

Dr. Richard A. Carleton, 70

BRISTOL, RI – Dr. Richard A. Carleton, 70, formerly of Barrington, professor of medicine emeritus at Brown University and former chief of medicine and chief of cardiology at Memorial Hospital at Rhode Island, Pawtucket, died Sept. 12, 2001, at Philip Hulitar-Hospice Center, Providence. He graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth (Mass.) College in 1952, received his certificate from Dartmouth Medical School in 1953, and graduated cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1955. He did post-graduate training at Boston City Hospital, and was senior medical resident at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Boston in 1960. Last year, Dr. Carleton was a Fulbright visiting professor in Italy. His academic appointments included Harvard Medical School, Tufts University School of Medicine the U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine, the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and Rush Medical College, University of California. Most recently, he had served as chairman of the Department of Medicine Dartmouth Medical School a professor and acting chief of cardiology at Brown, where he was named a professor emeritus. Before his career brought him back to Rhode Island in 1976, Dr. Carleton had worked at Rush Presbyterian – St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Diego, CA, Balboa Naval Hospital and Scripps Memorial Hospital, both in San Diego, Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, NH and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction, VT. The physician-in-chief at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island from 1982 to 1995, and the chief of the hospital's cardiology division from 1976 to 1997, he had also served as director of its division of health education and a member of the board of directors the hospital's Physician Hospital Organization. He simultaneously had served as associate director of Health Promotion Corp. of Pawtucket, and as the principal investigator of the federally financed Pawtucket Heart Health Project.



He was a past president of the American Heart Association – Rhode Island Affiliate, which awarded him its Golden Heart Award in 1993, and chose him last year to receive the John H. Chaffee Award for outstanding health-care leadership. The American College of Physicians also honored him last year with its Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Carleton had also served as a committee member at Hospice Care of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Quality Partners, the New England Research Institute, the R.I. Governor's Year 2000 Health Objectives Task Force, the R.I. Medical Society, the R.I. Foundation, the Society for Preventive-Cardiology, the Pawtucket YMCA, and the R.I. Department of Health. A member of the advisory committee of the Barrington Teen Substance-Free PLAC he was a member and had served on the board of directors of the Audubon Society Rhode Island. In 1996, he was elected to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame. An avid sailor, participating in Narragansett Bay Yachting Association races, Twenty Hundred Club races and many others, from Nova Scotia to the Virgin Islands and Grenadines, he was a member of the Barrington Yacht Club, where he had received many awards, including the Alden Walls Sportsmanship Trophy, the Sidney Greenwald Outstanding Sailor Trophy and the distinguished Isaac Merriman Trophy fleet captain at the club, he had served on its race committee, cruise committee, membership committee and nominating committee. Dr. Carleton was crew member in the 1986 Bermuda Race, skipper/celestial navigator in the 1991, 1995 and 1997 Bermuda Races, and overall winner of the race in 1991. He participated in five Chicago-to-Mackinac races, winning first place in his class in the Detroit-Mackinac Race, and in 1971, his boat was named the Chicago Boat of the Year. He had previously belonged to the Pensacola Yacht Club, where he was the founder and first commodore, and to the San Diego Yacht Club. Dr. Carleton was the husband of April (Plumb) Carleton, daughter of the late Max Plumb, born in Providence, a son of the late Russell F. and Margaret Rexford (Bristol) Carleton. He had lived in Barrington before moving to Bristol. He was a member of the Barrington

United Methodist Church, where he served on the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and was a member of the board of trustees.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Mary M. Carleton of Bristol; a brother, Rexford Carleton of Woodenville; a sister, Susan Carleton of Garborville, CA; a brother-in-law, Todd (Renie) Plumb of Harlan and Evelyn Plumb of Harlan.

A memorial service was held Sept. 22, 2001, in the First Baptist Church in America, Providence, RI. Burial was private.