

Terry Anthony Tata

1940 -

"Only a select few are chosen to be umpires in the big leagues. They have to be the best. Terry Tata is one of them."

- Frank Corkin

The baseball umpiring career of Waterbury native Terry Anthony Tata started in this city at Fulton Park. Tata, born April 24, 1940, was 14 years old when given the opportunity to umpire in the local Jimmy Piersall League. His career would take him to the National League where he would call balls and strikes for 27 years, beginning in 1973.

Tata got his start after attending Al Somers School for Umpires. His first assignment, at the age of 19, in the Midwest League, made him one of the youngest ever to officiate in organized baseball. He worked in the Northern League, the Texas League, the International League and even in Puerto Rico. After toiling for 13 years in the minors, Tata's tenacity was rewarded when he became the second Waterburian to make it to the Major Leagues. His step-father, Augie Guglielmo, was the first. Tata would eventually umpire in four World Series, four Division Series, three All-Star Games and seven League Championship Series. He was highly respected having been named a crew chief for ten years; a prestigious honor.

Tata's first assignment was at third base on April 6, 1973 at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium. With 52,000 fans on hand Connecticut's Steve Blass duelled future Cardinal Hall of Famer Bob Gibson. Tata's home plate debut was on April 10, 1973 and featured another future Hall of Famer, Steve Carlton.

He could have made it to the Major Leagues earlier. In 1971, when umpires went on strike he was asked to break through the picket lines and achieve his lifelong goal. He refused, showing his allegiance to the umpires union. Tata's career closed on a similar note. During the strike in 1999, this man of integrity again sided with the umpires union. He remained dedicated to his vocation to the very end and never lost his passion for seeking better working conditions for his fellow umpires.

During Tata's illustrious career, he was behind the plate for no-hitters pitched by Phil Neikro and Tom Seaver. In another famous game, he was the center of controversy when he called Mark Lemke safe at home to end Game Four of the 1991 World Series. The replay was minutely examined on every sportscast. Tata always said, "the big thing is not to miss one in critical situations." He did not.



It takes a unique person to choose and be successful at a demanding job which is constantly scrutinized by fans, players, managers, sports commentators and the camera. Terry Tata quietly and efficiently mastered his craft to become one of the elite in his profession.

Terry Tata's Last Game

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Eshed W2-7	6	5	3	3	5	7
Coppinger	1	2	1	1	0	1
MMyers	1/3	0	0	0	0	0
Flunk	2/3	0	0	0	0	0
Wickman 528	1	0	0	0	0	2
Los Angeles						
Veldre L3-12	7	7	5	2	2	7
Masaoka	1/3	0	0	0	1	0
Mills	1	2/3	1	0	0	0
Milwaukee 5						
Los Angeles 4						
Umpires - Home, Tata ; First, Kulpa Second, Hallion; Third, Hohn						