



Michael G. Damone

May 5, 1934 - October 20, 2019

Born in Brooklyn, New York

Obituary

Michael Gabriel Damone

Mike was born on May 5, 1934 in Brooklyn, New York. His parents were Michael and Dorothy (né Capogrosso) Damone and they were of Italian descent. He passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 20, 2019, surrounded by his loving family.

Mike was a 1952 graduate of St. Michael's High School in Brooklyn, New York. He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1956. He continued his education at MIT and earned a Master's degree in Civil Engineering in 1957.

While at MIT, Mike was a member of the varsity lacrosse team, as well as a leader in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. After taking a year off from his academic studies to work and serve as a Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mike was admitted to Harvard Business School in the fall of 1958. He earned his Master's in Business Administration in 1960. While at Harvard, Mike met his future wife, Claire. They were married in June 1960.

Mike's professional real estate development career began in Boston with Cabot, Cabot, and Forbes, followed by leadership posts in Phoenix, Arizona and Los Angeles, California. In 1967, Mike was named President of Development for the HF Campbell Company in Detroit, Michigan. Here, Mike led the development of several metro Detroit industrial and office parks before co-founding Damone and Associates in 1973. Throughout these career moves, Mike and Claire welcomed four children to their family.

In time, Damone and Associates became Damone/Andrew, Inc. and Damone/ Andrew of Florida, Inc. The Damone/Andrew Companies developed a large industrial real estate portfolio, which became part of the basis for First Industrial Realty, a large New York Stock Exchange-traded REIT, founded in 1994. Mike served on the Board of Directors until his retirement in 2010. Mike was also the co-founder of Damone Holdings, Inc., a company he owned with his son for many years.

Mike was an active member of Holy Name Catholic Church for more than 50 years, serving on its Finance Committee. Other community service roles included being a valued leader on the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan board of trustees for more than 20 years, serving on the finance and facilities advancement committees. He made significant professional contributions to the growth of PVM's mission statewide during the past 20 years. Mike also served as a member of Pope John Paul II Center.