



IRISH AMERICAN
PARTNERSHIP

'I leaned over the edge to let anyone see and touch the medal that Northern Ireland had brought away from the Olympics. It wasn't mine, it was ours.'

Lady Mary Peters LG CH DBE DStJ RNR 2025 Nollaig na mBan Honoree

Mary moved to Northern Ireland with her family when she was 11 years old. Northern Ireland has been home to Mary Peters since then. Even today, Mary still lives in Belfast although most of her life she has spent travelling the world, competing and working.

Mary has been an inspiration to people throughout Northern Ireland, bringing people together in times of trouble, through her sporting triumphs. Mary Peters is a true ambassador for Sport, reaching the pinnacle of sporting effort and achieving the ultimate: an Olympic Gold Medal.

In the 1972 Summer Olympics Mary won the gold medal in the women's pentathlon. She has represented Northern Ireland at every Commonwealth Games between 1958 and 1974. In these games she won 2 gold medals for the pentathlon, plus a gold and silver medal for the shot put.

Mary was humbled to be awarded in 2019 the Honour Lady Companion of Honour of the Most Noble order of the Garter. The investiture ceremony presided over by the Queen took place at Windsor Castle in June 2019. Mary is currently one of 24 who are given this exclusive title.

In 2017 Mary was awarded the Dame Commander of the Order of St John.

In the 2015 New Year Honours list she became Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour (CH). In 2000 she was appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire (DBE), CBE in 1990 and MBE in 1972 after her Gold Medal win.

She served as Lord-Lieutenant for The County Borough of Belfast until her 75th birthday when all LL's are given mandatory retirement. She received the Freedom of both the City of Belfast and the City of Lisburn.

Northern Ireland's premier athletics track, on the outskirts of Belfast, is called the Mary Peters Track in her honor where a three-quarter-sized statue watches the next generation train and compete. Lady Mary now spends most of her time helping young sports men and women to achieve their dreams by supporting them through her charity, The Mary Peters Trust.

Mary was selected as one of 27 Olympic athletes chosen by the BOA to be Ambassadors for Team GB 2012. As an official London 2012 Ambassador, Mary was an integral part of Team GB prior to and during the Olympic Games. She helped British athletes and the wider Team GB to achieve Olympic success, and in doing so, serves as a source of inspiration and motivation for the 60 million Team GB fans across the UK.

Mary was also selected by Games Sponsor SSE as an Ambassador for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and traveled to the Gold Coast, Australia as the Patron in 2018.



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Lady Mary Peters LG CH DBE DStJ RNR

Achievements

- Represented N. Ireland at every Commonwealth Games from 1958-1974
- Represented G. Britain internationally from 1961-1974
- 1964: Olympic Games - Pentathlon: 4th
- 1966: Commonwealth Games- Shot Put: Silver Medal
- 1968 Olympics Games – Pentathlon: 9th
- 1970: Commonwealth Games- Pentathlon: Gold Medal; Shot Put: Gold Medal
- 1972: Olympic Games - Pentathlon: Gold Medal and World Record: 4801 points
- 1974- Commonwealth Games - Pentathlon: Gold Medal
- Set 25 British Records from 1962 to 1972

Team Manager GB Women's Athletics Team 1979-84
(including Moscow and LA Olympic Teams)

Member

President Mary Peters Trust
Patron Team NI – NI Commonwealth Games Council
Ambassador for Queens Green Canopy 2022
Sports Council NI 1973-93 (Vice-Chairman 1977-80)
Sports Council GB 1974-77 (re-elected 1987-93)
Sports Aid Foundation
Outward Bound Trust, Trustee
London Marathon Charity Trustee 1998- 2015
President British Athletics Federation 1996-98
Ambassador British Olympic Association 1996 – current
Deputy Chairman NI Tourist Board 1996 – 2002
Chairman NI Committee of Sport for the Disabled 1984 -
1991

President Mary Peters Trust
Patron NI Amateur Athletics Federation
Patron World Police and Fire Games (Belfast 2013)
Patron Integrated Education Council 1998 – 2007
Patron REVIVE 1989 – current
Patron FASA 2012 – 2019
Patron Misson to Seafarers 2010 to present
Supporter Age NI
Columnist Daily Mail (Irish Edition) 1994 – 1996
Lord-Lieutenant County Borough of Belfast 2009 – 2014
Hon DSc. University of Ulster 1974
Hon DUniv. Queen's University Belfast 1998
Hon DLitt. Loughborough University 1999
Hon DArt. Leeds Beckett University 2004
Hon DLaw. Trinity College University Dublin 2004
Hon DLaw. University of St Andrews 2010
Hon DGrad. Open University 2012
Hall of Fame Award Dublin and Belfast 1998
Hon LLD Trinity College Dublin 2004
Hon D Open University 2012
Honorary Naval Officer 2013
Freedom of Lisburn 1998
Freedom of the City of Belfast 2013
Celebrity Pointless Winner 2016
British Athletic Writers Ron Pickering Memorial Trophy
for Services to Athletics – 2017