DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL DAN LEARY

 Dan Leary was born and bred in Brooklyn NY, but has lived in Breezy Point for over 30 years. His parents were members of the Breezy Point Surf Club since before he was born. His great grandfather was born in County Cork. Dan’s wife Lynn’s grandfather was from Mullingar and her grandmother was born in Galway. They actually visited her farm in Galway on their honeymoon and brought their children to visit on later trips.

 Dan attended Immaculate Heart of Mary grammar school in Kensington, Brooklyn and then attended Bishop Ford High School in Windsor Terrace. He played basketball at Bishop Ford and was selected First Team All Brooklyn-Queens in his senior year while helping lead the Falcons to the city semi-finals.Next stop was the University of Rochester where he played basketball and was MVP for 3 years while leading the team to the NCAA Tournament his junior year. After graduation from Rochester, Dan was invited to play for the Claremont Admirals in the Irish Premier Basketball League. The team was based in Lahinch, County Clare near the Cliffs of Moher. Dan calls Lahinch one of the most beautiful places on earth.

 Living in Ireland during that season was one of the best experiences of his life, while being lucky enough to enjoy the culture and the warmth and generosity of the Irish people. In 2019 Dan and Lynn hosted a group of friends from Lahinch for a weekend in Breezy Point, featuring a basketball tournament and great craic as they say in Ireland. The Irish people were extremely moved by the beauty and friendliness of Breezy Point and Rockaway.

 Dan has worked for the New York State Courts for 29 years, retiring in May 2023. He began his career as a Court Officer in Brooklyn Criminal Court and rose through the ranks to become a Court Clerk Specialist in charge of the Matrimonial Term in Kings County Supreme Court. He is a proud member of the Courts Emerald Society and has enjoyed helping the people of Brooklyn navigate their way through the court system all these years. Dan’s son Brian is a Court Officer Sergeant in Manhattan while his son Conor is a project manager with E. J. Electrical Contractors. Dan is extremely proud of his two sons and adds that Brian learned to play the bagpipes at age 8 and has been playing since, currently with the NYS Courts Pipes & Drums.

 Dan began playing basketball in the Graybeards League over 20 years ago. Shortly after, the Graybeards organization was formed, and Dan became a member and has since served on the Board for 12 years. The Graybeards is a philanthropic organization that helps people in the time of need on the Rockaway peninsula and Broad Channel. Dan is currently the president of the Graybeards and calls the work one of the most important things he’s ever done. There is always someone that needs our help in one way or another. Dan stresses that the Graybeards Board of Directors as well as the over 200 members who are always ready to volunteer make that job easy. What makes Breezy and Rockaway such a great place to live is that the people are always willing to serve.