SILVERMAN, Ida

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MRS. A. SILVERMAN

Funeral services for Ida Silverman, 91, who died in Herzlia, Israel on November 1, were held Monday in Israel. She was buried in a cemetery at the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem where many notable persons lie at rest.

The Providence woman who celebrated her birthday on October 31 said upon leaving her family two years ago, "I want to go home."

"I'm going to be buried there," she said at the time. "I couldn't die anywhere else."

Mrs. Silverman, in her time, had been vice president of the Zionist Organization of America and vice president of the American Jewish Congress, the only woman to hold those offices.

She was Jewish Mother of the Year in 1951 and Rhode Island mother of the year in 1954. Mrs. Silverman had been inducted into the Rhode Island Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Silverman and her late husband, Archibald Silverman, were active in dozens of charities. In the course of her activities, she logged 600,000 miles by air. She had visited what was to become the Jewish state 20 times prior to its founding.

Nine years ago, Mrs. Silverman was presented the "Silver Medal" as the woman who had done most for the upbuilding of Israel. The honor was given her by the Mizrachi Women's Organization of America.

In the past few years, she was frail. But until very recently Mrs. Silverman had been considered one of the most dynamic speakers on behalf of numerous causes.

At her side most often was her husband, a Providence jewelry manufacturer and civic leader. Mrs. Silverman often expressed in public her feeling that without his encouragement she never would have been able to accomplish so much.

Her death came at a seaside hotel within days of still another war which tested whether the state of Israel whose creation had long been her dream, would survive.

She was a former vice president of the national Order of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization. Three times she was nominated to be its president but declined.

In Israel, she organized the Israel Synagogue Building Fund and was its chairman. More than 80 synagogues were erected in that country through her help.

Mrs. Silverman also had been vice president of the Hebrew University Building Fund, a movement which she launched in 1926 to build a hospital in Jerusalem. She was also vice president of National Young Judaea.

She was the holder of honorary doctorates from the Rhode Island College of Education and Bryant College.

Mrs. Silverman was born on October 31, 1882, in Kovno, Lithuania. When eight months old, she came to America and at the age of 10 she moved from New York to Providence. Her father, a peddler, was a Talmudic scholar and from him she inherited a deep love of Judaism and Zionism.

The mother of two children at 20, she threw herself into work for Jewish orphans in her community and was the founder of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island of which she became president.

She is survived by three sons, Irwin N. and Norman L. Silverman, both of Providence, and G. Leon Silverman of Sarasota, Florida; a daughter, Mrs. Arthur Holzman of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and six grandchildren.

Memorial services for Mrs. Silverman will be held at Temple Beth El on Friday, November 30, at 8 p.m.

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