

ANDREW MAZZONE DIED FEB. 21, 2017

GroundSwell has been notified by Scott Baker, past president of the Common Ground-NYC chapter, of the death of Andrew Mazzone, president and CEO of the board of directors of the Henry George School of Social Science in New York City. The Henry George School of Social Science in NYC has posted an obituary in the New York Times at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=184210042>.

MAZZONE--Andrew B.

"The Henry George School of Social Science mourns the loss of Andrew B. Mazzone, president and CEO of its board of directors. Andy, who was born in Massachusetts and resided in New York City, died February 21, 2017. His vision and passion heralded many successes for the school, founded in 1932 to establish economic justice and sustainable prosperity. These achievements included: Smart Talk, a series of wide-ranging video interviews with prominent economists, political scientists and social thinkers; and encouraging the school's free courses in political economy, tax reform and globalization. Andy graduated from Babson College in Massachusetts with a degree in finance. He also earned an advanced degree in economics from the New School and Cambridge University. A decorated Vietnam Veteran, Andy was president of Perkin Elmer Corp., and chief executive of many other corporations. He leaves behind cherished family members and many dedicated friends and colleagues. Memorial contributions may be made in Andy's memory to the Henry George School of Social Science, 5 West 19th St., Suite 2C, New York, New York 10011. A memorial service will be announced at a later date."

Scott alerted GoundSwell that Andy was well known enough in business circles to have his own Business Week page: <http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=1236183&privcapId=42996625>

"Background: Mr. Andrew B. Mazzone, also known as Andy, serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Eco-Petroleum Solutions, Inc. Mr. Mazzone is a Promoter of Xiom Corp. (formerly Panama Industries Ltd.). Mr. Mazzone served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Structural Enhancement Technologies Corp. until June 14, 2012. Mr. Mazzone served as an Interim President at Structural Enhancement Technologies Corp. since July 30, 2010. He served as the President of Xiom Corp. from 1998 to December 7, 2009 and as its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Accounting Officer and Chief Financial Officer until December 7, 2009. Mr. Mazzone served as President of Thermaltec International from 1995 to October 2001. Mr. Mazzone served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of TTI Holdings of America Corp. (now Steam Cleaning USA Inc.) until November 1, 2001. From 1970 to February 15, 1995, Mr. Mazzone was employed by Metco, Westbury NY, a subsidiary of Perkin Elmer Corp., where he served as Director of Logistics, Director of Sales and Marketing, Director of Manufacturing, Executive Vice President and President. Mr. Mazzone served as the Principal Fi-

nancial Officer, Principal Accounting Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of Steam Cleaning USA Inc. He has been the Chairman and a Director of Eco-Petroleum Solutions, Inc. since September 2008. He has been the Chairman of the Board at Extreme Mobile Coatings Worldwide Corp. since September 2008 and serves as its Director. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Xiom Corp. from 1998 to December 7, 2009. Mr. Mazzone served as the Chairman of Steam Cleaning USA Inc. since November 1994 and Falcon Media Services, Ltd. until September 2008. Mr. Mazzone served as Chairman of the Board of Humana Trans Services Holding Corp. from August 2002 to February 2004. He serves as a Director at Extreme. He served as a Director of Xiom Corp. He served as a Director of Environmental Infrastructure Holdings Corp. until February 2010. He served as a Director of Humana Trans Services Holding Corp. from August 2002 to April 5, 2004. Mr. Mazzone served as a Director of Humana Trans Services Group Ltd. He served as a Director at Steam Cleaning USA Inc. until November 1, 2001. Mr. Mazzone has degrees from Babson College, Babson Park, Massachusetts in Finance and an Advanced Degree in Economics, with a specialty in Economic History."

Scott commented, Those of us who knew and supported him know that he took a moribund school and propelled it into the 21 century on a limited budget, restrictive internal rules limiting it even more (for a time, I approached him and then Director Cay Hehner with the idea of expanding the school into Touro College's old building around the corner with additional paid courses and Robert Schalkenbach Foundation as an anchor tenant, on the way to becoming the next New School. We took a tour of the building but the plan was ultimately too ambitious for then-Henry George School president Dan Kryston). He and Cay and a few others on this list used to participate in a round table discussion of Georgist and economic issues at Ron Rubin's apartment. I remember it fondly. Andy was that rare businessman who wanted to give something back after a successful career, AND who had the intellectual and knowledge chops to do so in his chosen second career field of economics. His videos are thorough, well-researched and always managed to circle back to Our Solution, even to economists who don't usually see the world through a Georgist lens. They will live on as a legacy and testament to his drive to make the world a better place. Mixing real-world skepticism with a deep core of valuing for human dignity, potential, and ability to learn, he promoted his unique brand of challenging economics, often starting his classes with the question: "If you had a chance to make millions of dollars in just a few years, but you knew you had to do something wrong to do it, but you also knew there was a very low likelihood of your being caught, would you do it?"

A better challenge to the amorality and ruthless zeitgeist of our age would be hard to find. Andy was open to new ideas in many areas. He allowed me to arrange a meeting with a group of Thorium-based nuclear energy entrepreneurs at the HGS a few years ago too, which (continued on p. 6)

ANDREW MAZZONE (from page 5)

brought out some investors and was an excellent opportunity to advance this new-yet-old technology, as radical and right in its own ways as Georgism. He steered the school through a difficult period with the transition from the sale of the building to the re-launching of the school as a roving institution, bringing Georgism to the masses outside of its walls - which were flooded even as the sale of the building was being completed, not an easy sell! Andy was an apt administrator, able to handle a wide variety of students, some, it must be said, who may not always have had the school or its cause close to their hearts. It was well known he had advanced cancer, so it's likely his death had something to do with that. It's a terrible loss for the school, for Georgism, and of course for his family. Where do we go from here? A true tragedy.

Scott adds, just as this issue of GroundSwell was going to press, another of Andy's SmartTalk interviews was produced. According to the Youtube video produced posthumously by the Henry George School, this one was with Dr. "Costas Lapavitsas (who) discuss(es) how the profound effects of financialization have been felt in Greece, throughout Europe and here in America" In fact, just about a week before his death, Andy had called me in response to my email to him suggesting that he re-invite economist Yanis Varoufakis - whom I had co-interviewed with Andy on the very first SmartTalk video - to discuss Varoufakis' new pan-European Union DIEM25 (yes, it's spelled that way) white paper for economic reform. Andy asked me if I could reach out to Varoufakis for a re-interview, but I told him my correspondence with Dr. Varoufakis consisted of just 3-4 short emails to him in response to his weekly blog, with one brief reply by him to me, and I suggested the school reach out. We talked about the Greek situation some more, about Trumpism and its already failed promises, and about the future. In this undated interview with Dr. Lapavitsas, published April 9, 2017, Andy discusses some of these same issues, including critical correspondence over them with Dr. Varoufakis. Sharp and on point as ever, this one of Andy's last attempts to reform the broken field of economics is tragic yet inspiring. <<
