



Irving Phillip Karelis

July 29, 1920 - May 25, 2017

Irving “Sheik” Phillip Karelis, 96, a lifelong Haverhill resident, passed away on May 25 at Hannah Duston Healthcare where he had been a resident since 2011.

He was born in Haverhill on July 29, 1920, the son of the late Max and Annie (Stoleski) Karelis. Mr. Karelis was educated in the Haverhill school system and graduated from Haverhill High School in 1938, the Tilton School in 1939 and from the University of New Hampshire in 1943 where he was a standout star athlete at all three schools. Mr. Karelis was named to the Tilton School Baseball Hall of Fame and to the University of New Hampshire Baseball Hall of Fame as well.

It was at the University of New Hampshire where he still holds the school record of starting, finishing, and winning both ends of a double header against the University of Maine. That feat happened only a few days before he enlisted in the United States Navy where he became a star pitcher for the Navy at Sampson, New York.

At the end of World War II, Sheik was signed by the Boston Red Sox farm team where he played for the Lynn Red Sox for two years before retiring and starting Karelis Jewelers which he owned and operated for forty years.

He was the husband of the late Eleanor “Ellie” (Seligman) Karelis who passed away in 2011. He is survived by step daughters Wendy (Gorevitz) Boswell and her husband Tom and Anita (Gorevitz) Ryan and her husband Mark; grandfather to Russell Boswell; as well as seven nephews and one niece.

He was predeceased by his siblings, Bernice Berman, Blanch Felser, Lester Karelis and Saul Karelis.

At the family’s request, services will be private with interment in the Children of Israel Cemetery, Haverhill. Arrangements are by the H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Homes, Haverhill and Bradford.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Karelis Family Fund at Temple Emanu-El, 514 Main St. Haverhill, MA 01830.

To share a memory or for more information, please visit www.farmerfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery



CHILDREN OF ISRAEL
CEMETERY

385 Middle Rd.,
Haverhill, MA 01830

Tribute Wall

J

Jim Holbrook

I will always remember Sheik I played for his baseball team in the 50's we traveled new england and had a great team. he was a very generous person and a good friend Jim Holbrook



Patricia Daniels

Mr. Karelis sponsored my Dad's (David A Daniels) baseball team. I was fortunate to work in his jewelry store thru one Christmas Season. He was very generous to those who worked for him and let me set up my first charge account. I was very lucky to get to know him again when my Aunt as a patient at Hannah Duston Nursing . Please accept me sincere sympathies and he was a very kind and gentleman.

D

David Cardarelli

I worked as a "stock boy" at Karelis Jewelers while I was in high school. Mr. Karelis, Mr. Goldberg, Helen, Leslye, Fred, Esmene, Ida, and Mrs. Kingston. And always Mrs. Karelis and Mrs. Goldberg around the holidays. So much fun. So many laughs. It was an honor to earn the trust of such a successful, generous, and respected man. Through the years we kept in touch and it was a pleasure to do whatever errand he asked of me, including the many trips to the Chicken Connection for chicken salad and chicken soup (no rice please!). You will be missed in this world. My condolences to all who loved IPK.

M

Milton Taylor

To the Karelis Family, Irving, the Sheik, was quite a man. My Dad's beat was Merrimack St, when I was a young child. I would go visit my Dad and would walk his beat with him. Always went by the store and there was this dapper dressed man. Always friendly and gracious to all. I remember all the teams he sponsored for baseball from Little League to the infamous Karelis Jewelers semi-pro team that played at Cashmans Field. The stories of athletes that wanted to go to UNH, go see the Sheik. I remember the first time we chatted at HD, he asked me , do you know me? Yes, you are the Sheik. he gave me that big smile. I spent 3 months last year at Hannah Dustin, rehabbing, I was in the cul-de-sac and 3 doors down from me, the Sheik. He would stop by my room from time to time and we would chat. Always got to talk to him by the nurses station on my way downstairs to PT. I schooled the nurses and aids on what a wonderful and generous great man they had there as some of them were not from Haverhill. He's quite a guy and very well known for being such. My sincerest condolences to all!! May he RIP. Milt Taylor
