KERZNER, JOHN JOSEPH

10-27-05

KERZNER, JOHN JOSEPH, 97, of Hillside Dr., Palm Harbor, FL, a retired Delicatessan owner, died Tuesday at home. He was the beloved husband of the late Bessie (Broomfield) Kerzner.

Born April 15, 1908 in Russia, a son of the late Henry and Rose (Weiner) Kerzner, he and his wife, Bessie, established what was to become a landmark deli called "Bessie's" on Broad Street in Providence, RI in 1945. They operated this until they retired to Florida in 1976. In 1926, at the age of 18, he graduated from Rhode Island College of Pharmacy & Allied Sciences, now a part of URI. He was a member of the Congregation Sons Of Abraham, Providence, Congregation Beth Shalom, Clearwater, FL, a 32nd degree Mason & Shriner, lifetime member of the Hebrew Free Loan Association, Touro Fraternal Association, and Charter member of the US Holocaust Museum.

He is survived by his sons, Maurice of Clearwater, FL, Alan, Boynton Beach, FL; daughters, Kathleen LaRoche, Palm Harbor, FL, Estelle Yurman, Clearwater, FL, brother Samuel of NYC; sister, Ruth Kenner of Boca Raton, FL; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife Bessie, brothers David, Louis, Chiam, Max and sister Sylvia.

Graveside services will be held at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Friday at 11 a.m. Shiva will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society. John will always be remembered as a kind and gentle man. Arrangements by SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston.