STEIN, HAROLD

WARWICK

STEIN, HAROLD, 93, of Warwick, passed away June 19 at home with his loving family by his side. He was the beloved husband of June M. (Shore). Born in Providence, November 15, 1919, he was the son of the late Louis and late Anna (Morein) Stein.

Living through the Depression in Providence, he worked to provide for his parents and three siblings, the late Ida, Gilbert, and Rhoda. A wrestler at Hope High School, he graduated in 1937. He worked at Brown & Sharpe before enlisting in the Rhode Island National Guard in the 243rd Coastal Artillery, being discharged in October 1941. Upon the attack at Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Army Air Forces. Quickly rising in the ranks due his "previous military experience", he entered Officer Candidate School. As an operations officer, Harold served in a number of line bases across Africa from 1943 on. He participated in the transport of paratroopers for the Invasions of Sicily and Italy, and directed the never-ending movement of vital supplies "over the Hump" through 1945. Rising to the rank of First Lieutenant, he became the Commanding Officer at one base. After the war in Europe, he was on leave in Rhode Island where he met June.

Discharged late in 1945, the couple returned to Providence, where Harold briefly worked in the Shore and Saltzman in-law families' businesses, and then owned a spa in Providence. He proudly remained active in the Air Force Reserves until 1950. He joined John Hancock Life Insurance Company as an agent, moving to Warwick. Helping people financially came as a calling. He loved his clients' children and they him, carrying a pocketful of gumballs and making them magically appear out of their ears.

Harold was involved with the Warwick Volunteer Fire Department, and very active in local and state politics in the Democratic Party. He was a lifelong member of the American Legion. He was an excellent and devoted father, raising three loving sons, Paul, Robert, and the late David. Due to his insistence on meeting family responsibilities before and after the war, he did not pursue higher education. He understood the high value of a college education for his children, and all three graduated. Regarding careers for his sons, his philosophy was to allow them to go into whatever field, "as long as you enjoy what you do and work as hard as you can."

Harold "retired" from John Hancock after 30 years, but he became a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker, for 10 years. Finally retiring for good, he and June traveled throughout North America in their Winnebago, before settling down in Warwick and Palm Desert, California.

With more than seven decades experience, Harold was a master poker player, and it was uncommon for him to lose at the end of a night.

Harold was a kind, warm, gentle, generous person and a wonderful storyteller, with a quick, very dry wit. He formed instant relations with everyone he met. He was foremost concerned with everyone but himself. He was a real mensch.

Besides his wife of close to 68 years and two loving sons, he leaves two adoring daughters-in-law, Denise and Kathy, four devoted grandchildren, Michael, David , Zachary, and Cameron Stein, nephews, niece, cousins, and many friends, and neighbors. He will be greatly missed by everyone his life touched.

Services will be at Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Avenue, Cranston on Sunday, June 23 at 10:30 a.m. Burial with military honors will follow at Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick. Shiva will take place at the family home at 701 Orleans Ct., Warwick Sunday and Monday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to organizations that benefit military veterans and current members of the military.