

John H. Sykes
Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

John H. Sykes began his entrepreneur endeavors in 1977 when he founded Sykes Enterprises, Incorporated in his hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina. The firm grew from its infancy to become one of the largest customer service support companies in the world. Under Mr. Sykes' leadership, the Company went public in 1996 and has since expanded employment to 41,000+ with offices located in 23 countries. In 2004, Mr. Sykes retired from Sykes Enterprises, Incorporated and currently serves as its Chairman Emeritus.

Since his retirement, Mr. Sykes has become an active investor in several business entities and in 2009 began JHS Capital Holdings, LLC, where he serves as Chairman. To expand his interest in the financial services industry, that entity now holds two subsidiaries: JHS Capital Advisors, LLC, a broker-dealer enterprise specializing in wealth management, and JHS Insurance Services, LLC, an entity specializing in fixed, variable and long-term care insurance products.

In addition to these interests, he is active in the thoroughbred horse industry. Through Woodford Thoroughbreds, LLC he has developed a successful enterprise with farm operations located in Versailles, Kentucky and Ocala, Florida.

Recognized with numerous awards for his entrepreneur abilities and community involvement, Sykes has been named Florida Entrepreneur of the Year; Innovator of the Year (awarded by industry peers); the Tampa Police Department Citizen of the Year; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers Citizen of the Year; and Florida Free Enterpriser of the Year. Sykes has also been inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame and the Academy of Achievement Hall of Fame of Sales and Marketing Executives International.

Active in the Tampa Bay community, Sykes is a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman Emeritus of The University of Tampa where the John H. Sykes College of Business is named in his honor. He is also a member of the United Way Million Dollar Roundtable.