Israel Rabinovitz, 59, Dies; Former Solicitor



Israel Rabinovitz

Israel Rabinovitz, 59, of 427 Park Ave., Woonsocket, died in Woonsocket Hospital shortly before noon yesterday less than 24 hours after his official retirement as Woonsocket city solicitor.

He was the husband of Mrs. Helen (Ginsberg) Rabinovitz.

Mr. Rabinovitz, who had served three terms as city solicitor totaling more than eight years, was hospitalized Friday after a long illness.

His funeral will be held this afternoon.

Mayor Kevin K. Coleman had announced in his inaugural address Sunday night that Mr. Rabinovitz had resigned because of illness. The mayor named William J. Gearon, assistant city solicitor, to the post.

The mayor thanked Mr. Rabinovitz for "his many years of public service," and praised him as "the epitome of the perfect public servant, always willing to toil for long hours, never willing to compromise on principle, ever dedicated to his work."

"Mr. Rabinovitz' conscientious devotion to his work will stand, well into the future, as an example to all," Mayor Coleman said in his speech Sunday night.

The city council opened its regular meeting last night by observing a moment of silence in Mr. Rabinovitz' memory.

Mr. Rabinovitz was born in Woonsocket, Aug. 2, 1901, son of Mrs. Rachel Rabinovitz and the late Edward Rabinovitz, who were among the earliest members of the city's Jewish community.

He graduated from Brown University in 1923 and the Harvard University Law School in 1927.

Since 1928, he had practiced law in Woonsocket in association with Harry J. Smith and Sen. Francis P. Smith, D-Woonsocket.

He served as city solicitor in 1949 and 1950, from 1953 to 1957 and from 1959 to 1961. In 1956, he also was designated acting probate judge with authority to sit in the absence of Mr. Gearon, who was then probate judge.

He was a member of Congregation B'Nai Israel, Woonsocket; Woonsocket Lodge, B'nai B'rith; the Jewish Home for the Aged in Providence; and the Rhode Island Bar Association.

Besides his wife and mother, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Natalie Robinson of Providence; two sisters, Dr. Harriet Stein of East Orange, N.J., and Miss Eve Rabinovitz of New York City; two brothers, Robert Rabinovitz of Boston and Dr. Leonard Rabinovitz of Alabama and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. today at B'Nai Israel Synagogue, Woonsocket. Burial will be in B'Nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket.

OBITUARY

ISRAEL RABINOVITZ