

Clean water crusader Stein dies at 92

By Dennis Hevesi, New York Times

Murray Stein, who for more than 20 years led the federal government's fight against water pollution and did much to overcome the prevailing attitude that the nation's waterways could serve as sewers, died May 24 at his home in Falls Church, Va. He was 92.

His daughter Judith Sloane confirmed his death.

Mr. Stein, who retired in 1976, was something of a diplomat without portfolio, traveling from state to state with the difficult mission of seeking compliance through steps that avoided penalties or court action. His technique was to preside over hearings at which local officials and corporate executives were confronted with evidence of pollution and then invited or cajoled into adopting remedial programs.

Read the whole story