

## **David C. Eckel**

### **President/Owner/Broker**

David C. Eckel was born in Buffalo, New York, graduated from Cornell University, and received an MBA degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Following graduation, David was an officer in the United States Army and received an honorable discharged as a Captain.

Prior to entering the real estate industry, David was a senior commercial lending officer at Marine Midland Bank (Western New York), specializing in secured financing, handling many corporate transactions.

David joined the real estate brokerage firm of Stovroff & Herman, Inc. (recently renamed Realty USA) as Vice President in the mid 1970's became an owner in the early 1980's and it's President in 1987. Stovroff & Herman, Inc. under his direction, grew quickly, and continues under new ownership to be the leader in New York State, and recently ranked as the sixth largest independent real estate firm in the United States. While at Stovroff & Herman, in addition to being President, David specialized in Commercial Real Estate, and handled many transactions for national and international companies such as Central Scientific, American Allsafe, Verity Corporation, HSBC Bank, Goldome, Benderson Development, M & T Bank, etc. Under his directions, his company expanded to over 20 offices, 750+ agents, and was the first United States Company to open a real estate office in Toronto, Ontario.

In the mid-1990's, David relocated to Florida, purchasing Wagner Realty (founded in 1939) which had one office and several agents at the time of acquisition. During the past years, Wagner has grown from one to ten offices, with 200 agents and staff. The company is a full service real estate company, including an excellent reputation for residential and commercial real estate transactions.

Wagner is a leader in our area, enjoying a quality reputation. As an example Wagner has been voted "The Best Real Estate Company" by The Herald's Readers Preference Awards for 13 years in a row. Just this last year, the Company was voted as the large business of the year by the Anna Maria Island Chamber. David has been very active in community and academic activities throughout the years, and presently serves as the Chairman of the Community Leadership Council of University of South Florida (40+ top area business people), was Chairman of its' Community Affairs Committee, and recently appointed as an advisor to its' Business School.

David is presently a Board member and Treasurer of the Plaza at Five Points Master and Residential Condominium Associations. Also, presently serves on the Whitney National Bank Manatee/Sarasota Advisory Board. David has served as a Board member of Manatee Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of its' EDC; a founding member of the Sarasota EDC; Board member for Saint Stephens Episcopal School; Board of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce; a runner up for Entrepreneur of the Year for Manatee/Sarasota Counties, and named as one of the top five commercial brokers in the area by the Gulf Coast Business Review.