



2016 WALKS OF LIFE HONOREE

Timothy Hagan

Cleveland's downtown skyline has changed dramatically during last half-century and it would be hard to imagine how many of these changes would have occurred without Tim Hagan's leadership. From the Gateway district to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to the new Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation, Hagan's imprint can be found.

Hagan was the fourth born (by eight minutes after his twin, Jim) of Bob and Ada Hagan's 14 children. He grew up in Youngstown, where his father was a Trumbull County commissioner and later represented the area as a state representative. The younger Hagan graduated from Ursuline High School and attended Youngstown State University for two years before entering the Army. He returned to Youngstown in 1968 to work as a baker and steelworker before moving to Cleveland in 1970 and obtaining a bachelor's degree in urban studies from Cleveland State University.

Following in his father's footsteps, he quickly became enmeshed in local politics, working on various campaigns, including Jim Carney's candidacy for Cleveland mayor in the early 1970s. During that campaign, he met Carney's niece, Jeanne, whom he married in 1973. They are the parents of two daughters. Hagan was later married to actress Kate Mulgrew for nine years.

He was elected a county commissioner in 1982, a position he held through 1998. During that time in office, he worked to persuade voters to pass a tax on alcohol and cigarettes to provide money for the Gateway project, which resulted in the building of Jacobs Field and Gund Arena. In 2004, he was again elected a county commissioner and one of his premier projects was the rebuilding of the old Cleveland Convention Center and construction of the Global Center for Health Innovation.

Though he had a significant role in the rebuilding of Cleveland's downtown, while looking back now, he says that he is chiefly proud of being able to win community support for many health and human services levies and developmental disability levies. Cuyahoga County now ranks fourth of the 3,000 counties in the country in its commitment to these services.

2016 Walks of Life Award of the Irish American Archives Society, Cleveland OH.