



## 2016 WALKS OF LIFE HONOREE

### Patrick A. Sweeney

Northeast Ohio received millions of state dollars for a host of worthy causes, from the arts to higher education to social services, due to Patrick A. Sweeney's untiring work in the Ohio Legislature representing Cleveland's West Side and western suburbs. His career in public service also helped to promote the expansion of Cleveland State University, where he now serves as assistant to the vice president of governmental relations.

Pat was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1967.

During his 30 years of service in the House, he served as majority whip, assistant majority leader and minority leader. He was chairman of both the Legislative Budget Committee and the influential House Finance and Appropriations Committee. In 1997, he was appointed to the Ohio Senate to fill the vacancy created by Dennis Kucinich's election to Congress.

One of five children of Thomas and Bridget Sweeney, both immigrants from Ireland, Pat inherited his father's political inquisitiveness that sparked lively conversations during his early years. His cousin, Michael Sweeney, was a state representative who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in the 1960s. A life-long Democrat, Pat attributes his success in politics to his relationships – both in his concern for his constituents and in his ability to relate to the needs of both Republicans and Democrats in state and local governments.

He twice was a candidate for mayor of Cleveland and in 1998, lost a primary race against then-Bedford Heights Mayor Jimmy Dimora to become a Cuyahoga County Commissioner.

Pat, a veteran of the United States Air Force, holds a master of public administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. His passion, imagination and curiosity for government and public policy has led to a continued commitment to many significant activities; he was a founding trustee of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, a trustee of Columbia College Chicago and a member of the Kennedy School's alumni board. He also is president of PASCo Consultants, a public policy advocacy group.

He and his wife of 32 years, Emily, who served 10 years as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, have a daughter, Margaret Anne, a graduate of Miami University and Cleveland Marshall Law School. She now is an assistant prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office and is the mother of Pat's grandson, six-month-old Elliott.

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