

Veronica Cassidy Barry

Deputy Grand Marshall

Veronica Cassidy Barry was born and raised in Rockaway Beach. Her parents Sheila and Tommie Cassidy hail from Lixnaw, County Kerry and Blacklion, Co. Cavan. Veronica spent most summers, as a child, in Kerry, Cavan and on the beach, in Rockaway. While living in Kerry in 1980, Veronica and her sisters attended Dromclough, N.S in Listowel.

Veronica has always been involved in Irish cultural activities. While attending St. Francis de Sales she studied Irish dancing and was a member of the American-Irish Drum Corps. As a student at The Mary Louis Academy, she was President of the Irish Club, and while attending Niagara University she was President of the Gaelic Society.

Upon earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Niagara University's School of Transportation, Travel and Tourism Administration she worked for Aer Lingus, British Airways, and Tower Air. She eventually transitioned into the maritime industry and held the Director of U.S Flag Marine Personnel position at Overseas Shipholding Group and Bay Ship Management.

After marrying her husband, John, a U.S. Diplomat, in 1999, she lived in the Azores, Portugal, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Vienna, Austria.

Throughout the years, Veronica has been an extremely dedicated volunteer and has devoted many hours to helping the less fortunate and raising funds for worthy causes. She has volunteered overseas in orphanages, at sugarcane plantations, and has taught English to blind individuals. She also volunteered with several outreach groups, such as Heart Care International, Heart Care Dominicana, The New Jersey Pediatric Society, Coalition of Hope, Franklin Lakes Restoration Foundation and the New York Mary From Dungloe Pageant. She was awarded an Ambassador's Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding volunteerism from the U.S. Department of State. Last year, she was awarded a U. S. Department of Transportation-Maritime Administration's Award for "volunteering to lead assistance efforts during Sandy relief." Veronica's most satisfying work to date has been returning to help friends and neighbors in Rockaway and volunteering in the tents at St. Francis de Sales and 94th Street, in the weeks after Super Storm Sandy. A very significant and touching day was Veteran's Day 2013, when Veronica was joined by 272 Midshipmen from the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Together they inventoried donations, distributed food and supplies and cleaned debris from homes, business and houses of worship.

Veronica was the Director of Career Services and Industry Outreach United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) from 2006 to 2012. Currently, she is the Acting Director of External Affairs at USMMA. She volunteers as the Advisor for the Newman Club, the Catholic Club at USMMA. She is a proud member of the Cavan P&B Association, WISTA (Women's International Shipping and Trading Association), and a parishioner at St. Anastasia's Parish. She and her husband, an attorney with the NYPD Intelligence Division, reside in Douglaston, Queens and have three daughters. Veronica will always consider Rockaway "home", and is proud to live in Ireland's "33rd County" – Queens, New York.