

## **RH HoF Reference Data for Tom Vartanian**

**Nominated as: Organizer, Manager**

**Vetter: Bruce Doney, HoF Trustee & HoF 2022**

**Nominator: Larry Lombardi**

**References: Steve Murfin, HoF 2024, and Jerry Klemm**

### **Bruce Doney Notes:**

Tom meets all the qualifications that we require. Granted, Roy Hobbs was not mentioned only 4 times in all the responses and the nomination form. He has accomplished quite a bit for the DCMSBL, and if I were looking for a financial attorney, he would be my top choice.

Tom has played in the Roy Hobbs World Series since 1998, but he plays locally in the DC MSBL league, and its president, Larry Lombardi, a close associate for many years, agreed to handle the nomination. (Talked to TG about this, and he said he wasn't concerned with the pedigree of the nomination but rather his knowledge of the subject.)

The one tricky thing about this process, having been on both sides of it, is presenting so-called concrete examples of Character and Stand-out. This is a very subjective aspect, and people seem to struggle with it the most.

I believe Tom Vartanian checks all the boxes.

## **Career and Achievements from nominator and references**

### **Quick Facts**

- **Born:** 1949
- **Hometown:** McLean, Virginia
- **RH Member:** Since 1995
- **Current Division:** 70+ (still playing strong!)
- **Teams:** Washington All Stars 45+ from mid-1990s thru 2024

### **The Renaissance Man**

Tom Vartanian is that rare individual who excels at the highest levels in multiple arenas—law, finance, music, and baseball. Described as “one of the best financial services lawyers in America,” Tom brings the same excellence to the diamond that he brings to the courtroom.

### **Charitable Champion**

- 💰 **\$550,000+** raised for Special Olympics through Washington All Stars
- 🎸 **\$5 Million+** raised through The Johnny Esquire Band
- 🏆 **2008 Washingtonian of the Year** for charitable work
- ★ **26 years** of continuous charitable fundraising

### **Professional Excellence**

- **Reagan Administration:** General Counsel, Federal Home Loan Bank Board
- **Carter Administration:** Special Assistant to Chief Counsel, OCC

- **Academic:** Professor at Georgetown, GW, and Boston University Law Schools
- **Author:** 8 books and 400+ articles on finance and technology
- **Recognition:** Super Lawyer in Washington, DC

### Baseball Leadership

**As Manager:** - Led teams in 40+ and 60+ divisions - Mentored younger players on respecting the game - Never had player issues due to principled leadership - Found innovative solutions to keep teams competitive

**As Player:** - Currently competing in 70+ division - Demonstrates resilience and adaptability - Embodies sportsmanship and integrity

### The Vartanian Method

Tom's approach to baseball mirrors his professional philosophy: - **Integrity First:** Prioritizes doing things the right way - **Individual Responsibility:** Holds himself and others accountable - **Collaborative Spirit:** Bridges gaps and finds solutions - **Forward Thinking:** Innovates to improve the game

### Community Impact

**The Johnny Esquire Band:** - Founded in 2001 for charitable purposes - Classic rock band raising funds for DC area nonprofits - Over \$5 million raised for various causes - Demonstrates using talents for community good

**Washington All Stars:** - Established 1998 with charitable mission - Every season ends at Roy Hobbs World Series - Inspired by R. Sargent Shriver to support Special Olympics - Model for combining sports with philanthropy

### Academic and Literary Contributions

- **Latest Book:** "The Unhackable Internet" (2023)
- **Previous Work:** "200 Years of American Financial Panics"
- **Teaching:** Financial services and digital commerce law
- **Leadership:** Founded Institute for Cybersecurity and Privacy at George Mason

### What Makes Tom Exceptional

**Leadership:** - Manages complexity in law, finance, and baseball - Mentors next generation in all his endeavors - Creates lasting positive change in organizations - Leads by example on and off the field

**Community Engagement:** - Leverages all talents for charitable causes - Creates sustainable fundraising models - Inspires others to give back - Makes real difference in people's lives

### The Measure of Character

Tom's nominator notes: *"There are many accomplishments Tom has achieved in his professional career than most people in the financial services market."*

Yet what truly sets Tom apart is how he uses his success to lift others: - Mentoring young lawyers and players - Raising millions for charity - Playing baseball with joy into his 70s - Building bridges between different worlds

### **Lasting Legacy**

Tom Vartanian represents the best of Roy Hobbs Baseball: - Excellence in competition - Service to community - Respect for the game - Leadership by example - Commitment to making baseball better. Tom worked with Roy Hobbs to develop the RH Eligibility Guidelines and continues to work with RH as a consultant as the document is adjusted.

### **Why Tom Belongs in the Hall of Fame**

At 74, Tom continues to play, lead, teach, and give back. His combination of athletic longevity, charitable impact, professional excellence, and dedication to growing the game makes him an exemplary candidate for the Roy Hobbs Baseball Hall of Fame.

*"Using music and sports to raise money for charities"* - This simple phrase captures Tom's approach to life: use every gift you have to make the world better.

## **Nominator Larry Lombardi's Comments:**

**1. Please tell us how this individual and his character affect Roy Hobbs Baseball, the game of baseball and his baseball colleagues on and off the field, and why.**

Tom has been with the DCMSBL since 1998 starting out as a player and subsequently becoming a team manager in our 40+ and 60+ age groups and currently playing as a player in our 70+ age group.

Tom's background as a former law professor, specifically his leadership role in mentoring students and young professionals, were carried over into how Tom managed his teams in our younger age group adult baseball teams in the DCMSBL. One of the aspects in which Tom has been excellent in mentoring many players on his teams over the years, who for the most part were much younger, was about respecting the game of baseball. There was never a player issue with any of the players who were on Tom's teams over the years. Tom's principled leadership approach as a team manager prioritized integrity and individual responsibility.

Tom always exhibited a collaborative and a competitive spirit when it came to the game of baseball. There was a period of a few years when Tom was coaching his 40+ team where his team was, let's say not as competitive as the rest of the 40+ age group, he approached the league about a possible solution. Tom's solution would keep his team competitive in the 40+ age group and at the same time maintain the consistency of play for all the other 40+ teams. Because of Tom's vast experiences in the financial and legal world, he was able to bridge the gap and leverage a forward-thinking approach to the situation above which demonstrated a pro-active, transparent and effective solution not only for his team but for the integrity of the age group.

Regarding Tom's character off the field, he has made some impactful contributions over the years to the community through his music and baseball. Most notably are Tom's participation in the Roy Hobbs World Series and his Washington All Stars team. Tom's baseball team has raised roughly more than \$500,000.00 for Special Olympics. In 2008, Tom was named "Washingtonian of the Year" based on his use of music and sports to raise money for charities in the D.C. metropolitan area.

Tom's classic rock band, The Johnny Esquire Band, has raised well over \$5 Million in the last 25 years for charities in the Washington DC Metro area!

**2. What qualities and/or Roy Hobbs Baseball accomplishments make this individual special ... that they STAND APART from their peers and should be recognized through induction to the Roy Hobbs Baseball Hall of Fame?**

There are many accomplishments Tom has achieved in his professional career than most people in the financial services market. According to various public sources, Tom has been described as "one of the best financial services lawyers in America."

As a federal financial regulator, Tom authorized the closure or merger of more financial institutions than anyone ever has since the Great Depression. During one period in the early 2000's, Tom was listed as one of the Super Lawyers in Washington, DC. If anyone knows about Washington, DC, there are something like 4 lawyers per person! Seriously though, Tom is a notable figure because he is a top-rated lawyer by his peers.

Tom has also taught financial services and digital commerce law at Georgetown Law School, George Washington Law School, and Boston University School of Law, and has been a guest lecturer at Harvard Law School. Tom also has a strong background in law and technology, which indicates a deep intellectual curiosity and a commitment to understanding complex issues.

Listing Tom's character qualities comes from his experience as a Former Bank Regulator, Counselor, Published Author, Academic Scholar and Seasoned Financial Services Expert.

**Communications skills:** Tom's excellent ability to articulate complex legal and technological concepts has shown to make him very effective in engaging team players and opponents over the years.

**Resilience:** the fact that Tom is still playing baseball well into his 70's requires resilience and adaptability, the very same traits that Tom has embodied in his professional career.

**Leadership:** Founder and Executive Director for the Institute for Cybersecurity and Privacy at George Mason University, Law partner at various prestigious international law firms, Law Professor and Executive Director of the Program on Financial Regulation & Technology at George Mason University's Scalia Law School.

**Community Engagement:** Tom's efforts to leverage music and sports for fundraising shows his strong commitment to community service and helping others.

**3. From your list of character qualities and/or your line of reasoning in support of your candidate, if you could pick only 2, which would they be and why? These should be compelling, and your stories should demonstrate how your candidate is EXCEPTIONAL in regard to Roy Hobbs Baseball. \***

There are many more character qualities I could list in the section above for Tom, however, since I was only limited to 2200 characters, the two character qualities I would select would be Leadership and Community Engagement and why.

For the character quality of Leadership, Tom has demonstrated this character quality as a team manager, player and as a respected professional consistently since I've known Tom going back to 1998.

Tom knows how to collaborate with others using his proactive approach to problem-solving, and with his leadership style in prioritizing integrity and responsibility to the game of baseball. Plus Tom's ability in mentoring and his nurturing leadership style which fosters growth and development in others.

Tom's advisory capabilities has served well in providing guidance on legal and technological issues to organizations, including amateur baseball organizations- DCMSBL specifically, and government agencies, and non-profits.

Community Engagement: The Johnny Esquire Band, which the band Tom founded, is a charitable music group that has been dedicated to supporting various nonprofit organizations since its inception in 2001. This community engagement commitment has allowed the band to raise over \$5 million for a wide range of causes which showcases their dedication to community service and philanthropy. This is all possible because they are using their God given talents to make a positive impact in the community and it all points back to their founder Tom Vartanian!

The Washington All Stars team, which was established in 1998, is dedicated to raising money for Special Olympics and every year they end up their season playing in the Roy Hobbs World Series. With the encouragement of Tom's close friend and mentor, R. Sargent Shriver, suggested that Special Olympics could benefit from the Washington All Star team's love of baseball. Through 2024, the Washington All Star team has raised more than \$550,000 for Special Olympics.