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# George Demeter, 90; was lawyer, state legislator, parliamentarian

George C. Demeter of Boston, a noted lawyer, parliamentarian and a former Back Bay legislator died Monday at the Soldier's Home in Chelsea, apparently of circulatory problems. He was 90.

Mr. Demeter was author of "Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law," which was used by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in forming the Japanese Diet in the immediate post-war years. He had suffered a series of strokes in the past three years, according to family members.

Mr. Demeter was born in Peloponnesis, Arcardia, in the southern part of Greece. He died the day after his birthday.

He was the first person of Greek lineage to be elected to a state Legislature (1933-1937) in the United States.

After coming to the United States, he attended Boston Latin School where he was a colonel of cadets.

Mr. Demeter also was involved in originating the crowning of Boston Marathon winners with a laurel wreath and presenting them with a bronze medal from Athens. He crowned each winner from 1931 until 1947, according to press accounts.

A high moment of pride for Mr. Demeter came in 1946 when Stylianos Kyriakides came to Boston and wrested the Marathon crown from Boston's Johnny Kelly. It was Mr. Demeter who had sponsored Kyriakides and crowned him winner.

He was described by a friend as "aloof and austere" at official ceremonies, but was fond of dancing and used to go ballroom dancing when he was a professor at Boston University.

He also was a graduate of Harvard, Boston University Law School and of Staley College in Brookline.

He was parliamentarian of the Boston Teachers Union and was a special annual lecturer on parliamentary procedure for the Officer's Training Institute of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After Harvard, he joined the Harvard Ambulance Corps and went to France in World War I. He returned to get his degree in 1918.

Mr. Demeter also originated and taught (from 1937 until 1947) a course in parliamentary law and legislative procedure for each incoming state Legislature.

He was a member and past president of numerous clubs, societies and organizations; he was founder and first president of the Boston Athens Chapter and past national supreme president of AHEPA. He also was a member or former officer of the Elks, Masonic bodies, the Shrine, Knights of Pythias and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co. of Boston.

He was a past commander and judge advocate of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1937 Mr. Demeter was awarded the Cross of the Saviour by the Greek government.

He also had been first instructor of the American Legion Boys State and Girls State on parliamentary practice.

He leaves several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be private.  
- WILLIAM COUGHLIN