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Joseph K. Levy; humanist, benefactor, civic leader

PROVIDENCE — Joseph K. Levy, 76, of 741 Elmgrove Ave., chairman of the board of Senak Co. of Rhode Island, with which he was affiliated for more than 40 years, died yesterday at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Sylvia J. (Schaffer) Levy.



A lifelong resident of the city, he was a son of the late Charles and Minnie (Wine) Levy.

In 1960 Mr. Levy was honored by the Rhode Island Jewish Bowling Congress as the Jewish Man of the Year. He was an ardent supporter of Boys Town of Italy for many years, and was honored as Italian Man of the Year of Rhode Island in 1979.

He served on the board of the Catholic Charities of Rhode Island, was a member of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and had been its general chairman when it was called the General Jewish Committee.

He was active in the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage and was appointed by then-Gov. Christopher DelSesto to the Rhode Island Industrial Building Authority and also as a member of the Rhode Island Civil Rights Commission.

In 1967 Mr. Levy was named by Gov. John H. Chafee as a member of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Juvenile Delinquency and Criminal Administration.

A graduate of the former Rhode Island School of Pharmacy, he was a member of Temple Beth-El and Congregation Mishkan Tefilah, the Redwood Lodge No. 35, AF&AM, the Jewish Home for the Aged and Miriam Hospital. He served for many years on the board of the Sophia Little Home.

Besides his wife he leaves a daughter, Barbara L. Land and a son, Richard G. Levy, both of Barrington; two sisters, Shirley M. Baker of Providence and Gladys Myers of Manchester, N.H.; and four grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. today at Temple Beth-El, Orchard and Butler Avenues. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

LEVY, Joseph