

# David Drumm's brother says Anglo boss 'didn't flee'

THE brother of ex-Anglo Irish Bank boss David Drumm has described the suggestion that his sibling fled Ireland as 'nonsense'.

David Drumm is currently being held in a US prison pending an extradition hearing and has been refused bail twice by the American courts. Extradition proceedings were launched by the DPP when he refused to return to Ireland to face trial for 33 criminal charges relating to transactions carried out by Anglo during his period in charge.

Last week he attempted to broker a deal with the State by offering to return to Ireland on condition he is allowed out on bail.

His brother, Ken Drumm, told Pat Kenny on Newstalk that his sibling has been prepared to

By **Kevin Keane**

come home since as far back as July 2013, but that 'from his experience dealing with the Irish Government he has developed a deep mistrust'.

Ken Drumm said his brother now considers himself to have two choices: 'The first is to wait in the US until March 1, start a defence and apply for bail - we're very confident he would get it.'

'The other choice is simply get on with this, which has been David's position for months. Come back to Ireland, face the charges, get bail, deal with his defence, meet with his lawyers and defend himself in what is going to be a long and very tiresome saga.'

He added that his brother 'desperately wants to deal with this

and get it out of his life'. Ken Drumm rejected the idea that his brother fled Ireland, remarking that Boston was 'home' for David Drumm and his family.

'The suggestion that David fled Ireland makes absolutely no sense, it's a nonsense,' he said. 'He went home to continue his life in the US. He could see what was going on in Ireland, but he certainly did not flee Ireland.'

He accepted, however, that his brother should have returned here sooner to face the charges against him.

'In hindsight we can all see that that would have been the better result for David,' he said. 'But he could see where it was going and he could see that he was going to have great difficulty with the Irish Government.'

# Dr Mark Dooley



## MORAL MATTERS

# Sacrifice for others is the finest reward

**A** KIND reader, Carol Broderick, sent me a story which I want to share with you today. It is one of sacrifice, true love and the sort of commitment which every child deserves from their parents. It is an inspiring story about one man's determination to put his priorities in their proper order.

In 1924, American canoeist Bill Havens was widely expected to win a gold medal at the Paris Olympic Games. He was at the top of his game and had shown he had the mettle to succeed. Shortly before the Games, however, Bill's wife announced that she was pregnant and that their child was due to arrive while he was in Paris.

His wife reassured Bill that everything would be fine and that he should definitely travel. Bill, however, could not miss the birth of his son and, in a move that shocked everyone, he opted to stay at home. Thus it was that one of the great sport stars of his generation sacrificed Olympic glory.

For Bill Havens, this was, as they say, a no-brainer.

To represent your country at Olympic level is a supreme honour. To hold your newborn child is, however, an incomparable miracle.

Frank Havens was born on August 1, 1924, with his father by his side. In the years that followed, Bill devoted his life to his little son. He passed on his love of canoeing and it wasn't long before Frank acquired his father's skills.

In 1952, at the age of 28, Frank Havens was selected to represent the United States at the Helsinki Olympics. He was to compete in the Men's Canoe Sprint. The day after the competition, Bill received this telegram from his son: 'Dear Dad, Thanks for waiting around for me to be born. I'm coming home with the gold medal you should have won. Your loving son, Frank.'

To this day, Frank Havens is the only American recipient of an Olympic gold in a singles canoeing event.

He is now 91 years old and is a member of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. He was also US National Champion on ten occasions.

This is how the story ends: 'Bill understood that medals tarnish, records are broken, and achievements are soon forgotten. These things don't satisfy. What does? The love you have for your children and the love they have for you.'

Before receiving this beautiful story, I had intended writing a column about the questions I intend asking myself at journey's end.

When we look back across our lives, we shall see countless highs and lows. We shall see our accomplishments set beside our many failings.

There will be things to which we shall point with pride.

Other things shall cause us to look away with regret.

For no life is all plain sailing, no life is without its pain.

What makes any life great, however, is the way it is used in the service of others. The older I get the more I realise that 'the glories of our blood and state' are of little significance compared to a person's true riches.

As the story of Bill Havens shows, our monuments will crumble, our achievements will soon be forgotten and our records will always be broken.

All of that, as Thomas Aquinas said, 'is simply straw'. A lasting legacy, one that does not crumble into dust, is comprised of love, service and devotion. As such, there is nothing more valuable than the gift of self.

Parents, carers and true friends give without expectation of return. They build monuments of love that do not sparkle and shine, but which last the test of time. They sacrifice their gold medals for something much more enduring.

'Give and you shall receive'. To deny yourself so that others may succeed reaps an abundance of rewards. These are gifts of the heart, gifts that cannot perish.

**B**ILL Havens struck gold, but not in Paris or even in Helsinki. He struck gold simply by giving himself entirely to his family. And that, as anyone who has followed Bill's example will know, is the essence of true joy.

I thank Carol Broderick for sending me such a moving story, one that testifies to love beyond limits. It is a story that shows what is to be gained in sacrificing so that others may succeed. And through their success and happiness, you receive back a hundredfold.

All this is by way of saying that, when I reach the end and am asked what I have done with my life, I shall not point to medals or awards, to plaques or prizes. They are all 'shadows not substantial things'.

I shall simply point in the direction of my three sons, for they are what I have done with my life. They, I hope, will be my legacy, my pride and my joy. In them, I see beyond myself into the wonder of something that never ceases to surprise, inspire and enthrall.

Bill Havens did not have to think twice in deciding to abandon his Olympic dream.

To see his son being born, and to live out their daily lives with all the sacrifices that involves, was not equivalent to receiving gold to the sound of your national anthem. Neither is it equivalent to seeing your name engraved in the record books.

As anyone who has ever sacrificed for true love will surely know, it is much better by far.

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