VILNER, BERTOLD

PVH 2-6-2004

Bertold Vilner

JOHNSTON — Bertold Jacob Vilner, 72, a biologist, died Feb. 27. He was the husband of Lucy (Stepanova) Vilner. They were married for 34 years.

Born in Leningrad, Russia, a son of the late Jacob and Feiga-Leya (Ginsburg) Vilner, he had lived in Johnston for three years, previously living in Providence and Vienna, Va.

He was a research biologist at Brown University and was involved in cell research at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md. He was also a psychiatrist and neurosurgeon in Belarus. He received his doctorate degree in psychiatry and his Ph.D. in biology from the Minsk Medical Institute in Belarus.

A Holocaust survivor, he escaped the ghetto in Belarus at age 11, and joined the underground.

He was a highly decorated World War II Soviet veteran.

He enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid reader.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Alex Vilner of Lincoln; a daughter, Galina Zybko of Minsk, Belarus; a brother, Vladimir Vilner of Smithfield and two grandchildren.

Burial was in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.