KKR founder Jerome Kohlberg dies at 90

By Marie Beaudette
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Built leading private-equity firm with Henry Kravis and George Roberts

Jerome Kohlberg, an architect of the leveraged buyout and co-founder of private-equity giant KKR & Co., has died. He was 90.

Kohlberg died at his Martha’s Vineyard home on Thursday after a long battle with cancer, according to Kohlberg & Co., the firm he founded after he left KKR in 1987.

"Jerry led an amazing life and leaves a tremendous legacy in business, philanthropy and family," Samuel P. Frieder, Kohlberg & Co.’s managing partner, said in a note to the firm's investors on Friday.


"Jerry was a true visionary, having played an important role in developing the private equity model in the 1960s, and he was a true mentor to George Roberts and me," Kravis said in a statement emailed on Saturday.

An expanded version of this report appears on WSJ.com

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