

Tribute to Mark Ricketts

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of our courageous and most loved leader, Mark Ricketts. Mark passed away on November 2, 2022, after a brave battle with ALS.

To those who knew him, as a second-generation hotelier, Mark seemed born to a career in hospitality, with his personal and professional lives driven by a genuine sense of faith and devotion to the service of others.

Along with Phillip McNeill, Jr., Mark was a Founding Principal of McNeill Hotel Company. Previously, he also worked with his father, Tom, at Master Hospitality; as Vice President of Asset Management for Equity Inns, where he worked with Phillip McNeill, Sr. and Jr.; and as Vice President in the Realty Management Division for Goldman Sachs in Irving, TX.

An exceptional leader, Mark understood intrinsically what bonds people together with shared values and goals and inspired them to those ends, while being a champion for diversity and inclusivity in the hospitality industry.

Many of us have heard him say "I live to serve" in response to a need or task. His ability to make every associate, regardless of title, feel seen and valued was such a beautiful gift. Mark believed each person made a difference within MHC and had a sign hung in each hotel's employee breakroom, "Thank you for making a difference today." Mark led the company to become one of the top 50 hotel companies in the U.S.

Mark prioritized the philosophy of "People Serving People", be it our guests, our investors, our team or our brand partners. Servant leadership truly defines McNeill Hotel Company and Mark's leadership style. It's what sets us apart and has allowed us to grow into becoming one of the best in the industry. Finding ways to give back was the essence of Mark's heart and he brought it to life with volunteer time off programs, service projects and contribution matching campaigns.

McNeill Hotel Company was very fortunate to have Mark Ricketts serve as President and COO since its founding. He was a true pioneer of service and embodied the culture of MHC by creating a "people first" mentality. He was a mentor, philanthropist, and friend who was able to bring a sense of joy to everyday life. Mark's positive spirit and contagious enthusiasm for hospitality is the foundation of McNeill Hotel Company and his legacy will continue.

Mark is survived by his parents, Thomas Ricketts and Marian Young; his step-mother, Jane Ricketts; his children, Zach (Mary), Erin, Jae (Katelyn) and Claire; his wife Lisa; his siblings, Greg (Allison), Brian (Cindy) and Amanda (Erik); and his grandchildren, Gianna and Callum.