

THEODORE N. LERNER
October 15, 1925 – February 12, 2023

Founder and Principal, LERNER ENTERPRISES, Rockville, MD
Managing Founding Principal Owner, WASHINGTON NATIONALS BASEBALL CLUB

Ted Lerner believed that instinct, integrity, and hard work are the three main ingredients for success. For 97 years, he embodied these traits—using them to make a mark on the quality of life in Washington, D.C. The founder and principal of Lerner Enterprises, he provided thousands of private homes and apartment units to Washington residents, brought regional shopping centers to the Washington area, and developed more than 20 million square feet of commercial and retail buildings, including what has been described as the most spectacular office building in Washington, D.C.

Born and raised in Washington DC, Theodore Nathan Lerner attended Roosevelt High School where he was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, sports reporter, and a member of the tennis team. After graduating high school in February 1944, he served in the U.S. Army. He graduated from The George Washington University with an Associates of Arts Degree in 1948 and The George Washington University Law School with an LLB in 1950.

In 1951, he married another Washingtonian, Annette Morris, a painter and sculptor. Together, they had one son, two daughters, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. All three married children live with their families in the Washington metropolitan area and are active in business, charitable and civic affairs.

A self-made man, Ted was incisive, thoughtful, and deliberate.

When he was 21, his father died. Ted became the head of his family. He took upon himself the responsibility to take care of his mother and younger siblings, financially and otherwise. He worked night and day to meet that responsibility; while in law school, he sold houses on the weekends. He started his first real estate company in 1951 with a \$250 loan from his wife. By concentrating on volume residential sales and introducing innovative concepts—like “model” homes and centralized sales offices—he built over 22,000 houses and more than 6,000 apartment units.

Catapulted by this success, his next challenge was developing the first generation of regional shopping centers in the United States. At age 30, he was given the opportunity to invest and develop Wheaton Plaza, the largest shopping center in the Washington area and the sixth largest in the United States at that time. He took the risk. Wheaton Plaza opened in 1960. In 1968, he opened Tysons Corner Center on an 85-acre site where cows grazed on rural farmland only a few years earlier.

In 1982, Ted Lerner made newspaper headlines when he bid \$35 million for 117 acres of land across from Tysons Corner Center in a tense courtroom auction, the highest price ever bid for a piece of Washington suburban land.

Known as Tysons II, that property— a 5 million square foot venture—now includes an 800,000 square foot regional shopping center known as the Tysons Galleria, a Ritz Carlton Hotel, and 10 office buildings known as The Corporate Office Centre at Tysons II. The Galleria opened in 1988 with Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Neiman-Marcus as the three anchor department stores.

A decade earlier, in 1972, Ted Lerner joined with long time partner Albert Abramson and opened Landover Mall, a 125-store shopping center in Prince George's Country. As their friendship grew, so did their business relationship. In 1977, they opened White Flint, a 125-store, high fashion shopping mall in North Bethesda, Maryland. They have also developed Beaumeade Corporate Park and Dulles 28 Centre in Dulles, Virginia and White Flint North, the headquarters of The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in North Bethesda, Maryland and 2000 Tower Oaks Boulevard in Rockville, Maryland.

In addition, Abramson and Lerner developed the award-winning Washington Square, a 12-story, one million square foot commercial/retail complex designed by famed architect Chloethiel Woodard Smith and is considered one of the premier commercial office projects in Washington, D.C. The decision was made to create a first-class, marble landmark to enhance the physical beauty of the city and to provide an arena for art exhibition. To bring major works of contemporary art to a broad audience, the Washington Square partnership annually sponsors a number of art exhibits, including those from foreign nations, in the lobby and atrium of Washington Square.

Ted Lerner and Lerner Enterprises were involved in numerous other office buildings, office parks, hotels and shopping centers in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lerner Corporation, a separate real estate management and leasing company, he managed thousands of residential units and millions of square feet of office and retail space. Today, his company employs over 600 people.

In addition to these commercial projects, Ted Lerner was active in the planning and creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He was a member of the Development Committee, and he became a Member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council by Presidential appointment. Annette and Ted Lerner were also founding members of the museum.

Second only to his family, the great love of Ted's life was baseball. As a boy, he did not have enough money for admission to a baseball game, and so walked miles to the stadium to be an usher. For him, therefore, bringing baseball back to the city he loved—and winning the World Series for the first time since the year before his birth—was the realization of a lifetime dream. Since becoming the Founding Managing Principal Owner of the Nationals on May 3, 2006, Ted

Lerner worked non-stop to build the Nationals into a world-class baseball team, befitting of the nation's capital.

Up until his passing, he supported numerous local and national charities, through The Annette M. and Theodore N. and Lerner Family Foundation. He serves on the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of The George Washington University. A classroom and moot court building at The George Washington University Law School was dedicated in 1987 as Theodore N. Lerner Hall. In 2002 the Lerner family dedicated The Annette and Theodore Lerner Family Health and Wellness Center at The George Washington University. The Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation continues to provide support to many worthwhile Jewish organizations including the Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Upper School Campus at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, The Lerner Family Indoor Sports Complex at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Weizmann Institute of Science, Jewish Community Centers of Greater Washington and District of Columbia, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, JCC Maccabi Games, Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy, Ohr Kodesh and B'nai Israel Congregations, The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, The Koby Mandell Foundation, ADL In Concert Against Hate and Israel Bonds, among many others.

The American Academy of Achievement awarded Ted Lerner the Golden Plate Award of Excellence in 1990, in 2003 he was elected to the Washington Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement and in 2007 was named to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington Sports Hall of Fame.

In 2014, he was inducted into the Washington D.C. Sports Hall of Fame and received the Thomas G. Corcoran Award by the University Club of D.C, and in 2015 he was awarded the Urban Land Institute Lifetime Achievement Award. In November 2018, The Lerner, Cohen, and Tanenbaum families received the Irene and Abe Pollin Humanitarian Award from the Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington.

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