

The Passing of a Friend

Douglas Asofsky



Doug Asofsky started his career as a lender with the US Small Business Administration in 1973 ,becoming the first lender at SBA's brand new Long Island office. There he became an expert in SBA 7A, 502, 503and other lending and technical assistance programs. Subsequently, Doug joined Citibank in 1985 as a commercial lender, then business banking director. During his tenure at Citibank, Doug held various senior positions in commercial lending, including Regional Banking Director for Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Most recently, until his retirement, Doug served as the National Director of SBA Lending for Citibank. Never one to sit still, after his retirement from Citi, Doug became a consultant to local banks and small businesses and got more involved in charitable activities.

His philanthropic spirit was best described by his long time friend Frank Pellicione - "Dougie was always up for attending charitable fundraisers and he was always the first person to bid at the live auction and put his name down on the silent auction items. His house is full of artwork, chotchkas and the like , acquired as a result of these events."

Perhaps Doug's most philanthropic endeavor was the voluntary donation of his kidney to a young college student so that his beloved wife Barbara could receive a needed kidney. This was accomplished as part of the first ever eight person simultaneous kidney transplant- made famous on Dr. Oz and

in a Grey's anatomy episode. Doug loved to recount his version of the tv show adaptation- gleefully telling people how the doctors dropped his kidney on the floor but then transplanted it citing the "5 second rule." And, he laughingly told how the tv version of Barbara had an affair with her donor. (BIG DISCLAIMER- this happened on the tv show, not in real life!).

In 1992 Doug joined the board of directors of Long Island Development Corporation, Long Island's premier nonprofit economic development and small business lending entity. In 2000 he began his tenure as Chairman of the Board helping LIDC to serve the small business community of Long Island, New York State, New Jersey and Connecticut. Doug took great pride in his LIDC involvement and was always mindful of its mission to help entrepreneurs. Whenever there was an LIDC event, Doug was the first to tell the Board- "you must wear one of your LIDC golf or button down shirts with the logo prominently displayed." Even when the Dr. Oz show had all the kidney transplant donors, recipients, medical staff on tv, Doug tried to promote LIDC by requesting to wear his bumblebee yellow polo shirt with the huge LIDC logo (the show nixed that idea).

With Doug's leadership, LIDC expanded its SBA 503/504 lending to add programs such as the NYS Targeted Loan Fund for LI, LISBAC, PTAP and many others benefitting small business.

Doug was active in national organizations such as the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (national trade association of SBA 7A lenders), having served as the first Chair of the Region II Advisory Board. He also served on the board of the NYS Empire Zone Capital Corp. Locally, Doug was on the board of Adelphi University's School of Nursing and served as a board director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. And, nationally, he served on the board of trustees of the American Kidney Fund which leads the nation in providing charitable assistance to dialysis patients.

Doug held a Masters Degree from the Bernard Baruch School of Business and Public Administration and was well known nationally and locally for his expertise in commercial lending and small business matters. In recognition of his activities, Doug received numerous awards, including the SBA's coveted Small Business Advocate of the Year for New York State ; the Long Island Association's Financial Services Advocate of the Year Award ,as well as honors from the NYS Legislature.

Doug was extremely proud of his Wantagh-based family - lovely wife Barbara; son Jeffrey; daughter-in-law Kim, daughter Robin and two grandchildren Felix and Hazel.

Doug's constant smile, easy going attitude and generous nature will be greatly missed by his LIDC Family along with all his friends and colleagues.