

OLIVER T. CARR, JR.

“Ollie” Carr was born in Washington, D.C. in 1925 and attended the University of Maryland, College Park after serving in WW II. In 1955, after serving his country, he began his career as a third generation home builder, developing single family homes in Montgomery County, Maryland. The young entrepreneur soon turned his vision to the revitalization of downtown Washington, becoming the first developer to return to the city after the tumultuous race riots of the 1960s.

The Oliver Carr Company was formed in 1962 and delivered its first redevelopment project, the Mills Building, in 1966, followed by 1800 M Street and 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue. It was around this time that a graduate level Urban Planning class at George Washington University challenged Oliver to create new ways to build communities within cities. The company then set its sights on the western reaches of the District. After purchasing the Sealtest Dairy site at 26th Street in what was known as Washington's West End, the company formed West End Planning, Inc., a nonprofit created to assist in the planning of a community on the site of the former dairy. Success in Washington's West End encouraged the company to expand its presence in the city's East End, and at the same time, the company also forged relationships with numerous corporate occupiers, developing headquarter facilities for organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons, telecommunications giant MCI, and The American Automobile Association. By the end of the 1980s, The Oliver Carr Co. ranked as one of the largest office property owners and management-service providers in the greater Washington area.

In 1993, CarrAmerica Realty Corporation, a NYSE- traded Real Estate Investment Trust, was formed. By the time the company was sold in 2006, it held one of the nation's largest real estate portfolios, totaling approximately 26.3 million square feet in Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Orange County, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle and metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Today, Ollie is still creating new ways to work. In 2003, he founded Carr Workplaces, a national network of flexible workspace solutions for the independent worker operating in Washington D.C., New York, Boston, Chicago, LA, Orange County and San Francisco.

His newest venture, WorkReady, takes the idea of flexible space a step further, proposing space location and professional services to those outgrowing traditional flexible workspace solutions. His innovation and vision identified the growing need for turnkey small-space, and highly-serviced commercial real estate offerings before it became today's trend.

Oliver is Chairman of both Carr Hospitality, an asset management firm, and Carr City Centers, a commercial real estate development firm. CARR most recently delivered the Hilton Garden Inn in Alexandria, VA, and current projects under development include an InterContinental hotel at the Wharf, an Indigo Hotel on the Alexandria Waterfront and an Autograph hotel in Charlottesville, VA. In addition, CARR continues to expand its WorkReady brand in Washington and beyond.

Named to the Washington Business Hall of Fame, Mr. Carr is also a recipient of the prestigious National Building Museum's Honor for his work in rebuilding the city. Ollie is perhaps best known for his company's meticulous restoration of The Willard Hotel, a Pennsylvania Avenue landmark. Mr. Carr is Chairman Emeritus of both the George Washington University Board of Trustees and The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, and is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of Rising Stars, an independent charity he formed, with the purpose of helping underserved children become work ready, by reaching their full potential through quality educational opportunities.

Ollie is father to 9 children, 16 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren and two dachshunds. In his free time he and his wife, Kathy, enjoy spending time with family and friends between their homes in Bethesda, Maryland and Blue Hill, Maine.