PJB 3-1-12

SAPINSLEY JOHN

SAPINSLEY, JOHN MILTON, 89, professor, mentor, businessman, philanthropist, World War II veteran, champion golfer, avid skier, wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, died of cancer at home in Providence, R.I. on February 29. His extraordinary talent for inspiring others to reach their full potential was evident in his professional career as a professor of economics and management at R.I. College and Brown University, as well as in his personal life as the husband and campaign manager of former R.I. State Senator Lila M. Sapinsley. He was a source of unwavering confidence and support for his family and for his students, many of whom remained in touch with him and sought his advice long after they had graduated.



Born on April 10, 1922 to Elsa and Milton Sapinsley in Providence, John graduated from Hope High School and was admitted to Brown University at the age of 16. Following graduation from Brown magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1942, he enlisted in the Navy, and was put in command of an LCT, a vessel designed to land tanks on enemy beaches. When he received orders to report overseas, John and Lila, who was the love and light of his life for almost 70 years, were married at the Naval Base in Norfolk, Virginia. During World War II John served in North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, and Normandy, survived the destruction of two of his landing crafts by enemy fire, and was promoted to

Following family tradition, John was also very active in community affairs, serving on the boards of Miriam Hospital, the ACLU, Roger Williams College, the Small Business Association, the R.I Public Expenditure Council, as a founding director of Common Cause of Rhode Island, and as founding Executive Director of the R.I. Council for Economic Education. He also served as president of the Walker's Pond Conservation Society to protect his beloved Conway Lake in New Hampshire, where he and Lila built a vacation home and enjoyed many happy years. John and Lila's love for the performing arts led them to endow a theater at Rhode Island College, which is named Lila and John Sapinsley Hall in their honor.

In addition to his wife and four daughters, John leaves four sons-in-law: James Mooney, Alan Rubenstein, Richard Lewis, and Harold Levy; nine grandchildren: Robin, Caitlin, and Jay Mooney; David and Julie Rubenstein; Zachary and Samuel Lewis; and Hannah and Noah Levy; and his sister Jane S. Nelson. Donations may be made in memory of John M.