

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH  
Honoree Worksheet

Name: Joe Samet

Spouse Sylvia

Date Honored: Oct.14th 1992

Birthplace: Bklyn.

Year: 1921

Education: High School

Career:Owned bread route 1950-1961

President of J.Samet Inc 1961 -1983

President of H.A.J. Pkg. Sales Inc.1969-1980

Exclusive franchise in Queens N.Y. of

Arnold, Ora Wheat, and Levy's breads

sold my business's to Continental Grain Co.

in March of 1983.

Consultant to co. for 7 years ending in 1991

Started with one truck in 1950, in 1983 when

sold we had 20 trucks.

Community/Civic Activities

President of cub scout's and troop 226 of boy scouts

President of Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms

1982-1985

Travels:Most of the world, exeption Africa

When did you move to L.W. 1985

Community activities: Board of community association 2 years

Earthquake task force, my letter in Aug.of 1989

to the G.R.F. Board started it.

Story of my life: Born in Bkly'n and inducted into Army

In Dec. of 1942 took basic training at Camp Barkley

Abilene Texas. From there the Army in it's infinite

wisdom assigned this Bklyn." boy" to the Veterinary

service,at Fort Bliss an outfit called the 23rd

Vet. Station Hospital, whose purpose in the

Dept.but, what the Army didnt take into consideration

was that this Boy didnt know the front end of an

animal from the rear, Anyway they they sent me to

a Veterinary school run by the army at William

Beuamont General Hosp. Here I learnt the front end

from the rear. Actually this opened an entirely

new outlook for me because the Vet. field was

intriguing to say the least. as a matter of fact

I went to the University of Kansas for an interview

with the dean and he assured me that with the

training I had they would accept me into the vet.

school upon my discharge.

Went overseas on a mule transport ship to a town north of Rome called Chitaveccia where the 10th Mountain Division was waiting for the load of mules to go over the mountains of the Po valley. That same night on arrival in Italy I hung out at an N.C.O. club that was British, when about 1:00 AM the MP'S came looking for us as there a flight leaving out of Pisa for Naples and we better be on it. That was the extent of my overseas service and besides I got a battle star for it. That nite we ended up in Casablanca and was told that the backup crossing the Atlantic was at least 30 days and to make ourselves comfortable at the Italian Embassy. Well you can guess the rest, no sooner had we laid down to go to sleep when they woke us up " get to the airport they are holding a plane for us and the guy said "who the hell are you fellows" [of course that wasnt his exact words] It turns out that we had a no. 1 priority to report to New Orleans by the fastest means possible. when we arrived in New Orleans they had our orders waiting and rush right back to the airport and report to Camp Beale in Marysville where a ship was waiting to go to someplace in Indo-China. Well to make a long story short there was no ship waiting for us and they didnt know what to do with us. Because we were "overseas" veterans we were entitled to R&R of 30 days. we stayed in El Reno Oklahoma for about 2 weeks when I was able to arrange a transfer to the east coast and I ended up living at home for six months until I was discharged in March of 1946.

Before my discharge I had received an Easter card from a Wac [female soldier] by the name of Muriel Himelstein who I had met casually at Fort Bliss, there was no return address on the card. As I had just broken off a relationship with another girl I was interested in contacting Muriel but remembered that she lived somewhere on L.I. I got a Long Island Phone and started to call

got the bright idea of talking to the information Supervisor and explained my problem well you know the old saying "no problem" that was her reassuring words to me, but what she didnt tell me was that Queens was considered Long Island also. Well you can figure out the rest, yes she found her, and we got married 8 months later when my only brother returned from Japan. Talking about my brother he evidently entered Nagasaki 2 days after the ATOM BOMB was dropped there. He passed away in early 1948 of Lueukemia he must of picked up in the far

East, he was 21 years old.

Muriel and I raised three children Alan, Howard and Judith, as the last two are only 14 months apart it was lots of fun (I can say this now 39 years later) Alan is a teacher of MATH and computer science in high school and the U. Of Conn. he is married to Freyda also a schoolteacher and they have my only biological granddaughter Emily 12 1/2. Howard is in the computer business as he and another fellow do billing for Hospital and Doctor's, he is married to Kathy and they live in seaford L.I. My only biological daughter Judith is a chief purchasing agent for a Co. in upstate N.Y. and she is married to Joey (we call him joe jr.).

Unfortunately there is a sad ending to this story, we planned our retirement, built a new house in the Poconos, traveled and started to do the things people plan to do at this time, but a larger hand took hold and Muriel passed away after a short illness. To say I was devastated would be fairly accurate fortunately my Sister In law Grace and Brother in Law Harold stayed with me for about a month and also we had become friendly with 4 other couples during our short time in Hemlock Farms and they kind of looked after me.

About six weeks after Muriel passed away I decided to go back on a jogging program I had been on years ago but before I did, I went in for a complete Physical and a stress test. I passed everything except the latter. With no symptoms whatever and I mean none it was determined that I had major arterial blockage. Evidently 25% of sudden deaths come with no symptoms whatever. Anyway I ended up at Yale University Hospital was operated on and out of the hospital in six days and recuperated at my son's house in Conn. for four weeks. Prior to this episode my friends at Hemlock were all going to Laguna Hills for the winter and suggested that I come along also, I agreed and they made arrangements for a manor for 4 months beginning in Nov. 1984 but of course this had to be delayed until after the surgery. I flew out on the 23rd of Dec. Nat and Ro. Shafran picked me up at LAX

they found it the next day and I was all set supposedly. I have to tell you it was not very enjoyable being alone after a happy marriage. But.....there is a happy ending to this story, My friends from Hemlock and they are friends decided that I should date, [I suppose to get me off there hands] but anyway on the day before New Years eve on a Sunday 1984 they asked if I would call this lady. I called Sylvia Krause and went over and was very impressed to say the least. We spent some hours telling our stories and backgrounds and decided

that we would go out to dinner the following Tuesday Jan 2nd 1985. we had a lovely dinner at Dulaney's I kissed her goodby and we made a date for the following Fri. Nite Jan 4th 1985, there was another couple with us the Labowitz's we went to the Black Angus and to Fri Nite services. That Fri. Nite evidently we both came to the same conclusion that altho we were from different backgrounds and environment, we had a lot in common and felt a mutual attraction for each other. The Next day Sat. we went to a local park and decided we would take it one day at a time, by the following Mon. I brought a bunch of roses and said the hell with this one day at a time I think i am falling in love with you. We decided we would wait a whole year for the anniversary of Muriel's death and then get married, as I had A house in Pa. we would go back for the summer months. Before we went back to Pa. we bought our present manor, closed it up and made arraignments to remodel it upon our return in Oct. We got married In PA. at the country club with only the immediate family in attendance and had our friends there for lunch. We commuted back and forth between Pa. and Laguna for three years and one by one the other couples decided to make a permanent home here in G--S country and in 1987 we sold our home in Pa., and now we have a west coast family and an east coast family.

Lets dwell a little bit about second marriages to be blessed a second time around is more than one can expect in our stay on earth, if you lose someone you love very much , and give it any thought you dont feel that you could be happy again. It is possible that I was lucky and met someone as loving, caring, and beautiful besides, all I can say is I am most grateful and thanking for having met her. Besides which Sylvia's children think of me as their Father.

In July of 1989 the Orange County Fire dept. said in the Register that in the event of an earthquake they might not get to us for at least 72 hours and we would have to be on our own. That nite I had

stuck on the ground in her manor with a grandfather's clock on top of her and for three days she wouldnt be rescued and nobody was there to help her, and that nite I couldnt go back to sleep and the same thing happened the next nite. The very next day I sat down and did something I have never done before I wrote a letter to the G.R.F. board and asked them what were they doing about earthquake preparedness back came a letter stating, go do it. Ed Linser was the first chairman and then in May of 1990 Peggy Kermer took over. we have come a long

way since then , I would venture a guess that there is no community in the WORLD that has attempted to organize 23,000 people as we have. This organization has dedicated people who have not let the bureaucracy and politics get in the way of our goal which is to prepare our residents for a major earthquake.

This symbolic honor is not for any one individual but for all the volunteer's who give of themselves. I accept it only with the understanding that I am receiving it for them and not for myself.