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SPEAR,
L. WILLIAM
"BILL"

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Death Notices



SPEAR, L. WILLIAM (BILL), died on June 13,2007 in Miami. He was born November 27, 1924 in Providence, Rhode Island, the son of Esther & Alfred Spear. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Shirley (Shapiro) and their five children- Jeff (Maria), Lisa Miller (Rabbi Leibel Miller), Riva Adriance Esq. (Peter), David (Susan), Diane Leonard (Richard) and 10 grandchildren Shira, Daniel, Joel, Trina, Dena, Sarah, Deborah, Raquel, Lauren and Jake. Bill is also survived by his brothers, Dr Gerald Spear (Ilene)and Harvey Spear Esq. (Ruth) and brother-in-law Bernie Shapiro (Barbara) and many .nieces and nephews. Bill attended M.I.T. during the war and as a Marine ROTC, he was transferred to Cornell where he graduated as a mechanical engineer. He was a First Lieutenant working as an aircraft maintenance until the war ended.

Bill and Shirley were married when he was 22, and ready to start a family. Being a parent was his greatest joy. It seemed as if he invented the word togetherness. His children were his focus, always vacationing together whether it was skiing or bike riding in Nantucket. Photography was a hobby and joy throughout his life and he never went anywhere without his newest camera. He was also an avid tennis player from his college days.

His career started in the wholesale jewelry business with his father. Next he became a manufacturers representative in the shoe business and In addition opened a retail shoe store. He became involved in venture capital with a unique firm manufacturing high resolution optic lenses for the government to use in space missiles. He then worked in real estate with a partner and built a commercial building. At the age of 40, he resigned from his job to study real estate development for two years, eventually building federally financed low and middle income rental housing in New England. This business is still managed by his family. In 1976 he moved to Miami and began to develop residential communities in South Florida along with sons Jeff, David and eventually daughter Diane. The Spear group has developed over 3000 homes in 26 communities and has been an active member of the Builders Association of South Florida. Bill was a very passionate, caring and generous man. His integrity and moral stance was a prominent part of his being, along with his empathy and

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