

## Deputy grand marshal Stephen Valenti, RT/CT/MR

After years of marching as a member of the St. John's Episcopal Hospital unit, Stephen Valenti will this year have the honor of leading the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day parade as a Deputy Grand Marshal. Valenti is a native of Rockaway who has served the residents of the community for decades as a member of the imaging services at St. John's Episcopal Hospital. He is a proud graduate of the Peninsula Hospital School of Radiologic Technology, the son of a well-loved neighborhood businessman and has made a respected career in the community's longest existing hospital. For these reasons, as well as for the professionalism and friendliness that makes him a leader in the workplace, Stephen is an ideal Deputy Grand Marshal.

Born at St. Joseph's Hospital (now St. John's), Valenti is in his own words "second generation Rockaway." His mother Helen Heaney, whose family hailed from County Cork, lived on Beach 86<sup>th</sup> Street. His father, Frank Valenti, lived just around the corner on Beach 87<sup>th</sup> Street. Frank owned and operated Family Meat Market on Beach 90<sup>th</sup> Street, serving as the neighborhood butcher for many years. When Family Meat Market closed, Frank (and his loyal customers) went to Curran's Superior Meats. Anyone who Mr. Valenti served at these stores remembers him as an intelligent, humorous and extremely friendly individual. All of these qualities are possessed in great measure by his son Stephen.

Stephen's academic and professional life started in Rockaway, where it continues to this day. He spent his early years at St. Mary's Star of the Sea and graduated from Far Rockaway High School. After becoming a radiological technologist, his career path led him to St. John's Episcopal Hospital. Valenti has said "while I never expected to get a job at the same place I was born, it has been an honor to work at St. John's." Certainly, the honor belongs with the staff and patients at St. John's Episcopal Hospital. For the past 24 years, Stephen has served the hospital tirelessly as a technologist and a leader. He has regularly been recognized as one of the most knowledgeable and professional technologists in the hospital, and has often imparted his wisdom to younger technologists. His lifelong commitment to the Rockaways and his professional, courteous demeanor make Stephen Valenti an ideal candidate for Deputy Grand Marshall for 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade.