

# JAMES CROSBY, FATHER OF BOARDWALK CASINOS

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**R**esorts International Chairman James M. Crosby, who transformed a small paint business into the major gaming corporation that opened New Jersey's first casino, died while undergoing surgery after a long illness.

Mr. Crosby was considered the father of Atlantic City's gambling industry and the first outside investor to appreciate the potential of gaming in the seaside resort city.

"He showed the way for the rest of the industry," said Walter N. Read, chairman of the Casino Control Commission. "He certainly supplied the strong guidance to that company that made it the success it is today."

Mr. Crosby had suffered from severe emphysema for a number of years.

Mr. Crosby, who was born in Great Neck, N.Y., in 1927 and grew up in Spring Lake, N.J., purchased the struggling Mary Carter Paint Co. with members of his family in 1958.

As the paint business weakened, he diversified into resort operations, purchasing an island in the Bahamas in 1965 and opening the Paradise Island hotel-casino.

He helped introduce casino gambling to Atlantic City nearly 10 years ago, purchasing the Haddon Hall Hotel for conversion to a casino several months before the November 1976 referendum that legalized casinos in the city.

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