

# H'town mourns Tom Kraft death

## Thomas W. Kraft, ex-councilman in Hackettstown

Thomas W. Kraft, 45, of Hackettstown died Wednesday at Dover General Hospital in Dover, N.J., after a long illness.

He served on Hackettstown Town Council from 1978 to 1980 and was the town's acting mayor in 1980. He owned the Kraft Insurance Agency on Main Street in Hackettstown for the last 18 years.

Born July 7, 1944, in New Brunswick, N.J., he was a son of Alice Curran Kraft of Hackettstown and the late Irvin Kraft. He lived in Hackettstown most of his life.

Mr. Kraft also served as the town's fire commissioner and was active in the revitalization of downtown Hackettstown. He was a member of the Board of Assessment Commissioners; the board of directors of United Jersey Bank/Northeast; a member of the Hackettstown Republican Club; the Hackettstown Chamber of Commerce; the PIA; the IIANJ; the NFIB; the American Society of Certified Life Underwriters; the National Association of Life Underwriters; and the Warren County Board of Realtors.

He also served in the National Guard and was a member of St. Mary's Church in Hackettstown.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by a brother, Fred J. Kraft of Hackettstown.

All services will be private. The Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown is in charge of the arrangements.

By ROBERT FORD  
Staff Writer

**HACKETTSTOWN** — Former Hackettstown Councilman Thomas Kraft died July 26 at Dover General Hospital after a long illness.

Kraft served three years as a member of the Hackettstown Common Council from 1978 to 1980.

James Smith, who was mayor of Hackettstown during Kraft's term of office, said his nickname for Kraft was "velvet" because if anything sticky came up or there was a volatile situation, Kraft knew how to smooth it over.

Smith said on a scale of one to 10, which was a favorite saying of Kraft's, Kraft was a nine-plus as a councilman.

Kraft was a member of the "three horsemen" on the council, according to Smith. The other two were Sue West and Joseph Ricciardo.

Smith said the three worked as a team and were able to "get the job done" for Hackettstown.

Hackettstown Clerk William Kuster said Kraft was one of the most effective council members he has ever worked with.

Kraft served for a number of years on the town's Board of Assessment Commissioners and he served as a fire commissioner.

Kraft was active in the revitalization of downtown Hackettstown.

Kraft served as a member of the board of directors of United Jersey Bank/Northwest; the Hackettstown Republican Club and the Hackettstown Chamber of Commerce; the PIA, IIANJA, NFIB and the American Society of CLU.

Kraft had his own insurance business in Hackettstown and was a



**THOMAS KRAFT**

member of the National Association of Life Underwriters and the Warren County Board of Realtors.

Kraft served in the National Guard and was a member of St. Mary's Church.

He is the son of the late Irvin Kraft and Alice Curran Kraft.

Kraft is survived by his mother, Alice Kraft of Hackettstown, and a brother, Fred J. Kraft of Hackettstown.

Services were private and all arrangements were made by Cochran Funeral Home of Hackettstown.

The family is asking that in lieu of flowers, send donations to the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad, Maple Avenue in Hackettstown.