Edward Jennings, 60; executive

NEW YORK – Edward J. Jennings Jr., 60, of Las Vegas, chairman and chief executive officer of Sunshine Biscuits, Inc., of New York City and a member of the Board of Directors of American Brands, Inc., the tobacco firm, died Friday night in New York Hospital of leukemia.

He formerly lived in Fort Lee, N.J.

Mr. Jennings was born in Boston and was a graduate of Boston College. He earned a juris doctorate degree from Boston College in 1951.

Mr. Jennings launched his career with American Brands in 1971 with an affiliate, Duffy-Mott – makers of apple sauce. He was promoted on Jan. 9, 1973, as president of Sunshine Biscuits, also a subsidiary of American brands.

He was a retired Army reserve lieutenant colonel in military intelligence. During World War II, he enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was an infantryman with Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army. He fought in the Normandy Invasion on D-Day plus 4, and earned five battle stars. He was discharged in 1945.

After the war, Mr. Jennings returned to Boston College for his law degree but instead of entering law, he pursued a career in sales and marketing.

He leaves his wife, Fern (Rosen) Jennings of Las Vegas; two daughters, Diane Hefley of Bensonville, Ill., and Constance Jennings of Boston's Brighton section; a son, Edward J. Jennings Jr. 3d of Lafayette, Calif.; a brother, Paui Jennings of Brighton, and a granddaughter.

A funeral Mass will be said by Rev. Francis X. Gleeson, S.J., of Boston College, at 10 a.m. Tuesday in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

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