WEBER, MELISSA

PJB 4-29-04

MELISSA F. WEBER, 52, of 1490 Pawtucket Ave., an attorney, and civil-rights advocate, died Monday at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence.

She was the wife of William D. Weber. They had been married for 22 years. Born in New Haven, Conn., a daughter of Arthur Ohl of Wallingford, Conn., and Delray Beach, Fla., and the late Leatrice (Nankin) Ohl, she had lived in Cranston for seven years before moving to Rumford three years ago.

Mrs. Weber had been in private legal practice for three years in East Providence, and had previously worked as a cardiac technologist.

She was a pioneer in educational civil rights, providing legal representation and advocacy for children with disabilities, and had also been a crisis- and suicide-prevention telephone counselor.

She was founding president and parent coordinator of Children with Attention Deficit Disorders, Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter, and a founding member of the Coalition for Educational Advocacy.

Mrs. Weber had been a guest lecturer at the Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and volunteered as an ambulance attendant in Wilkinsburg, Pa.

She was a 1981 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with degrees in psychology and biology, and received her law degree in 1997 from Suffolk University Law School, Boston.

Besides her husband and father, she leaves a son, Samuel M. Weber, and a daughter, Dorsey M. Weber, both of Rumford; and a sister, Elizabeth Rhoades of Stafford Springs, Conn.

A graveside service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.

WEBER, Melissa F. (Ohl)

April 26, 2004. Residence 1490 Pawtucket Ave., Rumford. Beloved wife of William D. Weber. Cherished daughter of Arthur Ohl of Wallingford, CT and Delray Beach, FL and Leatrice (Nankin) Ohl. Devoted mother of Samuel M. and Dorsey M. Weber, both at home. Dear sister of Elizabeth Rhoades of Stafford Springs, CT. Graveside service Friday 11:00 AM in Swan Point Cemetery, Blackstone Blvd., Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center, 55 Summer Street, Rehoboth, MA 02769 (www.greenlock.org). Shiva will be observed at her late residence Friday 1-5 and Saturday 8-9:30 PM. Arrangements by SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1100 New London Ave. Cranston