OBITUARIES

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NATHAN Ernest

Ernest Nathan, 86; founded Elmwood Sensors

NATHAN, Ernest

November 2, 1991. Beloved husband of Pearl (Gluck) Nathan. Residence 204 Freeman Parkway. Dear father of John Nathan Gerson, Washington DC, Alan Nathan, Barrington and Richard Nathan, Italy. Dear brother of Alice Regensteiner, Warwick. Devoted grandfather of Jeffrey, Robert, Sarah, Daniela, Merissa and David. Funeral services 2 pm Monday at TEMPLE BETH-EL, Orchard at Butler Avenues. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Pearl and Ernest Nathan Research Fund Of Technion, 79 Milk St., Boston or the Pearl and Ernest Nathan Purchase Fund, c/o of the Museum Of RI School Of Design. Memorial observance at his late residence Tuesday through Wednesday 2-4; 7-9 pm. Arrangements by MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

PROVIDENCE — Ernest Nathan, 86, of 204 Freeman Parkway, founder and former chief executive officer of Elmwood Sensors, Cranston, died yesterday at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Pearl (Gluck) Nathan.

Born in Augsburg, Germany, he was a son of the late Rudolph and Lena (Bernheim) Nathan.

Mr. Nathan was a graduate of the Institute of Textile Technology in Reutlingen, Germany, in 1926. He came to Wood River Junction to head the Warwick Chemical Co. in 1929 on a joint venture with Crompton Corporation and his family's chemical company, Chemisch Fabrik Pfersee, Augsburg, a family busines started in 1968, to make Impregnole, one of the first water repellents for fabric which his family had developed in Germany. Before World War II, he was a U.S. citizen and was able to sign affidavits for at least 50 persons, including his entire family.

In 1946, he sold the business to the Sun Chemical Corp., where he was vice president from 1948-1952 in Long Island City. From 1952 to 1954, he was executive vice president of the Palestine Economic Corporation, and lived part- time in Israel, encouraging economic development there.

In 1954, he rejoined Crompton and ran their Teflon division called Chemo Products in West Warwick.

In 1962, with assitance from the Small Business Administration he bought control of Elmwood Sensors, a start up company making bimetallic disc thermostats. He developed Elmwood into an international company with a second factory in Newcastle, England. He sold it in 1980 to Hawker Siddley of Great Britain. He was named "Businessman of Rhode Island" in 1971.

In 1970 and 1971 he was sent on a series of trade missions to Scandinavian and Eastern European countries by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

He was a founding member of Larchmont Temple, Larchmont, N.Y., where he lived from 1946 to 1956. He was a past president of Temple Beth-El, Providence, where he lived from 1929 to 1946 and from 1956 until his death.

An honorary fellow and lifetime board member of the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, he was also on the national board of the Jewish National Fund, and the social action committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. In the past he was on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and was active with the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, the East Side YMCA, and the Brown Medical School.

He was a member of the first Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities. He was a member of the Chemists Club in New York and on the President's Council of Providence College.

Besides his wife he leaves two sons, Alan Nathan of Barrington and Richard Nathan of Cassano Valcuvia, Italy; a daughter, Joan Nathan Gerson of Washington, D.C.; a sister, Alice Regensteiner of Warwick, and six grandchildren.

The funeral will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, Orchard Avenue. Burial will be in Congregation Sons of Israel and David Cemetery.

COHEN