Family Principles Is the Rock He Built On

While we refer to Sam Kardon as the founder of the company, truth be told, Stan Schottland is the man who built the foundation that led to what American Packaging Corporation is today; one of the largest privately-held flexible packaging companies in America.

Stanley Schottland was born May 1919 in NYC and grew up during the Great Depression. A time when hard work and family meant everything. Stan first demonstrated commitment to family and leadership when he left high school at the age of 17 to help support his family following his father's death. While Stan's family was everything to him, he also thought of his friends, neighbors, and co-workers as very much a part of his family. For this reason, American Packaging has always referred to its team as "the APC family".



On December 8th (the day after Pearl Harbor), Stan enlisted in the Army and served as Lieutenant and was part of the D-Day invasion crossing Omaha Beach under the command of George Patton in July 1944. Stan served bravely and was wounded in action in September of that year. After recovering from his wounds in London, Stan returned stateside where he married the love of his life, Ellen Bordley Schottland. They were married on December 24th, 1944 and shortly afterwards began a family of their own. Stan and Ellen were married for 61 years and had three sons: Charles (Buck), Steven and Peter. All three following in their dad's footsteps to become successful leaders.

Stan's primary employment experience included working for Schenley Distillers for 27 years, starting as an office boy and working his way to the President of their Bourbon Division, gaining trust and respect along the way. Even though his career was flourishing, Stan always dreamed of owning his own business, making it something special and handing it off to his sons.

In 1966, he joined forces with a small bag manufacturer named American Bag and Paper located in Philadelphia. Under his direction ABP made its first acquisition of Northern Packaging in Rochester, NY and obtained extrusion capabilities. In 1969, Stan became partner and CEO, and shortly afterwards, the company added rotogravure printing capabilities by acquiring Ameripak in Columbus, WI.



To better reflect its new focus and capabilities, the company was renamed American Packaging Corporation and a new company logo designed by Stan himself was released. With his three sons, Stan purchased the company in 1986 and started growing his new family...and grow it did!

Fulfilling his dream, soon after the Kardon acquisition, Stan began to step away from day-to-day activity and handed the leadership off to his son Steve Schottland. In 1999,

Peter Schottland assumed the helm of American Packaging and is the CEO / President today with his brother Steve serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Many expansions have taken place over the years, including building a new flexographic printing facility in lowa, a new Center for Packaging Innovation in Wisconsin, and adding several pieces of new equipment at all three facilities. American Packaging is currently under construction of its first Rotogravure satellite operation in Deforest, WI and they are also on the cusp of determining the location to build the first Flexographic satellite operation.

Today, over 800 families call American Packaging home; and it is still growing. The company is able to attract and retain the best people in the industry because of the core values that have never changed: sustaining a family culture, hard work, support of each other, re-investment in the business, and the rewarding of accomplishments.

From the very beginning, Stan's charitable nature was rooted into the core foundation of the company and is still present today. Its employees enjoy impressive benefits; including a lucrative bonus program, company funded retirement accounts, generous tuition reimbursement, as well as having strong safety programs at each of its facilities. The company and its employees contribute locally to the United Way, Red Cross, food banks, and support several other community activities.

Beyond the local charities, American Packaging has funded business leadership programs at the College of Charleston and sponsored two packaging initiatives at the Rochester Institute of Technology (APC's Center for Packaging Innovation and the Center for Sustainable Packaging). APC has also been a key advocate to the "Hole in the Wall Gang" camp for nearly 25 years by volunteering, fundraising, and contributing millions of dollars to help children with life-threatening illnesses attend a medically staffed camp.

As Stan would say "It's all about treating everyone as family; and families watch out and support for each other, period."

If success can be measured by happiness, then Stanley Schottland was a very successful man. He led a charmed life and in every way lived the American dream; his legacy will live on through all the families he has touched.

May 27, 1919 – February 2, 2016