

A Memorial to David Duerson

November 26, 1960 – February 17, 2011

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of David Duerson. Dave was a founding member, a strong supporter of supplier diversity and an active participant in all of the early MFHA events. He served on the board for 5 years and was instrumental in helping us launch our NRA networking reception. It is tragic that such a brilliant spirit took his own life because of injuries suffered playing the game he loved.

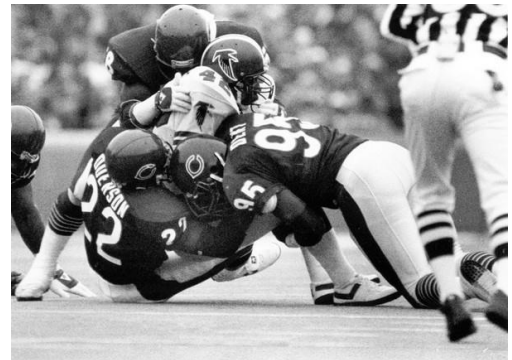


Photo courtesy of The Chicago Tribune

Duerson's Career in the Food & Hospitality Industry:

After leaving the NFL, Duerson decided to go into business through franchise ownership. He attended McDonald's Corporation's Hamburger University and in 1994 bought three McDonald's restaurants in the suburbs of Louisville, Kentucky. Selling his franchises in 1995, Duerson became president and CEO of Fair Oaks Farms, one of the primary suppliers of sausage to McDonald's and a number of other companies with an international distribution arm to Japan, Singapore, Turkey and Kuwait. Under his leadership, sales grew from \$38 million in 1998 to \$63.4 million in 2001. That same year, he earned an executive M.B.A. from Harvard University's Owners and Presidents Management Program. In 2002, Duerson started Duerson Foods, providing pork and turkey sausage products to corporations such as Burger King, White Castle and SYSCO.

Read the obituary [HERE](#).