

George Spiegel

(- 23 Oct 1997)

Spiegel, George. On Thursday, October 23, 1997, George Spiegel, of Silver Spring, MD, beloved husband of Ruth Weinstein Spiegel; devoted father of Charles of San Francisco, CA, Ladd of New York, NY, and John of Silver Spring, MD; grandfather of Nora, Tamara, Micha, Frances and Flora Spiegel. Services will be held on Sunday, October 26 at 2:15 p.m., promptly, from the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St., NW, Washington, DC. Interment Congressional Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Metropolitan DC, P.O. Box 34792, Washington, DC 20043-4792.

The Washington Post, October 26, 1997, p. B9

George Spiegel Dies at 78; Partner in D.C. Law Firm

George Spiegel, 78, a lawyer who was a specialist in public utility law and a founding partner of the Washington firm Spiegel & McDiarmid, died Oct. 23 of a stroke at his home in Silver Spring.

Since the 1960s, Mr. Spiegel represented a number of municipalities in the electric power and gas business in cases against for-profit utilities before federal agencies, the U.S. Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

His interest in utility law began when he successfully challenged bus fare increases proposed by the Capital Transit Co., which later became the D.C. Transit System, on behalf of several citizens associations.

From 1960 to 1967, he was a member of the law firm Goldberg & Spiegel. In 1967, he formed his own law firm, now Spiegel & McDiarmid, where he remained an active partner until his death.

In 1971, he won a case before the Supreme Court that involved a large public utility's attempts to collect payments from a smaller municipal power for backup service. The court ruled in Mr. Spiegel's favor, saying that the Federal Power Commission legally ordered Florida Power & Light Co. to provide the backup service without requiring annual payments for the service.

Mr. Spiegel was born in Salem, Mass. He graduated from Amherst College in 1941 and then served with the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. He received a law degree from Harvard University. After working with the Office of the General Counsel of the Navy Department, he became a legal member of the Navy Contract Adjustment Board until 1960.

He was a long-time proponent of conservation efforts. In 1995, he donated more than 700 acres of lakefront land in Vermont to the Vermont Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Vermont and New York. Another donation of nearly 500 acres, completed a 20-mile black bear migration corridor in Central Vermont.

He also was active in Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Metro D.C., serving as a spokesman for the last 15 years.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Spiegel of Silver Spring; three sons, John Spiegel of Silver Spring, Ladd Spiegel of New York and Charles Spiegel of San Francisco; a sister; two brothers; and five grandchildren.