

# Patterson, James Tyler, Jr.

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PATTERSON, James Tyler, Jr.

James Tyler Patterson, Jr., of Old Lyme, a prominent Connecticut political figure who rose to become majority leader, 1961-62, and speaker, 1963-66, of the State House of Representatives, died at age 92 on Sunday, (March 25, 2001) at the Olympus Health Care Center, Farmington.

Mr. Patterson was born in Milford, on April 28, 1908, the son of James Tyler Patterson and Marjorie Fowler Gunn of Milford. A graduate in 1926 of the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, he earned Bachelor's and Law degrees from Yale University in 1930 and 1933. He then practiced law in Bridgeport and was deputy judge of the Town Court of Milford between 1938 and 1942.

During World War II he served as a civilian employee of the U.S. State Department and of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in North Africa, the Middle East, Greece, and Italy.

Active in local affairs in Old Lyme, Mr. Patterson served as a member and subsequently as chairman of the town's Board of Education between 1947 and 1953. He headed the Republican Town Committee of Old Lyme between 1954 and 1964, and was elected as the town's State Representative between 1951 and 1966. In 1966, he ran unsuccessfully as the Republican party's candidate for State Treasurer.

A supporter of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library in Old Lyme, he was also a member of the Old Lyme Beach Club and a former member of the Old Lyme Country Club.

He was the husband of the late Sarah Sands of Old Lyme, who died in 1973; and is survived by three children, James T. Patterson of Providence, RI; David S. Patterson of Chevy Chase, MD; and Marjorie ``Mimi" P. Mead of Farmington; six grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren. In 1974, he married Mary Smith Hall of Stratford, who died in 1996. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 30, 11 a.m., in the First Congregational Church, Lyme St., Old Lyme. Burial is private. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or to the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT 06039.