



WIRTZ CORPORATION

Rocky Wirtz Biography

W. Rockwell (Rocky) Wirtz served as Chairman of the Chicago Blackhawks and President of Wirtz Corporation, where his role extended to a vast array of businesses from sports and entertainment to beverage distribution, real estate, and banking. Rocky was just 2 years old when his grandfather, Arthur Wirtz, purchased the Chicago Blackhawks in 1954, growing up within the storied walls of the Chicago Stadium. As Chairman of the Chicago Blackhawks, Rocky was an active member of the National Hockey League's Executive and Audit/Finance Committees, and he proudly oversaw the team's historic Stanley Cup championship victories in 2010, 2013 and 2015.

Rocky led the family's beverage business since 1980, and his strategic vision, commitment to investment and time-honored focus on running a value-driven business helped the company expand throughout the U.S. In 2016, Rocky drove efforts to form a partnership with The Charmer Sunbelt Group, creating Breakthru Beverage Group where he served as Co-Chairman. Recognizing his many contributions to the beverage industry, the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America honored Rocky with a Lifetime Leadership Award in 2014.

Wirtz Realty developed properties in Illinois for decades, and the company owns and manages over 20 commercial and residential properties along Chicago's lakefront and throughout its suburbs. Rocky also oversaw Wirtz family banking interests in Chicago and Florida as well their entertainment holdings, including the United Center, home of the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Bulls. Rocky was Co-Chairman of both the United Center Joint Venture and the Executive Committee of the United Center. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Rocky and his partners transformed the building into a relief hub to support regional response efforts. The United Center has welcomed more than 65 million visitors since opening, hosts more than 200 events annually and is slated to play host to the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

Above all else, Rocky was most proud to lead his family's commitment to numerous civic and charitable organizations. His dedication to the Chicago Blackhawks Foundation and its mission to create a healthier, smarter, more secure world for families in and around Chicago was unwavering. The foundation has donated millions of dollars to organizations focused on youth development, education, housing, and health and wellness.

When seeking a new practice rink for the Blackhawks, Rocky considered the needs of the local community and invested \$65 million to build a community ice rink first, and a practice rink second. The facility offers numerous benefits to Chicago's youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity or resources to learn the sport of hockey. Since its 2017 opening, thousands of children and community residents have participated in programming at Fifth Third Arena - Chicago Blackhawks Community Rink.

Rocky was a member of the Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago, Board Chair of The Field Museum and Trustee at Northwestern University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in communications in 1975. At Northwestern, he established the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Endowment for Visiting Artists. That program, named in honor of his grandmother, welcomes nationally acclaimed

performers to work directly with students and staff at the Theatre and Interpretation Center. In 2014, the center was renamed the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts in recognition of the family's financial gifts. In 2017, he endowed the W. Rockwell Wirtz Professorship in the School of Communication to attract top professors.

Rocky is survived by his wife Marilyn, and children Danny (Anne) Wirtz, Hillary Wirtz (Erin Quaglia), Kendall (Brendan) Murphy, and Elizabeth Queen (Joe Barley). Rocky was also the proud grandfather of six grandchildren.