

In a pre-game ceremony before tonight's Devil Rays vs. Red Sox game at Fenway Park, the club officially named the right field pole after, what for years has been only a nickname. The pole was officially christened the "Pesky Pole" in honor of longtime Red Sox, Johnny Pesky. Pesky, who has now been a part of the Red Sox organization for over 56 years, was honored on his birthday with the naming ceremony, and him throwing out the first pitch to Tim Wakefield. In attendance was his longtime teammate and second baseman, Hall of Famer Bobby Doerr.

This is a little unusual for me," said Pesky of the attention, while sitting in the Red Sox dugout and wearing a uniform with his No. 6 on the back during batting practice. "I'm a little flattered. This is really nice."

"The guy had to work hard for what he has," Doerr said. "He's a Hall of Famer in my eyes. He's a great ambassador for baseball."

The Red Sox organization will place a plaque just before the pole on the outfield wall in foul territory at Fenway.

(The AP)

NOTE: Read Maury Brown's extensive interview with <u>Johnny Pesky</u>, as well as his interview with <u>Bobby Doerr</u>.