

## HONORARY FEMALE GRAND MARSHAL BETTY McLOUGHLIN

Betty McLoughlin was born in Glenamoy, Co. Mayo to Kate and Pat Irwin. She is one of 5 children, Mary Cunningham and Nora Noone, both deceased, and brothers George and Philip who remain in Ireland, Kildare and Mayo respectively.

Betty came to the United States in 1962 by way of Philadelphia. Betty spent two and a half years visiting New York on weekends before moving to where all the fun and music halls were such as The Jaeger Hose, City Center, Rockaway, Gaelic Park in New York. There she met a wonderful man from Drumkerrin, Co. Leitrim, Jim McLoughlin. They were married in 1966 in St. Jeromes in Brooklyn. In 1972 the McLoughlins moved to Bayside with their children, Mary [deceased], Francis, Seamus and Breda. Francis now lives and works in Manhattan, Seamus lives in Floral park with his wife Christine and their two children Chase and Carly, Breda lives in Bayside with her husband Seamus Mulvey and their four children Kayleigh, Aidan, Emily and Jack.

Betty worked for the Board of Education, retiring in 2008. Betty had 38 wonderful years with her darling Jim before his passing in 2005. Betty joined the Irish American Society in 1983 and became very involved after Jim's passing. She now calls it her second home. She went from member to board member to President and is now president for the second time. Betty is very involved in her church, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Bayside where she served as President of the Rosary Altar Society. She enjoys running the St. Patrick's night dance there and welcoming musicians and singers from Ireland. Betty also serves as Vice President of the Mayo Society and is a member of the AOH Division 29 in Manhattan. She was honored to have been chosen as Mayo woman of the year in 2010 and as Grand Marshal of The Irish American Society's St. Patrick's Parade in Mineola in 2012. She was honored by the Queens AOH in 2014 and was chosen by the Diocese of Brooklyn Catholic Migration for The Shining Star Award in 2014.

While Betty is proud of her accomplishments she is prouder of her commitment to helping others. She is well known for her fundraising abilities and her willingness to always lend a hand to others with endless energy and good humor. Betty thanks her family for all their support and is very honored to have been chosen by The Queens County St. Patrick's Parade as Honorary Female Grand Marshal