

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Barry-Wehmiller announces the passing of Chairman Bob Chapman

## *The company's former CEO and acclaimed author died March 19*



ST. LOUIS — March 20, 2026 — It is with profound sadness that Barry-Wehmiller announces the death of its Chairman of the Board, Robert H. Chapman.

Bob Chapman was more than a business leader, author and speaker, he was a relentless optimist who dedicated his life to building a better world. He worked to redefine what it meant to be a leader in business, to further the understanding that it was an awesome responsibility because the way we lead impacts the way people live. He worked tirelessly to bring more caring to business and built the foundation for Barry-Wehmiller to champion new definitions for success in business: by demonstrating that economic growth and human vibrancy can exist in harmony.

Bob became CEO of a struggling Barry-Wehmiller in 1975 upon the death of his father, William Chapman. At the time, the company was a \$20 million supplier of equipment for the brewing industry. As of 2025, when Bob handed the reins of the business to his son Kyle, the current President and CEO, Barry-Wehmiller had become a \$3.6 billion-plus global powerhouse with 12,000 team members and a portfolio spanning

industrial and packaging automation, professional services and life sciences technology.

Beyond his business acumen, in the late 1990s into the 2000s, Bob underwent a personal transformation that changed his thinking from that of traditional “management” to what would later be called Truly Human Leadership.

He then spent the last 15 years of his life sharing the lessons of his transformation by writing prolifically and speaking to audiences around the world.

Those experiences and the principles Bob championed were the inspiration behind his 2015 Wall Street Journal bestseller *Everybody Matters: The Extraordinary Power of Caring for Your People Like Family*, coauthored by his friend, Raj Sisodia, founder and coauthor of *Conscious Capitalism*. Since its release, the book has been translated into eight languages and, in 2025, was re-released in a revised and expanded edition, chronicling more of the evolution of his thinking and the company he led.

Bob’s views on leadership have been featured internationally in hundreds of media outlets such as CBS Sunday Morning, CNBC, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, Inc., Harvard Business Review, The St. Louis Business Journal, Chief Executive, The CEO Magazine and many more. His 2012 TEDx talk has been viewed more than 300,000 times.

In 2013, Bob and his wife Cynthia launched a nonprofit, Chapman Foundation for Caring Communities, to bring Barry-Wehmiller’s groundbreaking communication training to communities. And, in 2015, Bob founded Chapman & Co. Leadership Institute to bring the principles of Truly Human Leadership to for-profit organizations through culture transformation and leadership training.

Bob’s and Barry-Wehmiller’s unique approach to business was featured in a 2016 case study by Harvard Business School, which is now taught at 70-plus business schools around the world.

In 2019, he was invited to address the United Nations Global Compact Transforming Education Summit.

Bob was named the Tharseō CEO of the Year by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) in 2022. Inc. Magazine ranked him as the #3 CEO in the world and in 2025 listed him in their Top 50 Leadership and Management Experts.

Bob once answered a question of what he would want his eulogy to say with: “He genuinely cared for the people whose lives he had the privilege of touching.” He often said he would not go to his grave proud of the equipment built or services provided at Barry-Wehmiller but, instead, the people who built them.

Everyone in the Barry-Wehmiller family is proud to have been part of Bob's span of care and our thoughts are with his beloved wife Cynthia and the entire Chapman family at this time.

#### ABOUT BARRY-WEHMILLER

Barry-Wehmiller (BW) is a growth platform and value-added operator redefining success in business by demonstrating how human and economic vibrancy work in harmony. With a portfolio spanning industrial and packaging automation, professional services and life sciences technology, BW combines disciplined operations, people-centric leadership and purpose-driven growth with a permanent capital mindset to create lasting value for all stakeholders. Recognized globally for pioneering a model of leadership that empowers leaders to perform with excellence while caring for others, BW has grown into a \$3.6 billion-plus organization with more than 12,000 team members united by a shared mission of building a better world through business. Barry-Wehmiller's journey in creating new expectations of business is chronicled in Chairman and former CEO Bob Chapman's bestselling book, [\*Everybody Matters: The Extraordinary Power of Caring for Your People Like Family\*](#). To learn more, go to [barrywehmiller.com](http://barrywehmiller.com).