

Maxime Joseph Derbes, III 1947 – 2008

A Life Dedicated to His Family, His Faith, His Community and His Business



Born Maxime Joseph Derbes, III, on December 19, 1947 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Max lived in the Greater New Orleans area his entire life. Max attended St. Paul's High School in Covington in the early 1960's. Upon graduation he traveled to New Haven Connecticut where he attended Yale University from 1965 to 1969, graduating with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Administrative Sciences. He pursued advanced studies in Tulane University's Graduate School of Business Administration in 1970. Max attended Tulane for just over a year; while there he also lectured in real estate.

Max J. Derbes, Inc. was originally founded in 1932 by Max's Grandfather, Max J. Derbes, Sr., and later operated by his son, Max J. Derbes, Jr. Max started working there and soon developed a keen interest in industrial brokerage and soon ran the company's Industrial Division before purchasing it from his father in 1978. In 1979, he opened Max J. Derbes, Inc., as a full service firm specializing in industrial and commercial real estate.

Max was awarded a number of professional designations and achieved many noteworthy achievements in his real estate career. In 1976, he was awarded the S.I.R. Society of Industrial Realtors Salesman Affiliate, designation. Two years later he became an active member in SIR., later known as SIOR, Society of Industrial and Office Realtors. In 1986, he earned the CCIM, Certified Commercial Investment Member designation; In 1988, he earned the CRE, Counselor of Real Estate designation; and in 1996 was inducted into The Federation International Des Professions, FIABCI. He held active membership in the National, State, and Local levels of the National Association of Realtors. He also served on the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Real Estate Board and the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors. He has been the President of the Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi Chapter of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors; President - LA/MS/ALA Chapter 36 of the Society of Industrial & Office Realtors; and District Vice President of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors. During the past 15 years Max was the guest speaker for various economic summits, real estate symposiums and conferences produced by The University of New Orleans, Tulane University, as well as SIOR, the local Board of Realtors and CCIM.

Max's industrial real estate marketing awards are numerous. The most outstanding include: Largest Industrial Dollar Transaction, 1986; Largest Industrial Dollar Volume Transaction, 1993; Top Multi-Family Producer , 1993; Top Industrial Sale, 1998, 2003 and 2006; Top Industrial Lease – 1998 and 2002; Significant Achievement Awards, 1996 – 2007; and soon to be announced, the Largest Industrial Sale Award, for 2007. Max actually had the top two industrial sales for 2007!

Max's business life was a means to an end, with the ultimate goal being able to serve his community and his Faith. Max has always been involved in various civic organizations both assisting in and donating to numerous charities. Being a devout Catholic, he became a Eucharistic Minister in 1996. He could always be found in the local hospitals of St. Tammany Parish distributing Communion to those infirmed or hospitalized. Max is a past President of the Elmwood Business Association. He frequently spoke on numerous topics and served on many civic committees. And in 2000, he was Chairman of the very successful Hope Ball for the American Cancer Society. One of his greatest loves in life was being able to help people, either physically, financially through charitable contributions, or spiritually.

Max lived in Covington 25 miles north of New Orleans. He is survived by his wife Julie, two sons, Zachary and Benjamin, a daughter, Casey, a daughter-in-law, Kelly and two grandchildren Mia and Max. He played golf, loved leisurely walks, reading as well as hunting, fishing and tennis. He enjoyed being with people and the goodness of life.

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