P.J.B 5.12.91

Sidney Wexler, 68; retired lawyer, ex state representative

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sidney A. Wexler, 68, of 3003 Van Ness St., a retired lawyer and a former state representative, died Thursday evening at home. He was the husband of Pamela (Morse) Wexler.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Samuel and Annie (Caplan) Wexler. He had lived in Washington since 1966.

Mr. Wexler was a graduate of Classical High School, U.C.L.A. and Boston University Law School.

He was an attorney for the Providence City Collector from 1954 to 1959 and was active in the Young Democrats of Rhode Island during that time, spearheading a successful drive in 1955 to switch the group's presidential endorsement to Adlai Stevenson from Estes Kefauver. In 1959, he was president of the Democratic group and a charter member of Providence Volunteers for Kennedy.

He was elected in 1960 to the Rhode Island House of Representatives after his Democratic-party endorsed candidate in the primary was removed from the ballot because his brother bungled his nomination papers.

In the house, he introduced bills seeking to make discrimination in housing illegal, give firefighters collective bargaining and arbitration rights and requiring employers to give workers statements on their hours worked, gross and earnings and itemized deductions.

Mr. Wexler resigned in 1962 to become a lawyer with the Housing and Home Finance Administration in New York City. He served eight years in both the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission and with the Federal Trade Commission.

He was an Army and Air Force veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Washington, D.C., Bar Association and past president of the Rhode Island State Society in Washington.

Besides his wife he leaves a son, Jonothan D. Wexler of Bethesda, Md.; a sister, Jeanette Broomfield of Cranston; and two brothers, Bernard Wexler of Warwick and Irvin A. Wexler of Secaucus, N.J.

The funeral will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

WEXLER, Sidney