



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Father of the New York's Check Cashing Industry - and renowned Collector of Italian Ceramics -- Dies at 96**

**Howard I. Stein**, founder of **RiteCheck** in 1949 and founder in 1957 of the Check Cashers Association of New York (**FSCNY**) died Tuesday, February 7th, at his home in Scarsdale, NY. He was 96 years old.

Stein was a true exemplar of the "Greatest Generation." At the conclusion of WWII, he served with General **Douglas MacArthur** in the occupation of Japan. Upon his return in 1949, with the money he had saved as a serviceman he purchased a half interest in a check cashing store on West 135th street in Harlem.

Over the next 67 years, Stein parleyed that modest investment into a 13-store chain - one of the most prestigious in the nation -- known nationally for its innovative and progressive approach to alternative financial services. The NY association he founded continues as a robust advocate for the industry he helped to create.

In addition to his career as a groundbreaking entrepreneur, Stein was a connoisseur and internationally respected collector of Italian Renaissance Ceramics known as Mailoica. He generously donated his collection to the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** in 2001. The Philadelphia Museum of Art said of Stein's collection that it was "the finest collection in private hands in the United States."

Stein, a resident of Scarsdale since 1967, supported a number of philanthropies. He served on the Boards of the **Bronx Community College Foundation**, the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** and as a Friend of the **Israeli Philharmonic**. He was born in Brooklyn, NY, in the year 1920.

Stein is survived by his beloved partner **Beverly Spitzer**, his three children, **Judith**, **Charles** and **Jonathan**, and six grandchildren. He was much beloved by the 130 employees who still work in his thriving business.

**Edward P. D'Alessio**, Executive Director of the **Financial Service Centers of America (FiSCA)**, the national association representing the check cashing industry, said:

"Howard Stein epitomized the spirit of service and caring that it takes to be a check casher and to build a community business like RiteCheck. Through his long-standing dedication and support of our state and national associations he also sought to raise the standards of the entire industry to meet the standards he required of RiteCheck."

**Arrangements:**

Funeral services for Howard Stein will be Sunday, February 12 at 12:00 noon at **Westchester Reform Temple**, 255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale.

Howard was a longtime and devoted member of the Board of Directors of **The Bronx Community College Foundation**. Contributions may be made to the BCC Foundation in tribute to Howard Stein (<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Support-BCC/?p=BCC-Foundation>), or to a charity of your choice.

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