

Albuquerque Journal, September 6, 1989

SPELLMAN—Richard Spellman (1/29/16). He was survived by his loving wife, E. Cynthia Spellman of the home; adopted daughter, Holly of Santa Fe; stepson, J. Scott of CA; father-in-law, Ed Nowka; brother, G. Ray Spellman; sister-in-law, Margaret; niece, Rilla of MD; and numerous cousins. He was born in Chicago, IL and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Spellman, deceased. He attended De Paul University, Chicago and was a member of Phi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and also attended St. Thomas Seminary, Denver. He received his private pilot's license in 1940 at Lockport, IL and later held multi-engine and instrument ratings. In 1945 he served with the 101st Airborne Infantry Div. in France and later with the 33rd Div. in Japan. In 1949 he transferred to the U.S. Air Force and held the rank of Major before retiring on a medical discharge. He was instrumental in getting the Civil Air Patrol move-

ment underway in NM and served as 1st Lt. and Wing Commander, participating in many mercy missions with CAP's Bomber search group; was a founder and 1st Vice President, Nat'l Asso. of Priest Pilots; Charter Member of Aircraft Owners & Pilots Asso.; an Honorary Citizen of Father Flannagan's Boys Town; a Life Member of Disabled Am. Veterans; former member of Am. Legion, of the Elks Lodge and the Knights of Columbus. He was Pastor of Holy Rosary Church from 1955 to 1967 and part-time pilot to Archbishop Davis in 1965. In 1964, he was awarded stirrups and helmet after flying an F-104 Starfighter with Major Wm. Cato of the Air Force Special Weapons Center of ABQ, and in 1965 flew co-pilot for Bill Lear, President, Lear Jet Corp. He was a counselor with the Employment Security Comm. in New Mexico until retirement in 1981 and then was an official umpire for ABQ Parks and Recreation. He was active in the Docent Program with the Rio Grande Zoo and he and his wife traveled with the Zoomobile's Educational Program taking exotic animals and talking to children throughout the state. Also, active many years with the Amigos, serving on the Bd. of Directors of the ABQ Civic Light Opera. Visitation will begin Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 3:30 p.m. and visitation with family present will be from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at French Mortuary, Wyoming Blvd. Chapel, 7121 Wyoming Blvd., NE. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Lloyd Lamb will sing, accompanied by Fran Landis. The eulogy will be given by John Lynch and a Wake Service will follow with Rev. Michael Doyle O.S.M., officiating. Graveside services will be held Thursday, Sept. 7 at 11:30 a.m., at the Santa Fe Nat'l Cemetery with Military Honors by Kirtland Air Force Base. Honorary pallbearers will be Martin Bradshaw, Ted Foss, Lloyd Lamb, John Lynch, Carey O'Bryan, Jules Sadilek, Robert Torvestad, and Lee Jensen. Should friends wish, they may gather at French Mortuary, Wyoming Chapel on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and proceed together to Santa Fe, or they may meet at the National Cemetery site at 11:30 a.m. for the service. The family would like to extend its thanks to the State Police and the Santa Fe Fire Dept. Rescue Unit in July at the time of Dick's roadside emergency. They also thank the staffs of St. Vincent's in Santa Fe and Northside Presbyterian in Albuquerque for their outstanding care. Sincerest thanks are extended for the kindnesses and loving support given the family by their many friends throughout the past difficult times. Should friends wish, in lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorials to the Albuquerque Civic Light Opera Assoc., 4201 Ellison NE., 87109. French Mortuary, Wyoming Blvd. Chapel.