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Max Leach, business leader in machinery, jewelry firms

LEACH, Max

PROVIDENCE — Max Leach, 88, of 196 Freeman Parkway, a well-known business leader in machinery and jewelry manufacturing, died Friday at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Muriel (Dauer) Leach.



A lifelong Providence resident, he was a son of the late Harry and Pauline (Greenberg) Leach. Mr. Leach was a machinery dealer for more than 75 years. Along with his late father and brother, he was known in the New England manufacturing community for his advice and assistance in the launching of many jewelry firms. He was vice president of the former H. Leach Machinery Co., and president of Main Machinery Co. and Industrial Machinery Appraisal Co., all in Providence. He was president of the former Yale Machinery Co. and the Silver Spring Realty Co. During World War II, he was the owner and operator of the former Engineering Products Co., which manufactured torpedoes for the Navy.

He was one of the original founders and a lifelong member of the Machinery Dealers National Association, and a former president of its New England chapter. In 1994, the association honored him with a dinner that established a scholarship in his name. He was a long-time member of the Manufacturing Jewelers and Silversmiths Association.

Mr. Leach was a director and member of the executive board of the former Columbus Bank. For more than 50 years he was a member of Ledgemont Country Club, and for more than 60 years a member of the Aurora Civic Association. He was a member of the Barney Merry Masonic Lodge, the Shriner-Scottish Rites, the Elks, the Bishops Council, the Corporation of Jewish Family Service, the Prime Ministers Club of Israel Bonds, the Miriam Hospital People, Touro Fraternal Association, the Zionist Organization of America, the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and B'nai B'rith. He was a Hadassah Associate. For more than 50 years he was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, David H. Leach and Bruce A. Leach, and a daughter, Susan Leach DeBlasio, all of Providence; and a granddaughter. He was a brother of the late Oscar "Arnie" Leach, John Leach and Ruth Leach Oster.

The funeral service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El, corner of Morris Avenue and Sessions Street. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

LEACH, Max

May 30, 1997. Residence: 196 Freeman Parkway, Providence. Beloved husband of Muriel (Dauer) Leach. Devoted father of David H. Leach, Bruce A. Leach and Susan Leach DeBlasio (and her husband Dr. Peter F. DeBlasio, Jr.), all of Providence. Loving grandfather of Amy Page DeBlasio. Dear brother of the late Oscar "Arnie" Leach, John Leach and Ruth Leach Oster. Funeral Services will be held Monday at 11AM at Temple Emanu-El, corner of Morris Ave. and Sessions St., Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to JERI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Shiva will be observed at his late residence 2-4; 7-9PM Monday thru Thursday. Arrangements by the MAX SUGARMAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 458 Hope St. (Cor. of Doyle Ave.), Providence.