

# The Washington Post

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

## Robert Donohoe Sr., a leader in D.C. area real estate development, dies at 72

By **Bart Barnes**

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Robert B. Donohoe Sr., board chairman of the Donohoe Companies, one of the Washington area's largest real estate development and property management businesses, died Feb. 24 in a hospice center in Rockville, Md. He was 72.

The cause was cancer, the Donohoe Companies said in a statement.

In 1978 Mr. Donohoe joined the family business, established in 1884 by his great-grandfather, and he remained with the Donohoe operation until his death.

He began his career as a real estate specialist working in sales, leasing and property management. He became a vice president of the company in 1984 and in that role identified, acquired and assembled property that led to such developments as Chevy Chase Pavilion, Gallery Bethesda luxury apartments, White Flint Place apartments and the Woodmont Triangle in Bethesda.

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Mr. Donohoe succeeded his late brother **James A. Donohoe III** as chief executive and board chairman in 2014. He retired as CEO in 2017 but continued as chairman of the Donohoe board.

During his 42 years with the company, the number of employees rose to 1,400 from 300. The company manages billions of dollars worth of property.

Robert Barry Donohue was born in Washington on Jan. 27, 1948. He graduated in 1966 from St. John's College High School and from Marquette University in 1970.

He was a resident of Bethesda and a former board chairman of National Capital Bank.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Sharon Boeckel Donohue of Bethesda; three children, Robert B. Donohue Jr. and Elizabeth Donohue, both of Bethesda, and Michael A. Donohue of Boston; two sisters; a brother; and six grandchildren. A son, John P. Donohoe, died in 2016.

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