Insurance Times: Richard B. Simches, founder of Safety Insurance Co. September 18, 2001, Vol. XX No. 19

Richard B. Simches, founder of Safety Insurance Company, died September 1 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 68.

Mr. Simches was born and raised in Mattapan, Mass., and graduated from Boston Latin School. He attended the University of Rochester and graduated from Boston University in 1954. He also completed a Harvard University Owner/President Management Program.

Mr. Simches started his insurance career with the Thomas Black Auto Insurance Agency. He expanded the familyowned agency from a single office in Boston to a statewide operation. In 1979 he founded Safety Insurance Co. to write auto insurance. Under his leadership the company became the third largest writer of private passenger automobile insurance in the state. The company now has over 500 employees and offers a full line of property and casualty insurance products.

A respected member of the business community, Mr. Simches was active in many aspects of Massachusetts' insurance industry. He was past president of the Insurance Library, served as an officer and director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Massachusetts (the predecessor to the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents), and was a member of the governing committee of the Massachusetts Motor Vehicle Reinsurance Facility.

His philanthropy included numerous institutions throughout New England. He established the Joanne B. Simches Charitable Foundation in memory of his daughter. He was on the Board of Directors of Massachusetts General Hospital, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and the New England Holocaust Memorial. He was active in the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and a lifelong member and past Vice President of Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley. Mr. Simches leaves his wife of 47 years, Nancy (Black); two daughters Lorri Owades of Lexington and Sherri Mahne of Chestnut Hill; his mother Pearl, of Norwood; his brother Gerald, of Newton; and four grandchildren. Remembrances may be made to the Joanne B. Simches Children's Fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 375 Longwood Ave, Boston MA 02215.