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WOLF, IRVING

WOLF, W. IRVING JR., 96, of Providence died peacefully Saturday August 6, 2011. Born in Far Rockaway Queens, New York and raised in nearby Woodmere Long Island, he was the son of the late W. Irving Wolf Sr. and Fay Miller Wolf and the devoted husband of the late Ruth Harris Wolf. He and Ruth had a dynamic marriage and partnership of 68 years that embraced and elevated all the Wolf family and numerous friends around the world.

Irving was the beloved father of son Scott Wolf and his wife Joyce Krabach of Providence and of the late David Harris Wolf and his widow Dorothy Wolf of Port Chester, NY. He is also survived by beloved grandchildren Jamie Wolf and his wife Kimberly of Greenville, RI, Scott Gurfein and wife Alison of Manhattan, Heather Gurfein also of Manhattan, as well as by his beloved great grandchildren Morgan and Dylan Wolf, Kyle Botelho and Skye Love Gurfein, and by numerous nephews and nieces. Irving was predeceased by his beloved brothers W. Stephen Wolf and Herman Wolf.

Irving had fond memories of his childhood growing up on Long Island but unfortunately in his late teens he contracted polio. He was aided immensely in fighting and overcoming that disease by his own grit along with the selfless assistance of his brothers and parents. His college ambitions were complicated by his polio and the depression of the 1930's. Consequently he was only able to attend Lehigh University briefly and subsequently take courses at Columbia, NYU, and Brown. When he volunteered for the Army in the early stages of World War II his polio restricted him to stateside duty in Atlanta, where he and Ruth developed wonderful lifelong friends and fond memories.

After World War II, Irving forged an outstanding business and community service career in Rhode Island. He was the consummate builder and effective but self of his Trifari career, he rose to be the company's President, Chairman and CEO.

Building a stronger community through civic leadership was a constant theme of Irving's bountiful life. As a Board member of the Miriam Hospital he devoted many hours to designing renovations to this important community asset. During his tenure as President of the Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island, he strengthened that institution's ability to serve individuals and families in need regardless of religion, race or creed. In addition he was a leader in the founding and building of the Highridge Swim and Tennis Club in Lincoln, RI.

Irving's resourceful leadership extended to family matters. He was always looking out for the welfare and fulfillment of not only his beloved wife Ruth and his own children, but also of his grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, brothers and parents.

Emblematic of his commitment to family was the strategic planning session he and Ruth convened in the mid 1980's for sons David and Scott at a point in their careers when they faced major decisions about their future direction.

When Scott decided to run for Congress in 1988 and then again in 1990, Irving dove into the campaigns, working relentlessly to build a good campaign data base and fundraising effort.

Despite his monumental work ethic, Irving also found time to relax and recreate. For many years he was an avid snow and water skier, golfer, tennis player, world traveler, reader and fan of classical music. He possessed an impish wit, and smile, a keen analytical mind, and a strong commitment to fairness, integrity and openness.

For the many who knew and loved him, Irving will be remembered as a man who complained little and accomplished a lot; a positive thinker who relished challenges and doing good; and a natural leader both in civic and family