

Lewis W. Dunton Jr.

January 11, 1992

Rear Admiral Lewis Dunton Lewis W. Dunton Jr., 79, former resident of Rockport and Melrose, died on Thursday at a Saugus nursing home. He was a retired rear admiral in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

Born on July 26, 1912, in Spencer, he is the husband of Mary E. (Gable) Dunton of Melrose, and son of the late Lewis W. and Grace D. (Taylor) Dunton.

Admiral Dunton graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1930 and from Harvard University in 1934. He received a commission in the Navy through the Harvard ROTC in 1934. He saw active duty in World War II, receiving both a Purple Heart and the Silver Star for action in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserves following World War II until 1959, attaining the rank of rear admiral.

He served as vice president of the A.C. Lawrence Leather Co., Peabody, from 1935 to 1972. He serves as former chairman and director of the Calfskin Tanners Group and was a member of the Tanners Council of America.

He was a member of the First Congregational Church, Melrose, where he served as a deacon, leader of the Boy Scouts and on the committee to rebuild the church after a fire destroyed the original building. He served as vice chairman of the Board of Directors and as a member of the planning committee of the Congregational Retirement Homes.

He was a retired trustee of the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, on the Board of Directors at the Battleship USS Massachusetts Memorial, on the board of the Sandy Bay Yacht Club, Rockport, and an alumni trustee of the Massachusetts Gamma Chapter SAE at Harvard.

Adm. Dunton was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was an avid sailor and coached Little League for many years in Melrose where he resided for 46 years.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Frank Prouty Dunton, husband of Patricia, of Rockport; daughters-in-law Marjorie S. Dunton of Jacksonville, FL, and Dr. Brenda Pettee Haughey of East Amherst, NY; four grandchildren, two nephews, John T. Dunton of California and Charles H. Dunton of Nantucket; and three grandnieces.

He is predeceased by 1st Lt. James Gable Dunton, U.S. Army, and Capt. Lewis W. Dunton III, U.S. Navy.

The funeral will be held Friday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, Melrose. The Rev. Erskine White will be officiating. Burial will take place in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Spencer. Arrangements are by the Robinson Funeral Home in Melrose.

Memorial gifts may be sent to either: Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, 585 Lebanon St., Melrose or the Memorial Fund of the First Congregational Church, 121 W. Foster St., Melrose.