



35 YEARS: VIRGINIA BUSINESS THROUGH THE DECADES

March 1986: Virginia Business publishes its first issue

NVHomes, the precursor of Reston-based NVR Inc., acquires Ryan Homes.

Richmond-based A.H. Robins is bought by New York-based American Home Products.

Norfolk-based Sovran Financial Corp., Virginia's biggest bank, merges with Atlanta-based Citizens and Southern Corp.

Virginia-based America Online holds its first initial public offering.

1995: Virginia Business Editor and Associate Publisher James Bacon becomes the magazine's publisher and editor-in-chief.

Virginia-based Jefferson, Central Fidelity and Signet banks are bought by North Carolina banks Wachovia and First Union.

AOL merges with Time Warner to create AOL Time Warner.

December 2000: Virginia Business publishes its first Legal Elite list, recognizing the commonwealth's top attorneys.

2007: Bernie Niemeier becomes Virginia Business' president and publisher.

APM Terminals opens a \$450 million terminal in Portsmouth.

December 2008: General Dynamics CEO Nicholas Chabraja is the magazine's first Virginia Business Person of the Year.

2009: Media General Inc. sells Virginia Business to Virginia Business Publications LLC.

Defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. moves its headquarters from Los Angeles to Fairfax County.

Newport News-based Huntington Ingalls Industries, the nation's largest military shipbuilder, is established as a Northrop Grumman spinoff.

1980S

Mobil Corp. moves its headquarters from New York to Fairfax County.

1990S

1989: Virginia Business publishes its first annual Virginia 100 list of the wealthiest Virginians.

1990S

NCNB Corp. and C&S/Sovran announce a \$4.3 billion merger to create Nationsbank, the nation's third-largest bank.

1990S

Richmond-based Signet Banking Corp. spins off its credit card division, creating Capital One Financial Corp.

1990S

Chesapeake-based Dollar Tree Inc. holds its initial public offering.

1990S

1997: Virginia Business publishes the first Fantastic 50 list of the state's fastest-growing private businesses.

1990S

Mobil is acquired by Exxon Corp., for \$81.2 billion, forming Texas-based Exxon Mobil Corp.

1990S

Armada Hoffer breaks ground on the first phase of Town Center of Virginia Beach.

1990S

Northrop Grumman Corp. buys Newport News Shipbuilding.

1990S

Altria Group Inc. relocates its headquarters from New York to Richmond.

Henrico County-based Circuit City Stores Inc. files for bankruptcy and closes its remaining 567 stores, eliminating 34,000 jobs.

2011: Virginia Business celebrates its 25th anniversary and publishes the first annual Best Places to Work list.

2013: Virginia Business publishes its first annual Big Book economic development issue.

2017: Bernie Niemeier becomes sole owner of Virginia Business.

Amazon.com Inc. announces it will build its \$2.5 billion East Coast HQ2 headquarters in Arlington.

2020: Virginia Business publishes its inaugural Virginia 500 issue featuring the state's most powerful business leaders.

COVID-19 pandemic shuts down businesses, sending the economy into recession and unemployment skyrocketing.

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