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E. Freilich, 87, in-law of senator

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HARTFORD — Ella Freilich, Holocaust survivor and mother-in-law of U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman, died Friday in New York, Lieberman said. She was 87.

Born in Rachov, Czechoslovakia, Freilich was the youngest of four siblings. In 1944, her family was sent to Auschwitz, where her mother and two sisters died. She was liberated in 1945.

She later worked in Prague and in 1947 married Samuel Freilich, a lawyer and rabbi who also survived a Nazi labor camp. Samuel Freilich died in 1993.

They arrived in the United States in 1949, a year after daughter Hadassah — now married to Lieberman — was born. “Despite losing her mother and two sisters in the Holocaust, she lived her life believing that if people of different religions and races just reached out to each other, we would find common ground,” Lieberman told The Hartford Courant.

In addition to her daughter and son-in-law, she is survived by a son, Ary Freilich; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was scheduled for today at the Riverdale Jewish Center in the Bronx.