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ZIFF, RICHARD

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PROVIDENCE

ZIFF, RICHARD N., 81, of Providence, RI, formerly of Hartford, CT, died April 11 at Epoch Senior Health Care Center in Providence, following a brief illness.

Born in Hartford, CT, he was a son of the late Michael and Bertha (Simons) Ziff. He is survived by his sister, Miriam Z. Snyder and her husband, Dr. Herbert L. Snyder, of Delray Beach, FL and Manchester, CT and his brother, Howard L. Ziff, of Sun City, CA. He was a brother of the late Winifred Z. Spitalnick.

A graduate of Weaver High School in Hartford, CT, Richard received his undergraduate degree from George Washington University and a law degree from Boston University. Following service in the Army during World War II, Richard practiced law in Hartford as a principal of the firm of Stoner, Kline and Ziff and later founded a firm in Norwich, CT. In Norwich, he served as City Attorney and was elected mayor of the City of Norwich. Before his retirement, Richard was Director of Personnel for the City of Providence, RI.

Upon retirement, Richard was well known for his prodigious volunteer work, especially in Providence. For over 15 years, he taught conversational English at the International House of Rhode Island on the Brown University Campus to foreign visitors, professors and dignitaries, many of whom became his friends. He was a member of Lawyers Without Borders. He volunteered as a docent at the RISD Museum and as a suicide prevention phone counselor. Richard's passions included reading, tennis and traveling. He was most proud of the success of Vincente Pina, whom he mentored as a big brother. He leaves behind his dearest friend, Susan Dodd, Debbe Greenspan, his closest niece, many other nieces and nephews and countless friends throughout the world.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at the International House of Rhode Island, 8 Stimson Ave., Providence, RI, this Friday, April 15, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. on the Brown University Campus. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or International House of Rhode Island. Arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.