

Morris Stein

1913 -

"Morris Stein is not just a successful businessman, leader and charity fundraiser, but above all a gifted statesman. A man of vision who brings us to the very best that we can be."

- Rabbi David Wiesenberg

Morris Stein, who was born in Waterbury on December 15, 1913, is a life-long resident of the City. Few area individuals are as beloved and respected as he is, fewer still can duplicate his achievements as a businessman and his years of dedicated service to numerous organizations.

He attended local schools and graduated from Crosby High School. Later, he was educated at Dartmouth College and the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration.

Stein's business career began in 1936 with the Torrington Supply Company which his father, David, founded in 1917. For decades the company catered to the large brass industry that dominated Waterbury and today the firm services the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional markets. David Stein headed the business until the 1940's when he turned it over to his three sons. Morris, the oldest, became president while Jerome and Harold ably assisted in the management of the business. A fourth brother, Joseph, was a prominent area architect who designed the Silas Bronson Library, the Waterbury Club, the Grand Street Courthouse and many other local buildings.

Morris Stein resigned from the business world in 1999, but is still active in civic affairs. His explanation is simple. He made a nice living here and he donates his time and money "because I believe one gives back to his community." His outstanding leadership is well documented. He has served as a trustee and member of many committees of the Waterbury Foundation. His particular interest in the grants Committee gave rise to its becoming an active force, assessing community problems and formulating solutions. He served as president of the Waterbury Hospital Board of Directors and a director of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, the Jewish Federation of Waterbury, the United Way, the Beth El Synagogue Endowment Fund, Waterbury Chapter of American Red Cross, Mattatuck Council of the Boy Scouts, and the YMCA. He also served on the Board of the American Indian Archeological Institute, Chamber of Commerce, Naugatuck Valley Higher Education Center, and the Lions Club. Rabbi David Wiesenberg said, "Morris Stein is someone with the remarkable ability to bring together people from all walks of life for the common good of the community. With infinite patience, skill and diplomacy he would motivate them to work together with mutual respect



and fuse their energies to further harmony and toleration in our City."

Stein received the Hiram Hayden Award for contributions to economic growth and quality of life in the region and he was the first recipient of the Liberty Bell Award given to honor an area resident who exemplifies outstanding citizenship qualities through service to the community. He was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries and the Waterbury Foundation started the Morris and Dorothy Stein Fund to pay tribute to him and his wife.

The list of institutions that benefited from his involvement with them is endless. Individuals from all walks of life have been aided by his contributions. Morris Stein embodies a society's ideal of an accomplished businessman and a caring community leader.