

Larchmont Chronicle

RATKOVICH REJOINS FAMILY FIRM

By Jane Gilman



IN BUILDING LOBBY. Milan Ratkovich oversees renovation and expansion of the 5900 Wilshire building

Former Marine pilot oversees iconic 5900 Wilshire building

“Sometimes real estate is like flying helicopters, they both can require steady nerves and quick decision-making!” So says Milan Ratkovich, son of Hancock Park residents Wayne and JoAnn Ratkovich.

Milan recently joined The Ratkovich Company, the real estate development and investment company started by his father 30 plus years ago. Born and raised in Hancock Park, Milan followed the family path to UCLA, from which he graduated with a B.A. in history.

“After college I went to work with my dad in what was then a very small company. It was early in the ‘90s when many in the real estate industry were just trying to stay alive until 1995. It really wasn’t much fun,” he said.

Since flying was another major interest of his (Milan had acquired his private pilot’s license while in college), he joined the U.S. Marines. After completing Marine Officer Candidate School, Ratkovich entered flight school earning his wings in two years. In 1998 he was assigned to Oahu, Hawaii to fly heavy-lift helicopters throughout the island chain as well as on deployments to Japan and Korea. He and his wife Jenny (Aubert), also a Hancock Park native, moved to the Islands. “We were quite prepared to spend the rest of our lives in Hawaii, but the Marine Corps had other ideas.”

They re-assigned him as a flight instructor to the Marine Corps Air Station New River in North Carolina.

When Milan's tour ended in 2005, he returned to his roots. "In the back of my mind I always knew that my future was in the family business."

Upon his return to a much-larger Ratkovich Company, Milan took on the assignment as development manager at the company's flagship asset, The Alhambra—a one million square foot urban community in the city of Alhambra, his father's birthplace.

At The Alhambra he managed the entitlement process for a 350-condo project, as well as oversaw the construction of a 50,000 square foot LA Fitness center. Recently, he was appointed development manager of 5900 Wilshire, the iconic 30-story, 500,000 square foot office tower immediately across Wilshire Blvd. from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He oversees the building's ongoing \$32 million renovation and expansion program as well as office leasing. "Our objective is to turn 5900 Wilshire into Los Angeles' premier office address," he emphasized.

Milan and Jenny Ratkovich have purchased their own home in their old neighborhood. Their three sons, Mason, 8, Tyler, 6 and Jake, 3, keep Milan occupied coaching basketball, soccer, T-Ball and Little League.

"It doesn't leave too much time for personal hobbies, although I'd love to begin flying again one of these days," he says.

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