

H&S Bakery

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John Paterakis, Sr. is the president of H&S Bakery Inc., the largest privately owned bakery in the United States. The "H" and "S" of the company's name come from his brother-in-law, Harry Tsakalos, and Paterakis' father, Isidoros "Steve" Paterakis, who started the bakery in 1943 in the basement and first floor of the family's rowhouse on Ashland Avenue near Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Paterakis joined his father's business at age 23 and helped expand it into a national company. With 1,000 employees in the Baltimore area, H&S supplies stores such as Giant and Super Fresh with hearth breads and rolls that are then sold under the supermarkets' own brand names. Its products are distributed as far north as Long Island, N.Y. and Massachusetts, and as far south as North Carolina.

Paterakis also owns Northeast Foods Inc., which makes buns for McDonald's. Paterakis has built a distribution center for McDonald's in Ireland and supervises production of rolls for the company in Singapore and India. The bakery magnate is also a behind-the-scenes political heavyweight whose fundraising has helped politicians, including the late governor and vice president Spiro T. Agnew, former Governor Marvin Mandel, former Senator Paul S. Sarbanes and former mayors William Donald Schaefer and Kurt L. Schmoke.

Paterakis also owns a development company, H&S Properties Development Corporation, which has built several buildings east of the Inner Harbor. The most prominent property is the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. Others include Courtyard by Marriott and offices for Sylvan Learning Systems, Inc. and Fidelity and Guaranty Life Insurance Company.