

# BURTON TANSKY

January 15, 1938 - March 16, 2025



Palm Beach Gardens, FL - Burton Tansky, former CEO of Neiman Marcus and a towering figure in luxury retail, has passed away. A man of elegance, vision, and unwavering dedication, Tansky spent his life elevating the world of high fashion while always keeping family at the heart of his success.

Born to immigrant parents who instilled in him the values of hard work, perseverance, and integrity,

Tansky carried these lessons with him throughout his remarkable career. Raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Tansky graduated from The University of Pittsburgh where he thrived, building upon the solid foundations of knowledge and dedication he had learned from his parents and community. From humble beginnings, he rose to become one of the most respected leaders in the luxury retail industry. His journey took him from the floors and stock rooms of Kaufmann's to executive suits, where he served as President of Saks Fifth Avenue, CEO of Bergdorf Goodman, and ultimately as President and CEO of the Neiman Marcus Group.

His leadership and contributions to fashion were widely recognized, earning him some of the industry's highest honors. He was the recipient of the Gold Medal Award from the National Retail Federation (considered the highest honor in retailing), honored by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), and received the Legend of Luxury Award from the Luxury Marketing Council. And in 2002 he was appointed as a "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur" by the French government for his promotion of French-made merchandise in America. His influence extended beyond retail, as he was also deeply involved in philanthropic efforts, serving on various boards, and supporting causes that reflected his commitment to culture and community, such as Jupiter Hospital and Cancer Center, Temple Judea of Palm Beach Gardens, The Kind Kitchen, JNF Special Soldiers in Uniform, FAU Honors Program and The University of Pittsburgh.

But above all, Burt Tansky was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. While he was deeply passionate about his work and philanthropic contributions, his greatest joy came from the time spent with family and friends. No matter how demanding his career, he never lost sight of what truly mattered - love, connection, and the bonds that defined him far beyond the boardroom.

His warmth, generosity, and humor left an indelible mark on the fashion world and on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Rita; children, Hyla (Eric) Weiss and Michael (Ellen) Tansky; grandchildren, Emily, Coby, and Sascha; sister, Eva Blum (Norman Wolmark); countless friends, and the many proteges who continue to carry his work forward.

The world of fashion has lost a legend, but Burt Tansky's legacy - one of excellence, integrity, and devotion to both his craft and his family - will remain timeless.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)