**George J. Souza**

George J. Souza, 58, of 211 Pierce Ave. died Saturday at home. He was the husband of Sylvia M. (Hassell) Souza.   
  
Born in Providence, a son of Catherine (Kane) Souza of Warwick and the late Anthony Souza, he lived in Warwick since 1956.   
  
After graduating from Classical High School, Providence, in 1943, Mr. Souza signed a professional baseball contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers for three years. He was a World War II Army veteran and a paratrooper with the 13th Airborne Division.   
  
After his discharge from the service, he resumed his baseball career until injuries forced his retirement in 1947. He then worked for Excel Mfg. Co., Providence, retiring as office manager in January 1982 due to illness.   
  
Mr. Souza was a former member, past president and past secretary of the board of directors of the Machine Chain Manufacturers Association. He also served on the board of directors of the Providence Jewelers Club.   
  
Besides his wife and mother he leaves a son, Stephen M. Souza of Brooklyn, N.Y.; a daughter, Miss Debbie A. Souza of Warwick; a brother, Anthony Souza of Warwick; and two sisters, Mrs. Frances Mahoney of Clelmsford, Mass., and Mrs. Dolores Magnani of Warwick.   
  
The funeral will be held tomorrow at 8 a.m. from "Woodlawn," 600 Pontiac Ave., Cranston, with a Mass of Christian Burial in St. William's Church, Pettaconsett Ave., at 9. Burial will be in Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter.

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