PJ-B 9-11-1997

POSNER, Seymour

Asst. U.S. Atty. Seymour Posner; veteran federal state, prosecutor

PROVIDENCE — Seymour Posner, of 75 Edgehill Rd., first assistant U.S. attorney for Rhode Island, died Monday at home. He was the husband of Avis (Strauss) Posner.



Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he had lived in Providence for the past 40 years.

Mr. Posner became an assistant U.S. attorney in 1978 and U.S. Attorney Sheldon Whitehouse named him first assistant in 1995. "Sy was a veteran prosecutor who was a gentleman and a good friend to me, the office and the United States," Mr. Whitehouse said.

Asst. U.S. Attorney Craig N. Moore, who worked closely with Mr. Posner said, "Sy was unfailingly kind, courteous and decent."

As first assistant U.S. attorney, Mr. Posner coordinated investigative task forces on environmental crimes and health care fraud and prosecuted high-profile cases of credit-card fraud and fraud in federal labor programs. Most recently, he assembled a law-enforcement crisis response plan for potential terrorist incidents, a model that will be implemented nationwide.

Among the numerous awards Mr. Posner received during his tenure as a federal prosecutor was a citation from the Internal Revenue Service for leadership and achievement, and awards from the Department of Justice recognizing his prosecutorial skills and sustained superior performance. The Secret Service recognized him for his assistance in its work and he was named second-place finisher for the Prosecutor of the Year Award from the International Association of Credit Card Investigators. He was also recognized by the FBI.

Mr. Posner was honored by the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Labor Department for his aggressive prosecution of fraud and corruption in federal labor programs.

Prior to joining the U.S. attorney's office, Mr. Posner was a special assistant Rhode Island attorney general under Atty. Gen. Julius C. Michaelson. He was also a law clerk for the late Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice William E. Powers.

Mr. Posner received an A.B. degree from Brooklyn College in 1951 and an LL.B. degree from New York University School of Law in 1954. He was a member of the New York and Rhode Island Bar Asosciations. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957.

Besides his wife of 44 years, he leaves a daughter, Penina Gayle Posner, and his sister-in-law, Phyllis (Strauss) Stanzler, both of Providence.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Temple Emanu-el, Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

POSNER, Seymour

September 8, 1997. Devoted and beloved husband of Avis (Strauss) Posner. Loving father of Penina Gayle Posner. Dear brother-in-law of Phyllis (Strauss) Stanzler. Funeral service 10 a.m. Friday at TEMPLE EMANU-EL, Morris Ave. at Sessions St. Relatives and friends are invited. Expressions of sympathy may be sent, in Seymour's memory, to the charity of your choice. Memorial observance at 156 Blackstone Blvd. at corner of Laurel Ave., Saturday 7-9 p.m., Sunday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Arrangements by MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.