

Mark Tuohey III

by Marie Matthews



"PLAY BALL!" Major league baseball players and fans are now hearing that cry in Washington due in part to the efforts Mark Tuohey III, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal for 2008.

Tuohey and his seven younger brothers and sisters grew up in Rochester, NY, with their parents, Mark, Jr. and Josephine Slattery Tuohey. The elder Tuohey was an FBI agent, a police commissioner, and later, Director of Health, Safety & Security for Eastman Kodak. Influenced by his father's life of service and motivated by an understanding of the relevance of the law to our lives, Tuohey decided on a career as a lawyer.

After he obtained a bachelor's degree in history from Saint Bonaventure University—where he was elected Student Body President—he served his country as an officer in the U.S. Army. He then completed a law degree at Fordham University.

Tuohey began his law career as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia in 1973, then worked in the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1979, he went into private practice. He is currently a partner with Vinson & Elkins, LLP, where his practice is concentrated on complex civil and criminal litigation, internal corporate investigations and compliance programs. His practice is largely devoted to representing corporations, their officers and directors, as well as individuals in civil and white-collar criminal litigation, internal corporate investigations, and Congressional investigations.

Despite the many demands on his time and with the strong support of his law firm, Tuohey has made a lifetime practice of community service. In 2003, Mayor Williams named him as the Chair of the District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission. In this capacity, he negotiated with major league baseball for a year before the Montreal Expos become Washington's fourth major league franchise and its first since the Washington Senators moved to Texas in 1971. Washington D.C. became the proud home of the Washington Nationals in 2005, playing at the Robert F. Kennedy Stadium. The new stadium,

Nationals Park, will officially open on March 30. On April 17, Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate Mass there.

Tuohey's hard work was motivated by his understanding of the importance of baseball to Washington. The nation's pastime belongs in the nation's capital, home to many baseball heroes, including Walter (the Train) Johnson. The prospect of baseball's return excited many members of the DC community, from baseball fans and those interested in youth sports, to small business owners and others seeking economic development and employment opportunities.

Baseball hasn't been Tuohey's only contribution to the Washington community. In 1998 and 1999, he acted as Special Counsel to the District of Columbia Council and conducted special investigations of the Metropolitan Police Department. He has also served as a Special Counsel to the DC Council on Anti-Terrorism Preparedness. He has a keen and abiding interest in public safety.

Indeed, his work on the police study and familiarity with officials in the government of Ireland led to Tuohey's being asked to assist the Irish government in developing its position on reform of policing in Northern Ireland. He subsequently served as a consultant to the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (Patten Commission), established in the wake of the Good Friday peace agreement. The Agreement recognized that reform of the police, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was of major importance as Northern Ireland moved forward. The Commission was charged with developing a reform agenda that would give the people of Northern Ireland an accountable, democratic and representative police service, capable of attracting and sustaining support from both the Catholic and Protestant communities. Tuohey knew that citizens' trust in the police would be crucial in providing a peaceful environment. He observes that "if people don't feel safe in their homes, they don't feel safe at all."

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THE NATION'S

ST. PATRICK'S

DAY PARADE

MARCH 16, 2008



Patrick O'Dea Goffage, Clareham, Co. Galway circa 1915

a history of strength

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