

GRAND MARSHAL DONAL O'SULLIVAN

Donal O'Sullivan immigrated to the United States in 1984, a native of Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry, in search of work in construction. Today, he is the President and Co-Owner of Navillus Contracting, founded with his sister Helen, and brothers Kevin and Leonard. Navillus is one of New York City's largest contracting firms, specializing in superstructure concrete, masonry, tile and stone. Donal is a proponent of camaraderie and respect, in the workplace and daily life. Since the creation of Navillus, Donal has successfully created and nurtured a positive and collaborative workplace, where professionalism and integrity are of the utmost importance. The core fundamental values of the O'Sullivan Family are the cornerstone of Navillus' business model: Trust, Communication and Teamwork.

In an effort to keep close ties with his Kerry heritage, Donal is involved in many civic associations and the Irish community at large. He is a regular supporter of the Irish Arts Center and the Gaelic Athletic Association, and a member of the Kerryman's Patriotic & Benevolent Association. Additionally, for many years Donal has been the primary sponsor of the Kerry Football Club of New York, and named Guest of Honor in 2010. In 2012, he was humbled to be chosen as Honoree of the Year by the U.S. Friends of Maynooth, which benefits the Irish Educational Development Foundation. As someone who does not shy away from charitable endeavors, Donal donates time and resources to a litany of organizations, and serves on the Board of Haven US (an extension of the Haven Partnership), an Irish non-profit dedicated to building homes and creating opportunities for the impoverished people of Haiti.

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Donal once again came to the aid of the most vulnerable in the community. He immobilized his resources and didn't hesitate to lend a hand, by sending equipment to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn to aid the City and the Coast Guard who were unloading supplies to those most affected. Within days, he had rallied friends, family and coworkers. With over 100 volunteers under his leadership, a station was set up in the parking lot of Saint Francis de Sales church in Belle Harbor, one of the most devastated areas in New York City. It was there, with donated machinery and equipment from Navillus, led one of the largest private volunteer efforts after Sandy, which spanned from Belle Harbor to Breezy Point; Far Rockaway to Gerritsen Beach. The Navillus team continued to work tirelessly to provide aid for devastated individuals and families, through the creation of temporary shelter and a community center environment, where hot meals and resources gave hope to those in need. In the months following, when Navillus was selected as one of six regional contractors to repair the homes of those most adversely affected through the Rapid Repair Project. Most recently, Donal was honored at the 101st St. Patrick's Society of Queens dinner for his Hurricane Sandy relief work, and presented with an award by NYC City Council member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

When Donal is not working and volunteering, he is a proud husband to his wife Kathleen, and a loving father to his six children, Jack, Donal, Katie, Caroline, Michael and Kelly. He frequently travels back to Ireland to visit his mother, Teresa O'Sullivan, and connect with his Irish roots, which made him the successful and charitable family man he is today.