. Loving grandfather of Joshua M. Goncalves. Funeral services Wednesday 11 a.m. in the SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Parkinson Disease Assn., 825 Chalkstone Ave., Providence, R.I., 02908. Shiva will be private.

IRWIN M. KAY, 70, of 85 Sheffield Road, a retired doughnut-shop owner, died Sunday at Briarcliffe Manor, Johnston.

He was the husband of Adele (Finberg) Kay. Born in Providence, the son of the late Murray and Mirrel (Resh) Kay, he had lived in Cranston for 43 years.

Mr. Kay had been the treasurer of Wel-Made Mfg. Co. of Providence for many years, and later had owned Mr. Donut shops in Woonsocket and Dedham, Mass., before retiring.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Paul Kay of Cranston; a daughter, Lisa Goncalves of Naples, Italy; and a grandson. He was the brother of the late Sheila M. Kay.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.