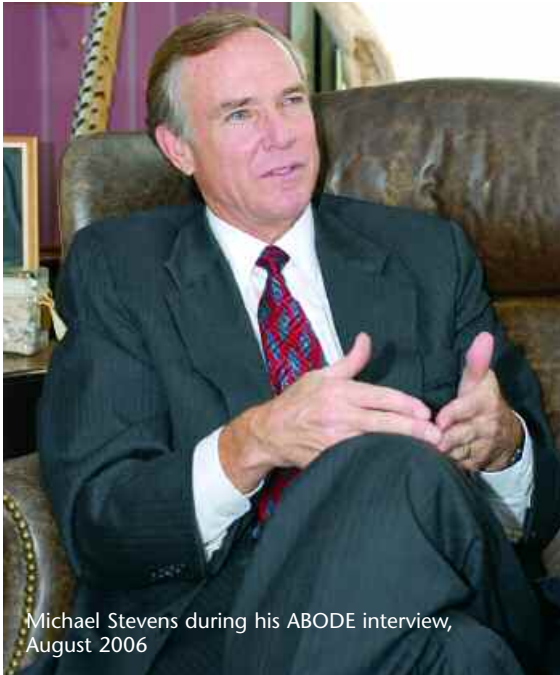


A Major Loss

Houston and the multifamily industry lose one of our best and brightest.



Michael Stevens during his ABODE interview, August 2006



Stevens speaks during a meeting of the Houstonians for Responsible Growth at the Dinerstein Reed Prokop Training Center in February 2008.



Stevens with Ric Campo



Former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier presents Stevens with the Hall of Fame Award.



The Michael Stevens Interests team helped Michael and Kim Stevens celebrate the Hall of Fame induction in 2006.

Michael Stevens, the well-known and respected apartment developer who helped forge the revitalization of downtown Houston, died on May 24 after battling lymphoma, a cancer involving cells of the immune system. He was 58. A recipient of the Houston Apartment Association Hall of Fame award in 2006, Stevens' work in the multifamily real estate business and his civic and political activism played a tremendous part in reshaping the Houston region.

Stevens was chairman of Michael Stevens Interests Inc., a company he founded in 1981. Michael Stevens Interests has developed and managed more than 84 real estate projects valued near \$600 million, representing more than 10 million square feet of building area and 10,000-plus apartment units.

Alongside his business ventures, Stevens served in a wide range of roles on behalf of local and state government and in service to organizations such as the Greater Houston Partnership, the Texas Urban Transportation Alliance, Baylor College of Medicine, Texans for Lawsuit Reform, the Brookings Institute and the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority.

Transportation issues were a major focus for Stevens' involvement on the state and regional level. Stevens chaired the Transportation Task Force of the Governor's Business Council, whose efforts led to the adoption of the Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan by the Texas Department of Transportation. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, the plan has allowed almost 90 percent of metropolitan mobility projects planned between 2004 and 2015 to begin in half the time. For the Houston region, this amounts to about \$4.1 billion in transportation infrastructure and includes accelerated expansion of I-10 and I-45.

Locally, Stevens was intimately involved in Houston redevelopment initiatives that began under the administration of Mayor Bob Lanier. In 1995, Lanier asked Stevens to serve as the City of Houston's first Assistant to the Mayor for Housing and Inner City Revitalization. His salary was \$1. He is also credited with the creation of the Homes for Houston program which

built, rehabilitated or improved more than 20,000 units of affordable housing stock in the city of Houston during the Lanier administration.

Downtown projects in which Stevens was directly involved include the renovation of the Rice Hotel, the development of the 1,200-room downtown convention center hotel, Minute Maid Park, Reliant Stadium, Toyota Center and Bayou Place, along with Midtown apartment development, the redevelopment of Gulfgate Mall and the demolition and reconstruction of Allen Parkway Village and the related Fourth Ward revitalization. At Baylor College of Medicine, where he chaired the building committee, Stevens was instrumental in the college's construction of the Alkek Building for Biomedical Research, the Michael E. DeBakey library/museum and the outpatient clinic and hospital. In all, Stevens led the development of more than \$1 billion in public or nonprofit projects.

Stevens also served as the finance vice chairman of the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority. He was responsible for structuring all financing as well as heading the negotiating team responsible for Minute Maid Park, Reliant Stadium and Toyota Center – projects that made dramatic changes to the face of Houston.

The Houston Chronicle received these comments on Stevens passing from former Mayor Bob Lanier and Stevens' wife, Kim:

"He was an enormous force to have on the city's side," said Lanier. "He was a great and exceptionally smart man, full of energy, who did everything he could for his family, church and city. We're all better off for the time he spent with us."

Kim, Stevens' wife of 34 years, started dating him when she was 16 and he was 18. "He wanted to make a difference in the world," she said, "He worked endless hours in an effort to give something back."

A native Houstonian, Stevens graduated from the University of Houston in 1973 with an undergraduate degree in business administration. He served and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps.

Stevens is survived by his wife, Kim, daughter, Tiffany, and three grandchildren.

In lieu of usual remembrances and in celebration of Michael's life, the family requests with gratitude that contributions in his memory be directed to Second Baptist School Michael Stevens Fund, 6400 Woodway, Houston, TX. 77057. 🏠

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