

Archie P. Allen

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Republican, The (Springfield, MA) - Friday, November 3, 2006

1913 - 2006

SPRINGFIELD - Archie P. Allen, 93, of Springfield died peacefully on November 1, 2006 at Reeds Landing. He was the son of the late Agnes (Murphy) and John Allen of Pittsfield, MA. His sisters Elizabeth Putman and Mary Whalen, his wife Lillian Cheney Allen, a son Jeffrey Allen, all predeceased him. He is survived by his former wife, Lucile Shook of FL, his loving children, Terry Allen (Deborah) of VT, Christa Senecal (William) of Monson, L. William Cheney (Katherine) of Coventry, RI; Robert Cheney of Cambridge, NY; and Susan Vibberts (John) of Sandwich, MA; 11 devoted grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Archie completed high school in Pittsfield and graduated from Springfield College in 1937 and (MED 49). He then played for the New York Yankees and was a physical education instructor in Bristol, RI. In 1947 he returned to his alma mater and remained there for 31 years as the varsity baseball coach and physical education professor. During that time, Archie taught baseball at the invitation of the U.S. State Department Cultural Exchange program, and the baseball federations of nine foreign countries. Archie also coached the U.S. baseball team in the 1962 Pan American Games, the Dutch National Team in 1964, and the South African National Team in International Championships in 1966. Throughout his travels, he considered himself as an "ambassador of baseball" and believed that world peace could be attained through athletics. He was known locally for his annual Little League and Recreational League clinics. Archie authored five books on baseball, Past President of the College Baseball Coaches Association, National Coach of the Year (1969) and a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee (1963). He was inducted into the Springfield College, the Bristol, RI, and the Collegiate Baseball Coaches Halls of Fame. He was also the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Springfield College (1989) and the Lefty Gomez Amateur Baseball Award (1995). Archie retired to Cape Cod in 1979 where he was the Commissioner of the Cape Cod Summer League for College Players for a year. He returned to Springfield's Reed's Landing in 1996. He loved spending time with family, friends, former students, and players, flower gardening, and fishing. He was a former member of Foster Memorial Church, South Church, the Sixteen Acres Lion's Club, and the Masonic Lodge of Springfield. Archie was forever grateful to Springfield College for giving him the opportunity to live such a rewarding life. A person with fine integrity, compassion, keen sense of humor, and positive attitude, this humble, inspiring man will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him. A memorial service will be held on December 2, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. in the Marsh Memorial Chapel, located at Springfield College. The family requests that donations be offered to the Archie Allen Scholarship Fund, Springfield College, 263 Alden Street, Springfield, MA 01109 and or to the American Diabetes Association, 1701 N. Beauregard Street Alexandria, VA 22311.

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