

William Wallace Sprague, 94, of 21 Waterman Circle in St. Johnsbury, Vt., passed away peacefully at home, with family by his side, Saturday, March 22, 2008. He was born in St. Johnsbury Dec. 6, 1913, the son of Arthur G. and Elisabeth (Merrill) Sprague. On March 21, 1947, he married Julian Ingraham Rankin, who predeceased him in 2005. He graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1931 and then completed a post-graduate year at Phillips Exeter Academy. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University in 1936, his law degree from Hartford College of Law in 1939 and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1939. Except for his time serving in the U.S. Army (1941-1946), William Sprague practiced law continuously in Hartford. From 1960 to 1992 he was a partner in the law firm of Howard, Kohn, Sprague, and Fitzgerald. Mr. Sprague was a member of the American Judicature Association as well as the American and Connecticut Bar Associations. During the 45 years he lived in Newington, Conn., he held the following positions: member of the Newington Board of Education, deputy judge of the Newington Town Court, treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Newington Town Attorney, member of the Newington Volunteer Fire Department, and longtime member of the Newington Civitan Club. The Spragues were members of the Church of Christ, Congregational UCC. In 1992 he retired from practicing law and moved back to St. Johnsbury. Mr. Sprague had a great love for St. Johnsbury Academy. He was appointed trustee in 1969 and trustee emeritus in 1999. He was a member of the 10 a.m. coffee club. He and his wife were members of North Congregational Church. He is survived by three daughters: Polly Baslock and husband James E. Baslock of St. Johnsbury; Megan M. Alexander and husband

James G. Alexander Jr. of Bloomfield, Ky.; Julia Ann Barnas and husband Ron J. Barnas of East Hartland, Conn.; and six grandchildren: William J. Baslock, Daniel M. Baslock, Cole H. Alexander, Elisabeth G. Alexander, Matthew S. Loveland, and Rebecca A. Loveland. He also leaves an older brother Richard M. Sprague and his wife Marjorie of Willoughby, Ohio. He was predeceased by a brother Arthur G. Sprague Jr. and a sister Margaret Lord. Visiting hours will be held at Sayles Funeral Home this Tuesday, March 25, 2008, from 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. Burial will be in May at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in William Sprague's memory to St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.