

Joseph F. Slavik remembered as 'a giant and legend'



Joseph F. Slavik: 'He was a prince of a guy'

By DOUG FUNK
STAFF WRITER

Friends, family and business associates of Joseph F. Slavik remember the Orchard Lake developer/builder as a trendsetter in the industry who always had time to share his insights with others.

Slavik, 76, died Sunday after a lengthy illness. "I'd characterize him as both a giant and a legend," said Irvin H. Yackness, executive vice president for the Farmington Hills-based Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

"I'll remember his warmth and outreach in terms not only of his business enterprises, but to his friends. He was always available to provide counsel. He was just a tremendous friend."

Slavik's son, J. Ronald, president of the Farmington Hills-based Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, said his father inspired him to enter the business of property man-

agement. "He taught me all the lessons of life like honesty, a can-do attitude, hard-work ethic," J. Ronald said. "He's been a client, confident, partner and employer. He was a consummate deal-maker. He made things happen here."

Joseph Slavik, who started the Slavik Organization with his brother, Stephen, built and sold more than 2,600 houses and developed more than 500 lots between 1946 and 1954.

During the 1960s, Slavik developed Burton Hollow in Livonia, one of the first projects to mix different styles of houses such as ranches, bi-levels, cape cods and colonials.

Slavik's touch also extended to the Great Oaks subdivision in Rochester, one of the first golf communities in the area, and the first senior housing project in Detroit.

Other projects in Detroit that

bear his stamp include Greyhaven, the LeBoa at Jefferson and the Victoria Park Homes. He also developed apartments in the suburbs.

Slavik was a founding partner of the BBC Group, now Heritage Residential Group. He also was active in land development in Florida.

"Joe was always on the edge of cutting issues relating to development and building," said Stephen J. Tagliano, president of Heritage Residential Group. "He was very generous with his time. He was a real prince of a guy."

Mel Rosenhaus, president of Uniland, recalled that he and Slavik worked together on many apartment projects, including Oaks at Hampton in Rochester Hills, Randlewood in Farmington Hills and Westhaven Manor in Westland.

"He was just so vibrant, a long-range thinker," Rosenhaus said.

"He was the kind of guy you could call day or night for support. He was completely involved in civic and social things taking place as well as the business arena. He was just a super guy."

Slavik, active in BASM during his entire career, was a past president, a hall of fame inductee and a developer of the year for that professional association.

He also was inducted into the National Association of Home Builders Hall of Fame.

"I can't retire," Slavik said a couple of years ago when he was honored with yet another award from his peers. "Retire from what? And then do what? I love my work."

To illustrate that point, Slavik attended the National Association of Home Builders annual convention in Las Vegas a week before his death.

Slavik served the community in a variety of capacities outside of

the building industry. He was a trustee for St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake and on the National Board of Governors for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

He was a decorated bomber commander during World War II. Slavik is survived by his wife, Edna; a daughter, Berneda (Lorraine) Meeks of Boston, Mass.; son, J. Ronald (Lisa) of Orchard Lake; six grandchildren; brother Stephen of West Bloomfield; and sisters Helen Loren of Royal Oak and Polly Gidding of Palm Springs, Calif.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at Our Lady of Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorial contributions were requested to St. Jude's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 300, Memphis, Tenn. 38148-0552.

DATEBOOK

DATEBOOK features upcoming events around the suburban business community. To list an event, write: Datebook, Building & Business, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. Our fax number is 313-591-7279.

FRIDAY, FEB. 4

HOME SEMINAR
Miles Homes presents a free seminar "How to Build Your Dream Home Now with No Money Down" 7:30 a.m. at the Quality Inn, 1275 at Six Mile, Livonia. Reservations required at 348-3351 or 800-459-9400.

MONDAY, FEB. 7

PRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT
The American Society of Employers presents a seminar "Time and Priority Management" 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its offices, 23815 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Speaker: Joe Taber, Productive Training Services. Cost is \$95 for members, \$125 for non-members. Advance registration required at 810-353-4500.

ESTATE PLANNING
PaineWebber sponsors a free seminar on estate planning 11:30 a.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. Topics include living trusts, how to avoid probate and allocation of retirement assets. For reservations, call Paige Howell at 800-852-6228.

TUESDAY, FEB. 8

SELL THAT HOUSE
The Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers co-sponsor a free seminar on selling your home and the many aspects of that process 7-9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn West, Six Mile at I-275. Each attendee will receive a packet of materials. No promotion of any individuals or firms will be allowed. The WWOCAR will accept canned good donations at the door to pass on to the Salvation Army. Reservations requested at 810-478-1700 Ext. 241 during business hours.

COMPUTER NETWORKS
Racial-Datcom offers a free half-day seminar "Building SNA Internetworks" for corporate information systems executives and data communications personnel 9 a.m. to noon at the Sheraton Oaks Hotel in Novi. For reservations, phone 800-323-8732.

TAX SEMINAR
Financial Stewardship of Troy pre-

sents a free personal tax strategies workshop 7-8:30 p.m. at its office, 5435 Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Troy. For reservations, call 810-641-2681.

CAREER SEMINAR
Schoolcraft College Business Development Center hosts a seminar "Should I Go into Real Estate?" 7-10 p.m. in room 415 of the Liberal Arts Building on the Livonia campus. Commission schedules, contracts, business expenses, licensing and training will be discussed. Fee is \$25. To register, call 313-462-4448.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9

BRANDON LECTURE
David A. Brandon, president and chief executive officer of Valassis Inserts in Livonia, presents a lecture "From Family Room to Fortune 500 Boardroom" 7 p.m. at Madonna University, Schoolcraft and Levan roads. There is no charge. The address, part of the McManus Distinguished Business Lecture Series, takes place in Kresge Hall.

SOCCER UPDATE
The International Association of Business Communications, Detroit chapter, hosts Kurt Kosmowski, World Cup USA press officer, 11:45 a.m. during a luncheon at the Troy Marriott. Kosmowski will explain media planning, relations and security issues for the upcoming games at the Pontiac Silverdome. Cost is \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members. Reservations to Nancy Skidmore at 313-546-5490 by Feb. 4.

PROPERTY ETHICS
The Institute of Real Estate Management presents a seminar "Ethics in Real Estate Management" 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, 21525 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. The \$150 cost includes lunch. This course is a requirement to obtain the CPM, certified property manager designation. For reservations or information, contact Glenn M. Pelet at 810-651-0800.

AUTO STOCKS
Dean Witter looks at the auto industry with a free seminar 7 p.m. at the Troy Marriott, 200 W. Big Beaver. Speaker: Ronald A. Glantz, senior vice president. For reservations, contact Jeff Connell or John Jordan at 800-745-4550. The seminar will be repeated 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at the Dearborn Ritz-Carlton and 7 p.m. that date at the Southfield Radisson.

THURSDAY, FEB. 10

INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Women in International Trade Detroit

Chapter hosts Marianne Wainrow, counsel general Federal Republic Germany Detroit Office, 11:30 a.m. at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency Hotel. Wainrow, whose prior assignment was Danzig (Gdansk), will discuss her perspective of trade with Poland. Cost, including lunch, is \$20 for members, \$25 for guests. For reservations, contact Charlene Klutz at 313-942-7000.

HANDBOOK FORMATION
The American Society of Employers presents a seminar "How to Develop an Employee Handbook" 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its offices, 23815 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Speaker: Ingrid Brey of Hoenigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn. Cost is \$95 for members, \$125 for non-members. Registration requested at 810-353-4500.

TAX HELP
An IRS representative will be on hand to help fill out income tax forms on a free first-come, first-served basis 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Livonia City Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. Help sessions will continue at the library during the same times on successive Thursdays through April 7.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
The National Association of Career Women Metro Detroit Chapter hosts Richard "Buz" Brescoll during a networking meeting 5:30-8 p.m. at the Berkshire Hotel, 26111 Tele-

graph, Southfield. Brescoll's topic: "The Art of Promoting, Training, Managing and Hiring Smart." Refreshments and cash bar available. Cost is \$10. For reservations, call 810-268-7770.

LIMBAUGH LUNCH
The Oakland County Chamber Political Action Committee offers a buffet lunch in which Rush Limbaugh's radio show will be piped in noon to 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 1801 S. Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Cost is \$20 and proceeds will support pro-business candidates in upcoming elections. Reservations requested at 810-456-8600.

SATURDAY, FEB. 12

INVESTING FOR '90S
The law firm of Clark, Klein & Beaumont and investment managers Seger-Evoking co-sponsor a free briefing "From Here to Security: New Investment and Estate Planning Answers for the '90s" 9 a.m. at the Livonia Marriott, Six Mile at I-275. To register, call Scott Hensburgh at 810-642-3101.

QMAT PREPARATION
Oakland University Division of Continu-

ing Education sponsors the first in a series of Saturday study classes for the Graduate Management Admissions Test 9-12:30 p.m. on campus in Rochester Hills. Tuition for the series is \$195. Optional single-session refresher sessions also available. For information, call 313-370-3120 weekdays during business hours.

TUESDAY, FEB. 15

REMODELERS SEMINAR
The Remodelers Council of the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan hosts a seminar "How to Get the Contract" 6-9 p.m. at the Northfield Hotel, 5500 Crooks, Troy. The cost, including dinner, is \$20. To register, call 810-737-4477.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
PaineWebber sponsors a free seminar on the benefits of having a professionally managed account 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its conference center, 38701 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. The seminar will repeat 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 22. For reservations, call Paige Howell at 800-852-6228.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16

SALES HELP
The National Association of Women Business Owners, Detroit chapter, of-

fers a seminar on "The Art of Sales" to help women entrepreneurs develop a strategy that will close the deal. The seminar goes 8-11:30 a.m. at AT&T Commercial Markets, 26957 Northwestern Highway near Lahser, Southfield. Cost is \$45 for NAWBO members, \$55 for non-members. Partial scholarships are available. Reservations requested in advance at 313-390-3576.

THURSDAY, FEB. 17

ESTATE PLANNING
Michigan National Bank presents a free educational program on estate planning, wills and trusts 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile Road. For reservations, call Kathy Nossek at 313-591-0707.

MARKETING PLAN
The Business Enterprise Development Center, a partnership between Wash College and Oakland Community College, hosts a workshop "How to Write a Marketing & Communications Plan" 9:30 a.m. to noon at its office, 1301 W. Long Lake Road, Suite 150, Troy. The \$35 fee includes a workbook. To register, call 313-952-5800.

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