

Michael A. Rizzo
President of Baseball Operations and General Manager
Washington Nationals

Presently in his 14th season as President of Baseball Operations and General Manager of the Washington Nationals, Mike Rizzo is the third-longest tenured General Manager in Major League Baseball.

In 2019, his 11th season at the helm of the organization, Rizzo guided the Nationals to their first ever World Series Championship defeating the Houston Astros in a Game 7, come from behind victory. The Championship represented the culmination of a transformative effort under Mike Rizzo's leadership. When he joined the Nationals in 2006, Rizzo inherited a Club ranked near the bottom of the MLB standings. Thus began a makeover in talent, teaching, culture and character. Today the Nationals are regarded as perennially competitive. The 2007 First-Year Player Draft, Rizzo's first with the organization, marked the start of his dramatic impact. The draft was rated by *Baseball America* as the best in baseball.

Before winning the 2019 World Series, Rizzo led the transformed Nationals to four National League East titles and one Wild Card berth over the previous nine seasons.

In recognition of his achievements, Rizzo has been honored with numerous awards including, in 2012 and again in 2019, the prestigious *Executive of the Year* award bestowed by *Baseball America* and by the Boston Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA). Most recently, Rizzo was named the Italian American Baseball Foundation's *Executive of the Year*.

Rizzo's career in professional baseball has spanned 39 years, beginning as a minor league infielder in the Angels organization. Once retired as a player, he served as an assistant coach at the University of Illinois while earning a B.A. degree in Communications. From there, Rizzo joined the Arizona Diamondbacks in 1998 as an Area Scout, rising to become Director of Scouting, helping bring a World Series championship to Arizona in 2001.

Of special note, Mike Rizzo is a third-generation scout. He learned the game from his father, Phillip, who spent 50 years in professional baseball, and from his grandfather, Vito, who was a semi-pro player before founding the family business: scouting. Upon Mike Rizzo's promotion to Nationals GM, his father, Phil, was among his first hires. Phil served as Senior Advisor to the GM until his death on February 1, 2020....three months after watching his son win a World Series title.

On June 24, 2021 in Miami, the Nationals beat the Marlins 7-3, marking Mike Rizzo's 1000th win as a General Manager. This makes him one of just nine active GMs to reach the 1000 win mark and one of only six to reach the milestone with one team.

Mike and his wife, Jodi, divide their time between Washington, DC and West Palm Beach, Florida, site of the Nationals spring training, player development facility. In keeping with family tradition, Michael Rizzo Jr., who makes his home in L.A., joins his dad for as much baseball as possible.