

# *A Tribute to the Life of* **Barry Stauber**



We were plunged into sadness early Friday morning on August 16th, when we heard the news that our Founder and past President, Barry Stauber, had passed away. Barry had a heart that was so large; it could fit all of the furniture that he developed in it. Barry founded National Public Seating in 1997, and built up our company with his bare hands. Today, we manufacture in 4 countries, ship most of our furniture in 24 hours, and have a team of 100+ employees. Barry started it all with loads of passion and a message of integrity, with just a few people in the office to help ship and process paperwork. He had an extreme sense of responsibility to provide his customers with an excellent experience. He was proud to play an integral role in servicing the needs of our education system and felt it was a badge of honor that he was doing his part in educating the future. He never shied away from dealing with issues or problems that arose. He embraced them and taught us how to use those challenges as opportunities to shine and make things right. He led with passion and demanded excellence; but balanced that with a heart of gold, compassionate, and respectful for all mankind.

Two years ago Barry decided it was time to let go and retire, spend more time with family and unload his tremendous responsibility onto others. He did it tactfully, with organization and grace. Barry had been enjoying retirement. He had started traveling and spending more time with his children and grandchildren. He loved to study with his friends and family and was enjoying every minute of life. We cannot explain how this tragedy occurred, but we can do our part to fill the void by emulating the example he so valiantly set.

On a personal note, I treasure these last 15 years having had the opportunity to work with such a great man. His commitment to integrity and the care he displayed towards his staff, customers, and vendors will forever be a model for me to emulate. Barry always had tremendous foresight. Although I encouraged him not to retire, he felt the time was right. I am thankful that I began this transition with him more than two years ago as he would never have wanted to jeopardize the future of his staff and customers.

I sign off this tribute with tremendous pain, yet also with a reenergized commitment to make him proud and continue to lead the great company he built.

*Elliot Levy*