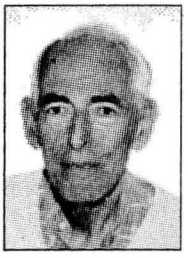
SYDNEY, ALLAN WILLIAM

PJB 10-23-08

SYDNEY, ALLAN WILLIAM, on October 16, 2008 of San Jose, Costa Rica, died peacefully at home, after a long illness. He was the principle owner and president of Sydney Supply Company of Providence, founded by his father, Jacob T. Sydney in the late 1920's. The heating and plumbing supply company was sold in 1996 to Bells/ Simons Supply.



Mr. Sydney was the beloved husband of Sydelle (Posner) Sydney. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island on September 19, 1928. Mr. Sydney was the son of the late Jacob T. and Ada (Schlager) Sydney. The Sydney family ancestors settled in Providence in 1874. Mr. Sydney wintered in Palm Springs and summered in Jerusalem, Israel and Costa Rica, Central America. In 2006, Mr. Sydney moved permanently to Costa Rica.

Mr. Sydney is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sydelle, as well as two daughters and much loved sons-in-law: Dr. Marcia Sydney Zax and Dr. David Bruce Zax of Itheca, NY and Linda Sydney Mermelstein and Dr. Simon Mermelstein of San Jose, Costa Rica and six beloved grandchildren, Benjamin, Rachel and Aryeh Zax; Daniel, Max and Joshua Mermelstein. His deceased siblings were Albert and Irwin Sydney. Mr. Sydney leaves one brother, Stanley Sydney of Brookline, MA and a sister, Joyce Sydney Rifind of Toronto, Canada.

Mr. Sydney graduated valedictorian of Hope High at 16 in 1946 and Brown University in 1949 at 19 years old. He thereafter served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1953. He was an active member of the Redwood Masonic Lodge, B'nai Brith, Temple EmanuEl, United Fund, Jewish Federation, Hebrew Free Loan Society, Providence Hebrew Day School, Jewish Community Center, Rhode Island Home Builders, Crestwood Country Club, Lion's Club, Aurora Club, Turks Head Club and Congregation Shaarei Tzion of San Jose, Costa Rica. He held high offices in many of the above.

Mr. Sydney was an avid fundraiser for Brown University and was a great advocate and supporter of athletic programs having run track for Brown. His father, Jacob T. Sydney, class of 1918 played football for Brown, going to the Super Bowl that year. Mr. Sydney supported women's athletics at Brown in its initial day and throughout his life. He built the Brown track around the football stadium as well. He attended numerous Olympic events all over the world with former and now deceased Brown University Track Coach, Ivan Fugue, a gold medal olympian winner himself. Allan also was a life long tennis player. Mr. Sydney anonymously supported over 100 charities being a compassionate humanitarian. He was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce for supporting needy families especially during all holidays by providing holiday meals in many neighborhoods that would have gone without.

The Sydney Family, a very close knit, devoted family, was a great joy and source of pride to Mr. Sydney who also leaves many, precious nieces and nephews in whom he also took much pleasure. He instilled the joy of learning into his two daughters and appreciated their academic achievements and professional success. He lived to see this same excellence in his grandchildren, his most precious riches. He loved his sons-in-law as sons and enjoyed their extraordinary professional achievements and leadership positions in their communities. In spite of his long illness, Mr. Sydney was at peace with his blessings and the love and respect accorded him.

Burial was in San Jose, Costa Rica with Rabbi Gershon Miletski officiating. Shiva will be observed all day, seven days at his home in Brisas del Oestc, Sabana Oestc, San Jose. In lieu of flowers, in the United States, donations may be made to The Sydney Family, Endowment Fund of Temple Emanuel, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence, RI 02906 or The Laurelmead Scholarship Fund, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence, RI 02906.