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ALBERT MORRISON JR., 72

Helped start one of Florida's largest accounting firms

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Albert Morrison Jr., a native South Floridian who helped found what would become the largest independent accounting firm in the state, died on Thursday. He was 72.

The cause was heart failure, said his wife of 51 years, Joan Morrison.

Albert Morrison was born Jan. 29, 1937 in Coral Gables. He studied at the University of Florida, then transferred to the University of Miami, graduating in 1958. The same year, he and Joan married.

In 1969, Morrison and some colleagues decided to open an accounting firm. Morrison joined with Sanford Caplan, Manny Zaic, Bert Brown and Alvin Brown. They began Caplan Morrison & Brown.

"They were sitting around at our house, him and his close friends, who

also were accountants. And they decided to form their own firm," Joan Morrison said. "And it's been, knock on wood, very successful."

The firm, now known as Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra, grew to more than 300 employees and seven offices. The firm describes itself as the 43rd largest independent public accounting firm in the nation and the largest in the state.

"He treated clients like family. That's why he was so successful. Everyone was his friend first and client second," said Tony Argiz, the firm's current CEO. "He was just an amazing guy, very quiet but a real leader — and someone with amazing

humor."

Morrison also stayed active in the community.

He served on the board of directors for the Florida International University Foundation. He was a member of the Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority. And he was an early member of Temple Beth Am on Kendall Drive.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, brother Dr. Theodore Morrison of Hollywood, three children and six grandchildren. His children are Richard Morrison, Judy Feldman and Larry Morrison.

All three are married with families of their own. And they all live within a few miles of Albert and Joan Morrison's Pinecrest home.

Services will be at noon on Sunday at Temple Beth-Am, 5950 N. Kendall Dr.



MORRISON