

The Columbus Dispatch

STEVE FARBER | 1947-2010

President of vehicle company loved work Unexplained internal bleeding blamed in death

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BY RITA PRICE

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Steve Farber, head of a custom-vehicle company that makes everything from bookmobiles to bomb-response units to vans for rock stars, died Tuesday after a brief illness.

The 63-year-old was president of Farber Specialty Vehicles, a family-owned company that had just crossed into its fourth generation with the hiring of Farber's daughter.

Ken Farber, Steve Farber's brother and the company CEO, said family and staff are devastated.

"It was very unexpected," Ken said. "Even the doctors couldn't explain it."

He said his brother had been in good health but didn't feel well Christmas night. Steve was taken to Ohio State University Medical Center on Sunday, where surgeons were unable to stop - or determine the cause of - internal bleeding, family said.

Ken, 56, said the two had shepherded the Reynoldsburg company's growth from 10 to more than 100 employees.

It expanded in a new way after 2002, when Farber bought the assets of Custom Coach Corp. The nationally known manufacturer of executive and entertainer transport had plenty of famous clients, including plane-averse football analyst John Madden and Wendy's founder Dave Thomas.

The late Thomas also was the father of Steve Farber's wife, Pam Farber. The Farber family lives in Upper Arlington.

After the Sept. 11 attack, demand for mobile-command units grew, Ken said. But his brother was most proud of the mobile health vehicles that could take services such as mammography or dental care to people who need them.

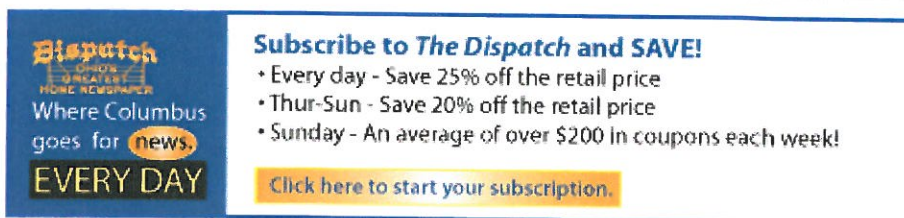
"I said to Steve last week, 'You're not going to retire on me?'" Ken said. "He said, 'No, I love this too

much."

Besides his wife, Steve Farber is survived by their three grown children, Ashley, Alyson and Andrew, and a grandson. Calling hours will be 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Schoedinger Northwest Chapel, 1740 Zollinger Rd. in Upper Arlington. The funeral service will be at 10a.m. Monday at St. Agatha Catholic Church, 1860 Northam Rd., Upper Arlington.

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