



2022 Walks of Life Honoree

James F. Doyle

Few Clevelanders may be familiar with Hemingway Development as a local business name, but since Jim Doyle established the company with brothers Fred and Greg Geis 14 years ago, Hemingway has played a major role in the redevelopment of downtown Cleveland and the Midtown Corridor. The trio decided to help rebuild Cleveland and started with the neighborhood along Euclid and Carnegie avenues. The state of Ohio had just pledged to spend millions of dollars to help Cleveland expand its technological and research capabilities. Since then, the partners have completed more than \$300 million in ground-up construction, along with renovations, in the City of Cleveland with much of its focus in the Midtown Corridor. They have redeveloped a half million square feet of space, now largely occupied by technological and medical research firms. Many of the firms are innovative offshoots of research begun by either the Cleveland Clinic or University Hospitals.

A native Clevelander, Doyle got his start in real estate in 1974 after graduating with a degree in finance from Xavier University. His first job was with a mortgage company founded by his father and later sold to Mellon Bank. In 1985, Doyle decided to start his own commercial mortgage banking company and cofounded Capstone Realty Advisors. Under his leadership, the company grew to nine offices in six states with more than \$3 billion a year in loan production, servicing a portfolio of more than \$10 billion. He sold the company to PNC Bank in 1999.

Doyle's peers recently recognized his significant accomplishments in the business world when he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP), the trade association for commercial real estate developers. This well-deserved award recognized almost 50 years of contributions to the real estate industry as well as countless hours of service to NAIOP itself.

Doyle, 70, has generously shared both his time and assets with the community. As an example, shortly before Christmas in 2016, he parked at a meter near a Midtown restaurant, where he was meeting some clients, when he realized he had nothing smaller than a \$100 bill. A woman begging nearby saw his dilemma and offered him some change for the meter. He was so thankful he gave her the \$100 bill. The exchange made him think of the many poor residents living in the impoverished area who would not have enough money to buy Christmas presents for their families. Wanting to do something to help, he contacted the police department to offer an idea for a "Secret Santa" event: officers would identify residents in need and then give them a \$100 gift card that Doyle would provide. He felt the gesture would help foster a stronger relationship between police and citizens. The following year, the Cleveland Police Foundation presented Doyle with the foundation's Edward A. Lozick Memorial Man of the Year Award, which is presented annually to an individual in recognition for their business acumen, philanthropy, and commitment to the community.

Jim and his wife, Patti, residents of both Shaker Heights and Naples, Florida, are parents of sons Jim Jr. and Patrick, and daughters Amy Boyle and Kerry Christy.

2022 Walks of Life Award of the Irish American Archives Society, Cleveland OH