

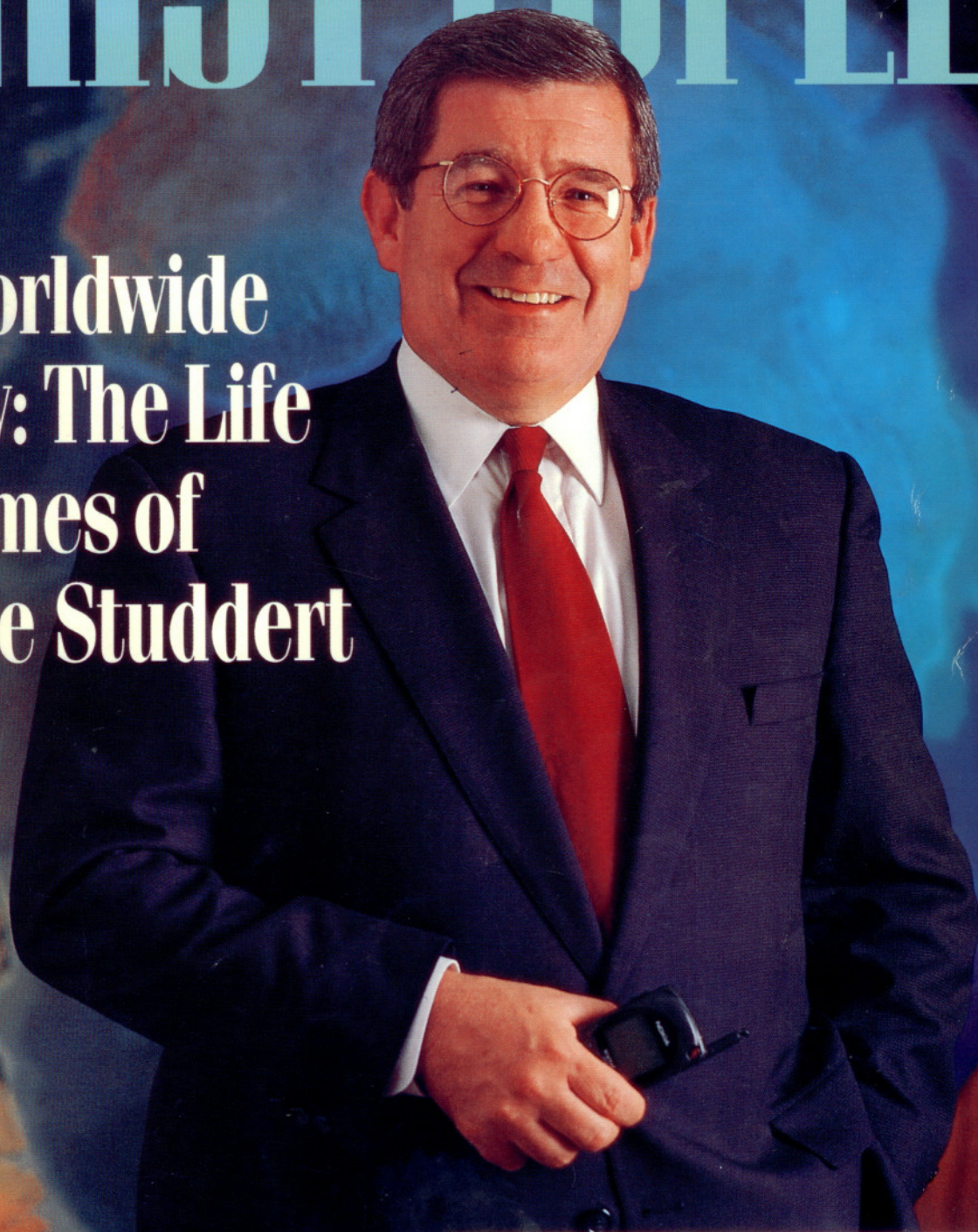
A MOTHER'S HEART AND A GRANDMA'S LAP

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# THIS PEOPLE

**A Worldwide  
View: The Life  
& Times of  
Steve Studdert**





A portrait of Stephen Mark Studdert, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is standing in an office environment with server racks visible in the background. The lighting is dramatic, with a blue tint. The text is overlaid on the image.

# The Life and Times of

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE POLITICS TO HIGH TECH SILICON CHIPS

# Stephen Mark Studdert



BY JAN HEMMING

If politics make strange bedfellows, the same may be said for the sizzling-hot world of technology.

Call it fate or simply the reward for hard work, but Utahn Stephen Mark Studdert, who heads a speech recognition company called fonix in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Andrew Grove, the refugee from Budapest who leads the renowned microprocessing company Intel, may find themselves at the same corporate intersection.

A number of pieces in a very complex puzzle would have to fall in place to make such a cross-pollination possible.

But given the long dusty trail that Studdert has traveled, when or if the two ever shake hands over a business deal, it may just be the fairy tale ending that seemed not only improbable but also downright unthinkable 72 months ago.

In 1994, Studdert faced one of the most excruciating moments in his life. Fonix was just a fledgling business venture and under siege from media and industry critics.

Added to the public pain was the private knowledge that about \$1 million in research and development money was being



In 1997, Studdert visited Hanoi, Vietnam with a delegation of American leaders who discussed normalizing diplomatic relationships between the two countries. Children from a small Vietnamese village surrounded him during one stop. Robert Gubitosi, a former White House colleague, now deceased, is with Studdert.

CRAIG DIMOND PHOTO



devoured every month, creating a swelling tide of red ink and exposing all of Studdert's business and personal assets and those of his investment partners and colleagues. The money was funding the work of about 60 scientists and engineers who were scratching and clawing for answers to one of science's most elusive problems—how to find a reliable speech recognition technology that would enable humans to communicate orally with everything from computers to electronic devices and cars, and get these machines to obey.

The confidence of friends and family was waning and pressure mounted to call off the risky endeavor. As Studdert recalls, "our bankers, our lawyers were all saying 'are you crazy?' The largest technology companies in the world are spending tens and hundreds of millions of dollars with huge resources of scientific capacity and haven't been able to find this. You're telling us you're going to start a little company here in the middle of nowhere and you're going to solve this? 'And I said, 'yes.'"

How could he and his colleagues succeed?

The only thing that Studdert clung to was intuition, a "gut feeling" years earlier that this improbable quest—what others were calling a crazy idea—would one day lead to a breakthrough discovery benefiting mankind.

On this particular day, Studdert was scheduled to meet the CEO and senior management of one of the world's largest technology companies. Although exploratory in nature, the discussion was intended to determine how the two might work together—which ostensibly meant that this tiny, obscure Utah company could be fish bait for the bigger, prestigious technology giant.

After Studdert's engineers demonstrated their findings, the meeting was adjourned until the next day. For a time, Studdert thought that maybe the talks were going badly, but the next morning, at 7 A.M., the CEO said, in so many words that "if your science is what it certainly appears to be then we propose a merger of our two companies where you become the surviving entity because when you put your technology on the market you will put us out of business."

While the meeting never led to an alliance, the startling revelation was a con-

firmation to Studdert that after years of striving, the company was on the right track. There was also a profound realization that fonix was much more than he had ever originally imagined.

Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, who is a member of the board of directors at fonix and Under Secretary General at the United Nations, observed Studdert's leadership through this and other complex situations and said Studdert is able to maintain a balanced perspective because of his "fierce intelligence, incisive and brutally practical thinking."

During those dark, foreboding days, Bonnie Studdert, Steve's wife, never saw him crack under the pressure or think about bailing out. "He doesn't work like that," she said. "His defining moment is when his instincts say this is what I'm supposed to do—and he sticks with it. As a young man he was a policeman and he was a very good policeman because he went on instinct. That's why he would always be at the right place at the right time."

Studdert was the youngest police chief to have ever served in the state of Utah

proposal boosted President Reagan's standing with several important and influential groups.

In politics or business, Studdert has trusted that inner voice.

As Studdert's company fonix sprints toward the millennium, the naysayers are dwindling and the promise of something prodigious looms brighter than ever before. In mid-1997 the company was awarded a patent with 36 claims. At the end of the year, fonix signed a multi-million dollar deal with Siemens, the \$60 billion telecommunications conglomerate in Germany, opening the door to a stream of revenues and royalties.

Siemens, which is the worldwide market leader in ISDN (industry standard for data communication) integrated circuits or chips, saw the potential of fonix technologies, but wasn't going to make the same mistake that its earlier competitor had by failing to close the deal. Juergen Bruess, vice president of strategy at Siemens, said, "We believe the combination of fonix core technologies and the strengths of Siemens Semiconductors serve as the basis for set-

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when he headed the force in Brigham City. Two years later he became one of the youngest advisors working on President Gerald Ford's White House staff. Afterwards he went on to work in the Reagan and Bush presidencies, giving a full decade of his life to the pulsating world of the Oval Office. In each and every case, Steve Studdert's "gut" navigated him through monumental challenges.

He once opposed two of President Reagan's close advisors—Congressman Jack Kemp and Senator Alfonse D'Amato—on a sensitive domestic policy issue only to be confronted by then Chief of Staff James Baker who wanted to know the basis for Studdert's insistence. After hearing Studdert out, Baker advised the President to go with Studdert's plan principally because Steve's "gut has never failed us yet." The

ting worldwide standards in the fields of speech recognition, compression and speaker identification."

Talk about a reversal of fortunes.

Another investment venture in Studdert's portfolio, a mining services company that has primarily operated in North and South America and Africa, became the second largest mining drilling firm in the world in 1998.

Taken together with a spate of smaller investments, Studdert Companies manages about half a billion dollars in assets.

Studdert's decision to transition from public service in 1990 to investment banking was fueled in part by his observations of world governments and world economies from his hub in Washington, D.C. Patriotism was at a fever pitch and Reagan and Bush both presided during an



era of crumbling totalitarian dictatorships. One did not have to be an ideologue to see the fruits of capitalism versus communism or even the harsh poverty of underdeveloped nations.

What struck Studdert was the “enormous opportunities that come in democratic, free market societies.” Compelling pictures stirred in his head such as the day he and President Bush sat in Lech Walesa’s living room in Gdansk, Poland, while Bush spoke of divine forces that created America and, as such, obligated America to take freedom to the rest of the world.

So when Studdert left the White House, he had a special yearning to turn his energies toward Eastern Europe and Africa, always with the intention that somewhere along the line, technology might be a catalyst to spur these societies to greater things.

Fonix and the mining operation became vehicles to keep Studdert ever present on the world scene while continuing his passion of freedom-building that had so ignited him.

As Studdert says up front, “It’s part of our business objective to grow capitalism. If you look at the countries of the world where there is true growing prosperity among the people, it’s the places where capitalism is flourishing in some form.”

In recent post-White House years he has hop-scotched the globe visiting foreign countries the way most of us run out for pizza or Chinese food. The list is staggering: Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, Bahrain, India, Israel, Spain, Morocco, Cuba, Pakistan, China, Russia, France, England, Germany, Switzerland, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Ukraine, Austria, South Africa, Lebanon, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Australia, and New Zealand. These stops included dinner with Fidel Castro, Sunday brunch with the president of Tanzania, dinner with the prime minister



President George Bush and Steve Studdert share a quiet moment in the President’s study. The topic of conversation: baseball.

of Russia, visits with the General Secretary of the Communist Party in Vietnam, the prime minister of Thailand and the king of Spain, and lunch with former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres as well as a discussion with the leader of the Skiek religion at their temple in the Punjab.

Africa is becoming a special target of Studdert’s business outreach for simple reasons. “They have the farthest and the hardest to go as a continent because of the enormous absence of an infrastructure. I’ve been impressed with the human spirit of the people on that continent. They are enormously impoverished yet have great smiles and a love of life. It’s also the continent with the least attention of foreign capital.”

Although eager to offer business opportunities that would provide jobs for Africans, Studdert tempers his enthusiasm with current realities. He tells the story of visiting a tribal chief in Sierra Leone. “I asked the chief how many people live in his village, and he said ‘40,000.’ I then asked if he had electricity and he said ‘no.’ He said they used to have a generator but it

wore out years ago. Do you have a school? I asked. ‘Well, we have one but it got shot up by rebels several years ago and was destroyed.’ Do you have a water source? ‘Well, we have a well three kilometers out of town.’ Do you have a medical facility, hospital or clinic? ‘Well, we used to have a clinic but the rebels destroyed it about five years ago. I haven’t seen any medicine or bandages for five years.’”

It is heart-wrenching for Studdert to tell the story and he acknowledges that when his business investments solidify in that part of Africa, “the first thing we will do is restore the clinic. If people can be healthier they can be better workers and neighbors and citizens.”

Studdert is optimistic about the global economy “because barriers between sovereign nations are literally evaporating.” Multinationals are becoming such a potent force that they might even become “a threat to sovereignty. The information superhighway is driving it, totally changing the communication between countries and the way we conduct commerce.”

While instability in Asia has rocked the American stock market and sent shivers throughout the global financial community, Studdert believes two Asian countries will be future economic forces — Vietnam and China.

“Vietnam is one of the 10 poorest countries in the world but I am watching it with great expectation.” His meeting last year in Hanoi with the Gen-

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eral Secretary of the Communist Party reinforced those impressions.

As for China, Studdert has nearly 20-plus years of memories to weigh and measure. "I was there in the mid-70s when China was just opening up to the West. You could only get into the country on a diplomatic passport. As I stepped on the street in Beijing to look around I was suddenly surrounded by 3,000 people. It wasn't because I was a celebrity but simply because I was an American, a foreigner in a city bereft of Western Europeans. I was also struck by the absence of color. China was a dull gray with some white. There were few cars, but I remember seeing the replica of a 1948 Buick. After the Com-

**Steve and Bonnie Studdert left Washington, D.C, with their six children to "refresh." "I was exhausted and worn out after years of traveling about 500,000 miles a year. We wanted time together, time as a family." Suddenly, Studdert found himself with the prospect of enjoying a leisurely life, having moved from a "world capital to a small rural community (Highland, Utah) that didn't even have its own zip code."**

munists took over the automobile plant, they kept making that model." Since then, China has modernized. Billboards that "once were tributes to Mao Tse Tung are now replaced with ads for Coca-Cola or perfume and the people are dressed in colorful attire."

As a member of President Bush's official entourage to Beijing in 1989, Studdert smiles when he recalls that while in the Chinese capital on Sunday he attended the tiny LDS branch there, numbering about 20 members. "The branch president got up and said after the sacrament the speaker would be (Stake) President Studdert." Besides bearing his testimony Studdert remembers "it was the only time in my life I was followed by the secret police to a sacrament meeting."

Corporate ventures occupy only a portion of Studdert's energies. He and Bonnie left Washington, D.C, with their six children to "refresh" as Studdert said. "I was exhausted and worn out after years of traveling about 500,000 miles a year. We wanted time together, time as a family." Suddenly, Studdert found himself with the prospect of enjoying a leisurely life, having moved from a "world capital to a small rural community (Highland, Utah) that

didn't even have its own zip code."

Bonnie laughs out loud when she thinks back on what life with a full-time husband might have been like if Steve had just stuck with his business career at that point. Steve even admits "I think I took a week off."

After returning to Utah in 1990, all their extra time quickly evaporated. Bonnie was named by the governor to chair the Governor's Commission for Women and Families and was also called as a Relief Society president in a BYU stake. Studdert was again called to serve as a stake president, this time in the Highland, Utah East stake. He was asked to chair the Utah's Statehood Centennial Commission

and became a close advisor to those organizing the cross-country wagon train trek commemorating the arrival of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake valley in 1847. And, as if that wasn't enough to fill every waking moment, he received a simultaneous church assignment as local priesthood chairman of the Mt. Timpanogos Temple Committee. President Clinton even appointed him director of the twelfth district of the Federal Home Loan Bank. Somehow, he also squeezes in time to be a Council Boy Scout leader and is a frequent speaker at state prisons.

Bonnie has learned to go with the torrential flow of Steve's life. They rarely even sit together in church because of Steve's ecclesiastical callings. "We've been married 30 years and of those 30, we figured the other day he's been sitting up front on the stand for 27." For intermittent stretches, Bonnie shouldered the parental duties at home while Steve was away. But she decided long ago, by setting a positive tone, family life could have the semblance of normalcy. "My philosophy has always been if I'm happy and upbeat around the kids and don't ever let them know that this is a problem to me it's not a problem to them. They think this is how it works."

Amazingly, both Bonnie and Steve's friends say Studdert has an enormous capacity for energy, requiring only three to four hours of sleep at night while staying sharp at business meetings and church responsibilities.

Joel Zabriske, a neighbor who serves with Studdert in the Highland stake presidency, has seen him "arrive home from a business trip in the wee hours of Sunday morning. The first of many church meetings usually starts at 5:30 A.M. By 6:30 A.M. he'd be in a meeting with all the bishops of the stake playing a major role in teaching these leaders."

Cleo Atkin, who served with Studdert on the Utah Statehood Centennial Commission as vice-chair, and occasionally worked 15 to 20 hour days on the project, believes "This man seems to thrive on stress. As a leader he sets a high standard for all. He is tireless. He works harder than anyone else."

Studdert even confessed that once, within a 72 hour span, he left Salt Lake City, flew 24 hours to Thailand to meet the Prime Minister, spent eight hours in the country and flew 24 hours back home and was in Salt Lake by 2 P.M. in time to see his daughter Stephanie graduate from Brigham Young University at 3 P.M..

Asked to explain his infectious love for work and involvement, Studdert quotes Mark Twain who said, "I was born excited."

A trait that others quickly point to when describing Studdert is visionary. Eight friends and associates gave candid impressions of him. Ironically—and without any collaboration—five used the word *vision* or *visionary* repeatedly in their assessment.

He has always seemed to be a man on a mission.

Studdert's early years were a harbinger of a person destined to make a difference. Richard Hill, a friend from his high school days who is now an attorney in Provo, believes Steve's mental toughness and firm convictions were forged by his grandparents in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Steve was raised by Mark and Blanche Lewis when his parents divorced. Coming as it did while Steve was just starting his teenage years, the family breakup could have sparked a period of rebellion. Instead, being suddenly uprooted from the urban, frenetic world of California and trans-



planted to the rural, laid back life of central Utah, in the care of grandparents who by then were retired, left an indelible maturing mark on Studdert. "He had to rely on himself," said Hill. "He became independent and self-sufficient." Rather than wilt, Studdert blossomed, holding positions in student government, and showing an unusual desire, at such a young age, to get involved in community affairs.

It was Studdert, who, while in high school, spontaneously organized the town of Spanish Fork at Christmas-time to help those in the area who were less fortunate. According to Hill, the entire community "galvanized behind Steve." People were split into work groups—to collect, transport or repair toys and other items for gifts and then get them delivered before Christmas Day. The project elicited such a huge outpouring of charity that during the holiday season it was impossible to play basketball on the courts in the armory because so many goods had been donated. Even old military equipment, which normally sat there in storage, had to be moved outdoors during the holiday project for lack of room.

Studdert's polished speaking seems to have been rooted in the influence of his grandmother Blanche. "His grandmother was my Sunday School teacher three years in a row and was an elocution and enunciation fanatic," said Hill. "As we would respond to questions, she'd correct our English making sure we used the right conjunctions. We had to speak formal English and could never use slang. She was a remarkable woman and brilliant lady."

Apparently the gift of speech was not the only thing Blanche Lewis gave Studdert, who claims to have been "reasonably well-behaved" as a kid. One night, however, he pushed the limits of his grandparents' rules. "My grandparents had told me I couldn't go out one particular night and I already had a date with a neighbor girl across the street to go to a movie. So at the appointed hour, I sneaked out of my basement window and my grandmother was standing in the flower bed with a broom and clobbered me over the head. I never tried it again."

Subconsciously, Studdert's broken family may have also made him yearn one day for something better and longer lasting in his own life, as evidenced by his 30-

year-marriage to Bonnie. It may be, too, that within his splintered childhood—as he went off to live with his grandparents and his sisters, Susan and Sharon, stayed with his mother—that Steve gained a special sensitivity for those who had to climb the ladder of life the hard way. Wealth, fame and social standing would never be the

**Elder Russell M. Ballard, of the Council of the Twelve in the LDS Church and a personal friend of Studdert's, said wealth can be a terrible snare in life or a way to bless others. "Some people don't ever figure that out. Steve is not a rich man, but I think his great wealth is his time. There are very few citizens who have given more time in the last three to five years to their community like Steve Studdert has."**

yardsticks by which he would judge or associate with others.

Rick Nydegger, a nationally known patent attorney based in Salt Lake City whose clients include fonix and Microsoft, has repeatedly seen Studdert "pay as much attention to the lowliest of persons as he would for those of privilege. There's a guy who lives down the street, an older fellow, who is one of the early founders of Highland, Utah. In fact, he was my kids' scout leader. He is unassuming and quiet and not noticeable in a room with others. He is probably in the last decade of his life. He served three separate missions, lost two wives but has been a solid, good human being. Steve picked him to give the opening prayer in the first session of the Mount Timpanogos temple dedication. That says a lot."

Nydegger also remembers attending the Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas, as Studdert's guest, when Bush was re-nominated for President. They toured the press room and Nydegger recalls how he was "amazed at the number of people he knew and how he treated all of them the same—from network anchors, to photographers and just 'little guys.' Everybody knew him and liked him."

Zabriske has frequently received notes from Studdert postmarked from New York, Washington, D.C., Germany, Japan or Salt Lake—hand-written on hotel stationery that include "words of gratitude for what I may have contributed or sometimes the notes come for no reason at all. Each time they have lifted me."

Bonnie revealed that Steve cares little



Mikhail Gorbachev signs American baseball offered by Studdert. Seconds later Gorbachev cracked: "I'm not going to see this for sale on the Home Shopping Network am I?"

Lynn S. Harkins Photo



**Studdert's formal political involvement is now compressed into one presidential appointment position with the Clinton Administration as a member of the Western District of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, a \$350 billion entity that acts as a source of liquidity and mortgage money for commercial and savings and loan banks. He was re-appointed to the board when Clinton took office, and despite his Republican Party affiliation, was asked to be chairman of the council of Home Loan Board chairs.**

for material possessions and rarely worries about money. "He has an interesting concept of money. It's like it doesn't exist for itself. It can do good, but the man never buys anything for himself. Never, not ever," she said with emphasis. "The kids and I were trying to figure out the other day the last time he ever bought anything for himself. We couldn't think of one thing. It's hard to buy for him because he doesn't want anything. If he wants to do something nice for the kids, he gives them an experience."

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Two events took center stage in the Beehive state over the last two years—the year-long Utah Statehood Centennial commemorating Utah's 100 years of statehood and the reenactment of the Mormon pioneer wagon train entering the Salt Lake Valley 150 years ago. Studdert played key roles in both.

As Centennial chairman, he took the original concepts which emphasized five or six events, and according to Hill, produced a full-blown year of festivities and legacies in every county. The keystone of that celebration was raising \$10 million in private money to turn the "This Is the State Park"—which was little more than a monument at the base of the Wasatch Mountains—into a first-rate heritage attraction.

"Without Steve, 30 percent, maybe 40 percent of what took place during the centennial would never have happened. When he's in a room, his ideas, his vision are so large," said Hill.

Another volunteer with the Statehood Centennial Commission, Ardeth Kapp, said Studdert was able to keep the committee focused and enthusiastic because "he is optimistic and has the capacity as a leader to avoid discouragement. He expresses confidence in people, then extends the responsibility to those he involves."

Studdert envisioned and helped transform the final welcoming ceremony, which originally was going to be a rather exclusive affair for about 500 to 1,000 people, into a public event that attracted 52,000 to the monument site and was televised live to thousands more.

Elder Ballard confirmed that as the final days drew near for the approach of the wagon train into the valley, "I took Steve up there and said, okay, where do you think we might encounter problems? We implemented almost everything he recommended and consequently it came off with a minimum of confusion."

"One of his hallmarks is that he's not afraid to make a decision," said Elder Ballard. "He's also not afraid to listen and he's not afraid to receive counsel."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, who associated with Studdert while both were in Washington, D.C., observed that Steve "has always been a stand-up guy. He keeps his word. He won't promise what he can't deliver. And, unlike some in the political arena, I've never known him to play fast and loose with the truth. He's as honest as the day is long."

Studdert's political passions have cooled considerably. So much so that while he prizes his experiences in the nation's capital he confesses to not missing politics. "I don't like partisan politics because civility and courtesy are absent today. Politics are too much all about tearing down your opponent. But by saying I don't like politics, I'm not saying I don't love public service. Public service is still

important to all we are and all we do in this country. It's enormously important for good men and women to serve in public positions."

His formal political involvement is now compressed into one presidential appointment position with the Clinton Administration as a member of the Western District of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, a \$350 billion entity that acts as a

source of liquidity and mortgage money for commercial and savings and loan banks. He was reappointed to the board when Clinton took office, and despite his Republican Party affiliation, was asked to be chairman of the council of Home Loan Board chairs.

The board not only sets policy but plays a central role in stimulating and providing financing for affordable housing. During Studdert's tenure, three minority populations—Native American Indians, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians—have all been the special targets of the board.

Home ownership is predicated on

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—Augustine

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Glen Ricks Photo

Studdert served as the local priesthood leader of the Mount Timpanogos Temple Committee and is pictured here with his family from left to right: son-in-law Kelly Sobotka, daughter Stephanie Sobotka with Steve's granddaughter Ashley, son Mark, Studdert, Steve's wife Bonnie, daughter Allyson, daughter-in-law Abigail, son Christopher who is holding Steve's granddaughter Sarah, and son Michael. Missing from the photo is Steve's third son, David, who was serving a mission in the Ukraine.

good credit and banking services. Home construction requires sufficient supplies of building materials and resources such as electricity, water and sewer services. When the board took on the issue of low cost housing for these often disadvantaged Americans, they were appalled at the number of barriers that stood in the way of affordable and decent housing for these populations.

"Approximately 50 percent of the homes in the Navajo reservation do not have electricity. Seventy percent don't have water," Studdert said. "The implications of these inadequacies are enormous. A child rides 70 miles on a school bus over a dirt road—a two hour drive each way. In the winter months that child comes home and that house is dark. When is that child going to study? Reservation banking services were almost non-existent when the board started its outreach. "When we began, there was not a single ATM on the reservation. Many would have to drive 50 to 80 miles and leave the reservation to cash a government check and they would get charged as high as 20 percent of the face value of the check. There's no risk in cashing a government check" Studdert grumbled.

The paucity of banking services also meant that most Native Americans didn't have charge accounts or savings accounts, credit cards or credit histories. "From the standard definition of a credit worthy bor-

**With so much globe trotting and public service, how did Studdert keep his family intact? "Bonnie is extremely supportive. She is my best friend. She has a great capacity to smile and to laugh and not take herself too seriously and treat everyone with kindness. We have a good partnership and an extremely close knit love-filled family."**

rower they would appear not to be, but they lived in the same place for 80 years so they're very stable."

Because of the way reservation lands are owned it's very difficult to obtain home mortgages so the Federal Home Bank went to commercial banks like Zions in Utah and persuaded them to relax some of their funding requirements for those on tribal lands. "Zions has been a real leader," according to Studdert. This federal-state collaboration has spawned more housing for Native Americans, with obvious results: "Home ownership relates to family stability which also relates to employment stability."

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service, how did Studdert keep his family intact? "Bonnie is extremely supportive. She is my best friend. She has a great capacity to smile and to laugh and not take herself too seriously and treat everyone with kindness. We have a good partnership and an extremely close knit, love-filled family."

This partnership includes regular Sunday dinners that now embrace two married children and three grandchildren as well as those still at home and in college. "Our home has always been an open home for the children, in that when it's time to sit down for the evening meal or any meal, who's ever there pulls up a chair. It's the fishes and the loaves every meal."

The night before the first day of each school year, Studdert has a tradition of giving each child a father's priesthood blessing. He and Bonnie also keep a firm commitment to annual family vacations every summer. And their support of their children's activities sometimes meant cross-country travel. When their son Chris's baseball team got to the regional finals of the Babe Ruth League championships in Georgia, the whole family packed up and drove in the car to cheer him on. When daughter Allyson was Utah's representative in the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., last year, the family showed up at the festival and cheered from the sidewalk.

In response to the question of what his children have brought to him in his life Studdert said simply, "joy."

"Our children have been a real highlight in our family. We have six children and they all have been energetic and engaged. They've never given us any particular headaches."

The Manti Temple, where Steve and Bonnie were married, had always held a special place in their hearts above the others, until Steve served as head of the Mount Timpanogos building committee. Before it was dedicated, they were asked by President Gordon B. Hinckley to introduce him and his wife, Marjorie, to the



new temple. The couples walked through on a Sunday evening, an occasion which Steve characterized as "the single most humbling experience or assignment I've ever had in any church calling."

Not long after relocating in Utah, Studdert had another memorable spiritual encounter. While serving as a stake president, he challenged the full-time missionaries at an area meeting to be bold as they proselytized that week. One of the missionaries who spoke during the same session returned the challenge and, in front of the congregation of 800, asked Studdert to set the example by prayerfully selecting someone to receive a Book of Mormon that week.

The following Sunday night the two missionaries, who issued the challenge, visited Studdert's house for a report. He sheepishly acknowledged that he hadn't completed the assignment so they gave him a week extension.

As Friday night approached, Studdert hadn't come up with anyone and while he and his wife were attending a small reception back in Washington, D.C., with Mikhail Gorbachev, then General Secretary of the Soviet Union, Studdert turned

to Bonnie and said "I know who I'm supposed to give that Book of Mormon to." He dashed out to a pay phone in the hotel at five minutes to seven and placed a call to the Missionary Department at Church headquarters in Salt Lake City. He pleaded with the person on the other end to Fed Ex a Russian language version of the Book of Mormon to him for Saturday delivery. She reminded him that it was nearly 5 P.M. in Utah on a Friday and everyone was heading out the door for home. "I don't care," Studdert retorted. "Nobody's budging until I get that Book of Mormon."

Under duress, a staff member agreed to sprint to the Fed Ex truck as it swept by at 5:15 P.M. Utah time and marked the package for a 10:30 A.M. Saturday delivery in Washington, D.C.

The next morning, Studdert was standing in the lobby of the hotel, where the reception had been held the night before, pacing and waiting for the Fed Ex delivery truck. At 10:35 A.M. he checked his watch. No sign of a Fed Ex truck. At 10:38 the truck pulled up and Studdert grabbed the package, ripped it open and dashed to Mikhail Gorbachev's room for at 10:40 A.M. meeting.

When he arrived he handed Gorbachev an American baseball which Studdert asked him to sign. He offered the Soviet leader a pen but Mikhail waved him off and pulled out his own and then joked, "I'm not going to see this for sale on the home shopping network am I?" They both laughed.

Then Studdert gave him the Book of Mormon, explaining to him it was a book "I treasure because of the truths it contains." Gorbachev acknowledged that he had heard of the book and would read it.

Studdert says his life will have been successful "if my children are okay. I don't mean financially okay. I mean that they've made wise choices and that they're living honorable lives. And secondly, at the end of my life, maybe somewhere along the way, I was able to help somebody who couldn't help themselves."

For a man who mused that if he could choose one job in all the world it would be Commissioner of Major League Baseball, life has already been a Walter Mitty dream.

And, at the age of 49, who knows what still lies ahead? Maybe a handshake and a business deal with Andrew Grove. ■

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