SHAPIRO, ROBERT

RHODE ISLAND
PASSAGES

Robert J. Shapiro

The effervescent and steadfast Warwick superintendent, who spent 50 years working in the city's schools and inspired many students to become teachers, dies at 81. **A3**



SHAPIRO, ROBERT J., 81, of 91 Cypress Dr., Cranston, died Thursday, September 6, 2012 at Miriam Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Audrey (Saperstein) Shapiro. They were married for 55 years.



Born in Springfield, MA, a son of the late David and Sarah (Taber) Shapiro, he had lived in Cranston for 50 years. He was associated with the Warwick school department for 50 years, serving as Superintendent of Warwick Schools for 12 years and Principal at Tollgate High School for 19 years, retiring in 2007. Bob was a Korean Conflict Army veteran, serving in Japan with the Counterintelligence Corp. He was on the Board of Trustees at New England Tech, Elizabeth Buffam Chase Center, VOWS, RI Academic Decathlon and was an executive board member of the RI Association of School Superintendents. He was known for his devotion to his students of Warwick and always enjoyed attending numerous school events.

Robert earned a BA from Providence College, Class of '52 and a Masters degree from Brown University, Class of '60. He received an honorary Doctor of Education degree at the New England Institute of Technology. He was the recipient of numerous honors, including the RI Outstanding Young Educator Award, Superintendent of the year, and a building dedicated to him at Toll Gate High School – The Robert J. Shapiro Cultural Arts Center.

Devoted father of Andrew Shapiro and his wife, Sharon, of Bethesda, MD and Steven Shapiro and his wife, Mary, of Milton, MA. Dear brother of the late Lester Shapiro. Loving grandfather of Emmalee, Evan, Lucas and Olivia.

Funeral services will be held Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to The Robert Shapiro Fund for Warwick Schools, c/o Dr. John Thompson, 80 Hallmark Dr., Warwick, RI 02886 or your favorite charity. Shiva will be observed at his late residence Sunday 7:30-9:30 and Monday 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. Arrangements by SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston.