

Defats

Frank O'Keefe was born and raised in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, the youngest of six children to Jimmy(Brosna) and Nora(Cahersiveen) County Kerry. Jimmy served the Kerry men as President from 1952 - 1955 and Nora was co-Guest of Honor in 1995.

Frank joined the Kerry men in February 1975, serving in various roles during the 80's and 90's. As a Trustee in 1981, he served on the committee that published "Kerry men", the centenary celebration book. He also served for several years as scholarship chairman.

Frank was employed at the New York Post from 1973-1996 as a member of Paperhandlers Local#1, serving the Union as Recording Secretary for 10 years.

In 1990, Frank was hired by the NYC Dept of Sanitation, retiring in March 2013, in the title of General Superintendent. He became an active member of the DSNY Emerald Society, and remains a member of their Executive Board a position he has held for 15 years. Frank also chaired the scholarship committee for 15 years. In 2003, Frank joined the DSNY Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Band, where he would serve as Band Secretary. As a tenor drummer he proudly marched in many parades concluding with the 2013 Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Avenue. In 2008, Frank became an active participant in the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, the political voice of the Emeralds in the Greater New York area, and currently serves as President.

Frank graduated from St. Leo University in 1974, where on St Patrick's Day, he met and began dating a young co-ed from New Carrollton, Md named Mary Kenney, the love of his life. Frank and Mary have been married for 41 years. They have 3 children, Patrick, married to Megan, Sean, married to Doni and Molly, who in 2011 represented the Southern California Center in the Rose of Tralee. Frank and Mary have also been blessed with 6 grandchildren, Brendon, Kyleigh(a dancer with the Bridget Flynn School in Woodlawn), Brynne, James, Declan and Timmy.

Frank is thrilled by this honor, having marched for many years with the DSNY Emerald Society and the Pipe and Drum Band and wishes to thank Mike Benn and his committee with a special mention to old friend Jimmy McGoorty