

# Don Hamilton Barden

## American Casino Executive



Don H. Barden was born December 20, 1943 in Detroit, MI. This would also be the place of his death on May 19, 2011. He died of lung cancer. Don was no stranger to hard work just like his father. He performed a myriad of odd jobs growing up until he saved \$500 and decided to go into business for himself.

While Don's first business was a record store, he was destined to make an impact in the hospitality industry! Casinos would become a cure for his hometown's financial woes. Although, Barden did not win the bid to build a casino in Detroit, he did go on to build casinos in Indiana, Colorado, Mississippi and Nevada. In fact, he became the first black Las Vegas casino owner. He purchased Fitzgerald's Las Vegas Casino which is now known as The D Casino Hotel Las Vegas.

Here are a few of Don Barden's accolades and accomplishments:

- Black Enterprise Magazine selected Barden as Company of the Year, 2003
- Barden received the Trumpet Award for Entrepreneur of the Year, 2004
- Black Enterprise ranked Barden Companies number 10 in the top 100 grossing black-owned business with profits of \$405 million, 2010
- Black Enterprise Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award, 2010

Said to have been soft-spoken and low-key, Don H. Barden didn't let his humble beginnings stop him from leaving a mark on the casino sector.

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