LASH, MELVIN

Melvin N. Lash, 86

NEWPORT, R.I.–Melvin N. Lash, formerly of Fall River, Mass., and Barrington, passed away May 6. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Sheila M. (Lyth) Lash. He was born in Fall River, the son of the late David and Florence (Levine) Lash.



A graduate of Tabor Academy, Class of 1945, he went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Boston University School of Management in 1949. He served in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of Colonel.



He entered the family finance business, Lash Acceptance Corp., working with his father in both Providence and Fall River. The business changed to automobile and home lending. Retiring in in 1994, he continued his military career in the Reserves, staying active as an Air Force Academy liaison for the Fall River area. He was a member of the Board of Directors at the Quequechan Club and a past President and Chairman of the Board at the Fall River Marine Museum.

He was an avid mariner and served as Commodore of the Goat Island Yacht Club in Newport and later as an active member of the Coasters Harbor Naval Yacht Club in Newport. He was a well-known character on the Newport waterfront, always seen with a small poodle, named either Pooh or Annie, by his side.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, Sheila, include his two daughters: Gillian Lash Perlinski and her husband Chester (Pearl), of Alexandria, Va., and Alison R. Rode and her husband Mitchell, of Berryville, Va.; his two grandchildren: Nathan and Amelia Rode; his sister: Irene Olsen of West Palm Beach, Fla.; his three nephews: Richard Licht, and Larry and Andrew Polin; and his niece: Andrea Finkel. He was preceded in death by his dear son, Jonathan D. (JD) Lash, and his sister, Dorothy Polin.

Donations in Melvin's memory may be made to the Seaman's Church Institute, 18 Market Square, Newport, R.I. 02840.