



Stafford Mays and Laurie Black

Stafford Mays and Laurie Black share a deep commitment to improving the world around them. Together, they form a powerful partnership that has strengthened both the O'Dea High School community and the greater Seattle region through their generous use of time, talent, and leadership.

Stafford grew up in Tacoma, Washington, where hard work and determination shaped him into a decorated student-athlete at Lincoln High School and later at the University of Washington. He went on to a nine-year career in the NFL, followed by two decades at Microsoft, where he focused on initiatives that provided opportunities for underserved communities and youth.

Laurie grew up in Portland, Oregon, engaged in community life from an early age. She graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Fashion Design and built a distinguished 35-year career at Nordstrom, where her creativity, leadership, and values guided her work.

Stafford and Laurie met in their University of Washington dormitory, married, and raised two children, Taylor and Parker. While both enjoyed remarkable professional success, we honor them for how they have used those successes in service of others.

Their involvement at O'Dea began in 2002, when Taylor entered as a freshman, and it continues to this day. Laurie has chaired the Bite of O'Dea, served on the auction

committee, and, alongside Coach Kohler, helped launch the school's first Wall of Honor event. She led the 2015 branding effort that articulated O'Dea's identity of Character, Faith, and Service, served nine years on the school board, and was part of the leadership team that hired Mr. Walker as Principal. Stafford has also served on the school board, participated in the committee that led to the purchase of O'Dea's new field, and contributed as a member of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee. He is also a valued member of the O'Dea football coaching staff where he has had the opportunity to mentor young men and shape their lives far beyond the playbook.

Beyond O'Dea, their impact across Seattle is equally significant. At Microsoft, Stafford worked on initiatives that expanded opportunities for underserved communities. He serves on the board of UPower, where he has taught trauma-informed physical activity classes in juvenile detention centers and under-resourced schools, bringing movement and healing to high-stress environments. He also serves on the Seattle Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, representing District 6, with a continued focus on youth development.

After retiring from Nordstrom, Laurie devoted herself fully to service, volunteering with the National MS Society, Gamma Phi Beta, and Rotary, before stepping out of retirement to become President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County. Leading an organization serving more than 10,000 youth and families across 30 locations, she guided the Clubs through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring they remained open to support virtual learning and essential worker families during an unprecedented time. Laurie retired in 2024 and now focuses her energy on the UW Foundation, the UW School of Education, Seattle Children's Hospital Guild, and the Magnuson Park Hangar 2 youth development project.

O'Dea's values of Character, Faith, and Service have profoundly shaped the entire Mays family. Supporting the brotherhood, faculty, and staff has brought Stafford and Laurie purpose and joy. Laurie strives to live by the values she learned early in life - serving with humility, lifting others up, and strengthening community. Stafford believes in sharing wisdom with the next generation to help guide them to successful futures. Together, they have more than fulfilled that calling, enriching countless lives along the way.



John O'Leary

John's grandparents emigrated from Ireland to Butte, Montana, arriving with very little money. They worked for 20 years, he in the copper mines and she as a housekeeper, before saving enough to move to Seattle. He is the oldest of four children who were raised on Seattle's Beacon Hill and attended St. George grade school.

While at O'Dea, John was a two-year starter in football and a standout in track and field. He earned two varsity letters as an 800-meter runner at the University of Washington, and after transferring to Seattle University, graduated with a degree in accounting. He later completed the Executive Development programs at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and at INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France.

John began his career at Fluke Corporation and PACCAR before joining Daimler Truck North America in 2000. Based in Portland, he led a major turnaround after a \$1.8 billion loss, restoring profitability. He was then promoted to CEO of Thomas Built Buses and later returned to Portland in 2012 as CFO. In 2020, John served as interim CEO of Daimler's Mercedes-Benz Trucks division in Germany before returning to Portland as CEO of Daimler Truck North America, a role he holds today. The company is North America's largest truck manufacturer, with \$25 billion in annual revenue, 29,000 employees, and brands representing 40% of the market, including 80% of the U.S. large fleet on-highway business.

John has served on many boards and currently serves on boards of the Oregon Business Council, Portland General Electric, Amplify Cell Technology, Torc Robotics, and Greenlane

LLC. In 2024, he was the co-chair, along with Governor Tina Kotek and U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, of a task force to improve the high technology manufacturing environment in Oregon.

John lives by the leadership motto “stay hungry and humble.” Despite his global success, he finds his greatest satisfaction in developing talent, supporting others’ growth, and spending time with customers to better understand how his company can help them succeed.

John is deeply grateful for the O’Dea teachers and staff who prepared him for life and success. He credits the school’s balance of academics, athletics, activities, and social and economic diversity as formative to his experience. In his opinion, it’s even better now than it was then. John continues to be an avid supporter of O’Dea through the Italian Dinner, auction, football games, and time spent with classmates and Portland area O’Dea alums. He is always willing to lend a hand when it benefits O’Dea.

John has been married to his wife Tara for 36 years and they reside in the Portland suburb of Happy Valley.



LtCol. Kevin Shea '84 †

LtCol. Kevin Shea, '84 was a son, big brother, husband, dad, and friend; a gentle giant whose strength, faith, and quiet sense of responsibility shaped everyone around him.

Upon graduating from O'Dea High School, he received an appointment to the United States Air Force Preparatory School in Colorado Springs and enlisted in the Air Force Reserve, beginning the path of service that would define his life. He then earned an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he lettered in varsity football on the 1987 Freedom Bowl team and played club rugby for the 1989 collegiate national champions.

He received an interservice transfer in 1989 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering and a regular commission as a Marine second lieutenant—a decision that reflected his willingness to choose the harder road to serve where he believed he was most needed.

He deployed with the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and took part in combat operations to liberate Kuwait and served as CSE Task Force Commander in Kuwait during Operation Desert Thunder.

He was promoted to major in 1999 and completed a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School and taught electrical engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy while serving as an assistant rugby coach and beloved mentor to midshipmen. In June 2003, he deployed with Regimental Combat Team One in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

On September 14, 2004—his 38th birthday—Kevin was killed when enemy rockets struck the regimental command post near Fallujah, Iraq, and he was later posthumously promoted to lieutenant colonel. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, NavyMarine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medals (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait).

Kevin's wife, Ami, and their children, Brenna and Michael—who were just 10 and 7 when their dad was killed—have carried his spirit forward in the lives they've built. Brenna has followed directly in his path of service, becoming a Marine officer herself and now serving as a Major flying Ospreys. Michael inherited Kevin's love of technology and problem solving and is building a career in cybersecurity, protecting others in a different, but deeply connected way. He remains firmly in the hearts and minds of his two surviving brothers, Tom and Dan, and in the memories of the many teammates, Marines, students, and friends whose lives he touched.