



Antun's 2026

Honorees

Biography





Deputy Grand Marshals - 2026

- FATHER BRENDAN FITZGERALD----- CLERGY
- PATRICK DONLIN ---- COURTS
- CHRIS SCHARBACH --- ST FRANCIS PRINCIPLE
- DR. JUDY McLAUGHLIN ---- MEDICAL COMMUNITY -
- DAVID STIMUS ---- AOH DIV 21
- 1SGT JOSEPH RONDA- -- MILITARY/USCG
- ANNE FORDE ---- COMMUNITY PARADE

- CASEY ANNE BROUDER - COMMUNITY
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- JOHN SCHILLING -- MEDICAL COMMUNITY
- OWEN LOOF --- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2672
- JOHN JAY BURKE - SPEC OLYMPICS
- DR. JAMEELA YUSUFF -- EHS ST. JOHNS



**HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL
JOHN NORBURY - TRUSTEE . LOCAL 79**

GAEL OF THE YEAR

DENNIS SCHOCK PRESIDENT LOCAL 831 SANITATION



Grand Marshal – 2026

MICHELE CUSACK CFO NORTHWELL





Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade
& Cultural Committee



***2026 GRAND MARSHAL
THE HONORABLE MICHELE CUSACK***



Parade Ball - February 7, 2026





GRAND MARSHAL MICHELE CUSACK

Michele Cusack serves as the Chief Financial Officer at Northwell Health, one of our nation's largest healthcare providers.

Michele's journey is deeply intertwined with her Irish heritage. Her parents, who hailed from Ireland, instilled in her the values of perseverance and community from an early age. Her father, John Downey, emigrated to New York in 1960 leaving his family farm in Limerick to pursue other economic opportunities. He was the only one of his seven siblings to leave Ireland for the United States. While in New York, he met his future bride, Mary Lee, from Mohill, Co. Leitrim, at an Irish dance in the Bronx. Together they settled in Nassau County and raised their four children. They maintained their love of dance throughout their marriage and were regular attendees of the Saturday night events at the Irish American Society in Mineola where they met many lifelong friends that also emigrated to New York from Ireland.

Beyond her New York upbringing enveloped in Irish culture and music, Michele spent many cherished summers visiting family in Ireland on their dairy farms. These trips were not just visits; they were an immersive experience, where she learned the meaning of a full day's work and had the invaluable opportunity to experience Irish culture firsthand. These experiences, coupled with her family's immigrant story, taught her that true success comes from dedication and building something lasting and meaningful for the next generation. Michele and her family visit Ireland regularly to reunite with her twenty first cousins and numerous aunts and uncles to maintain the connection to their Irish roots.

Her path into healthcare finance began not with a grand plan, but with the practical need for a college job. She began working part-time in the accounting department of a local hospital while she attended Hofstra in pursuit of her undergraduate degree. During her time at Hofstra, she met Hofstra alum Jim Cusack, a local bar owner, with family roots in County Clare. They were married in 1999 and currently reside in Nassau County with their four children, Liam, Sydney, Delaney and Kate and their recently adopted puppy, Isla.

For over two decades, Michele has been part of the Northwell finance organization and rose through the ranks to take on the role of CFO in 2017. In her position, she makes sure Northwell strategically invests so that it can keep the hundreds of communities they serve healthy including the neighborhoods where her parents first settled, and where she grew up.

In addition to supporting Northwell, Michele serves on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island and Hofstra's Zarb School of Business Dean's advisory Board and previously served as a board member for the Girl Scouts of Nassau County. Additionally she has been recognized by Irish America Magazine as a top 100 Irish Business Leader in corporate America.

Michele, Jim, and the entire Cusack family extend its sincere gratitude to the Parade Committee and all their friends and family for their incredible support. They are truly proud to march, representing and celebrating their Irish heritage within this wonderful community.



HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

JOHN NORBURY

JOHN NORBURY IS THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF LABORERS LOCAL 79 AND A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF SOUTH QUEENS. HE GREW UP IN RICHMOND HILL, QUEENS, WHERE HE ATTENDED ST. BENEDICT JOSEPH LABOR SCHOOL, LATER CONTINUING HIS EDUCATION AT MSGR. McCLANCY HIGH SCHOOL AND RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL.

IN 1985, JOHN BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A LABORER WITH LOCAL 46 IN SOUTH QUEENS, FOLLOWING THE 1996 CONSOLIDATION OF TEN LOCALS INTO WHAT IS NOW MASON TENDERS AND GENERAL BUILDING LABORERS LOCAL 79, HE CONTINUED HIS SERVICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND ADVANCED THROUGH THE RANKS. OVER THE YEARS, JOHN SERVED AS A BUSINESS AGENT AND AUDITOR, THEN AS VICE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER OF LOCAL 79.

JOHN IS ALSO AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF THE MASON TENDERS DISTRICT COUNCIL AND SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE QUEENS BOARD OF BUSINESS AGENTS FROM 2001 TO 2025. HE IS CURRENTLY IN HIS 30TH YEAR OF SERVICE WITH LOCAL 79.

NOW RESIDING IN HOWARD BEACH, JOHN HAS DEEP AND LASTING TIES TO ROCKAWAY BEACH AND BROAD CHANNEL. HE HAS REMAINED ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND LOCAL POLITICS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS WHERE LOCAL 79 HAS A STRONG AND ENGAGED MEMBERSHIP. HIS CAREER REFLECTS DECADES OF LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN ACROSS NEW YORK CITY.

Dennis J. Schock

Gael of the Year

Queens County Saint Patrick's Day Parade

DSNY Emerald Society

Dennis J. Schock has devoted his life and career to serving, protecting, and advancing the dedicated men and women of the New York City Department of Sanitation and the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, Local 831.

Born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, to Robert E. Schock and Mary Schock—both of proud Irish descent—Dennis's family's American journey began in 1890 when his paternal grandparents emigrated from Kilkenny, Ireland. They initially settled in Bangor, Maine, before establishing their roots in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Mary Schock was the matriarch of an extraordinary family of nine children—two born in Ireland and seven in the United States—who dedicated their lives to public service as civil servants, police officers, firefighters, and sanitation workers. Their commitment to service exemplifies the classic and enduring route to the American middle class.

Deeply connected to his Irish heritage, Dennis J. Schock has been an active member of the Emerald Society for thirty-nine years. During this time, he has served with distinction as Vice President and currently sits on the Board of Directors. For thirty-five years, he has also proudly played the bagpipes as a member of the Emerald Society Pipe and Drums, participating in numerous cultural and commemorative events.

In further reflection of his lifelong commitment to Irish heritage and fellowship, he holds the Major Degree in the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Division 7.

Dennis J. Schock's life is a testament to legacy, tradition, and leadership—honoring both his family's immigrant roots and his unwavering dedication to community and culture.

Dennis began his career with the Department of Sanitation on March 21, 1987, proudly starting as a Sanitation Worker. Just over a year later, his leadership qualities shone through when he was elected Shop Steward. On June 29, 1988, he advanced to the role of Union Delegate, marking the beginning of decades of dedicated union advocacy.

On December 1, 2001, he furthered his leadership journey by being appointed Business Agent of Queens West, representing members with fairness, integrity, and a profound understanding of union values.

His strong voice for the membership and steadfast commitment to labor rights led to additional responsibilities within the union. On June 5, 2010, Dennis was elected Vice President of Local 831, where he served with distinction, always prioritizing the needs, safety, and dignity of the workforce.

Throughout his career, Dennis has remained grounded by the values instilled in him by his parents, Robert and Mary. He is supported in all his endeavors by his wife, Bernadette, and is a proud father to two sons, Michael and Matthew, who share his pride in public service and commitment to the labor movement.

Today, as President of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, Local 831, Dennis J. Schock continues to lead with humility, experience, and a deep commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of the thousands of sanitation professionals who keep New York City safe, clean, and operational every day.

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL DR. CHRISTOPHER SCHARBACH

Dr. Christopher Scharbach serves as the Principal of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy in Belle Harbor. A proud product and lifelong supporter of Catholic education, Dr. Scharbach has dedicated his career to fostering faith-based excellence, academic innovation, and community engagement within the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Since assuming leadership of St. Francis de Sales, Dr. Scharbach has guided the Academy through a period of remarkable growth and renewal. Under his leadership, SFDS has become widely recognized for its outstanding faculty, creative programming, and strong partnership with parish and community organizations.

Dr. Scharbach's Irish roots trace back to Clonmel, County Tipperary. His grandmother, Eileen McDermott Ott, was the daughter of Josephine Gough and Stephen McDermott. Josephine, born in the United States in 1894, was the daughter of John Gough and Johanna Gearon, who were both born and married in Clonmel before immigrating to America. Members of the Gough family proudly worked on the historic Bagwell Estate in Clonmel, carrying with them the values of faith, hard work, and family that remain central to the Scharbach family's story today.

Deeply rooted in his Irish Catholic faith and heritage, Dr. Scharbach has built lasting connections with families, alumni, and local institutions, ensuring that the values of faith, service, and community remain at the heart of Catholic education.

Dr. Scharbach earned his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership from St. John's University, where he was recently honored as a "Johnnie of the 21st Century" for his exemplary leadership and service in Catholic education. He continues to mentor emerging leaders across Catholic schools in Brooklyn and Queens. His commitment to faith, family, and service embodies the true spirit of the Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Peter McMahon Deputy Grand Marshal

Peter McMahon is honored to serve as Deputy Grand Marshal for this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. A devoted family man with proud roots in County Cork and County Clare, Peter has long celebrated Irish culture and heritage with his family, friends, and the wider community.

A former resident of Rockaway Beach, Peter now resides in Howard Beach with his beloved wife of 30 years, Kerriann, and their two daughters, MollyRose and Emily.

Peter is the owner of Harbor Waterproofing Services and has built a strong reputation over the past 40 years in the real estate and construction industries. He is widely recognized for his leadership on numerous exterior restoration projects throughout the New York City metropolitan area.

Deeply involved in the Irish American community, Peter has been a dedicated member of the County Cork Pipes and Drums for over two decades and currently serves as Drum Major. His musical journey began as a bass drummer with the Local 94 Operating Engineers Pipe Band before transitioning to bagpipes. Over the years, he has performed with the Knights of Columbus Pipe and Drum Band and the Carpenters Local 608 Pipe Band. Peter is a well-respected figure in the piping community and has lent his musical talents to countless events, including weddings, funerals, memorial services, church functions, parades, and commemorative ceremonies such as 9/11 and Veterans Day observances.

Peter is a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and serves on the boards of several charitable organizations, including Covenant House, the National Diabetes Foundation, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, St. John's Bread and Life, and many others.

Professionally, Peter remains active in numerous trade organizations, including the International Concrete Repair Institute, the National Roofing Contractors Association, the Construction Management Association of America, the Building Owners and Managers Association of New York, and the International Facility Management Association.

A committed volunteer, Peter gives generously of his time to Our Lady of Grace Parish in Old Howard Beach and supports many local civic and political initiatives. Over the years, he has received multiple citations from elected officials recognizing his dedicated service to the community.

To Peter McMahon, the St. Patrick's Day Parade is more than a festive occasion-it is a meaningful opportunity to honor the enduring Irish spirit of resilience, generosity, and unity. Being selected as Deputy Grand Marshal is both a profound honor and a tribute to the values that bring the community together.

The McMahon family extends heartfelt thanks to the parade committee, friends, and family for their continued support and looks forward to proudly marching in celebration of Irish heritage.

FR BRENDAN A. FITZGERALD

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL

BRENDAN FITZGERALD WAS BORN, IN SEPTEMBER 1973 IN ROCKAWAY, NEW YORK TO ESTHER AND DENIS FITZGERALD, BOTH NATIVES OF COUNTY KERRY, IRELAND. HIS MOTHER HAILS FROM KILLARNEY AND HIS FATHER FROM KNOCKNAGASHEL. FR. FITZGERALD HAS FOUR BROTHERS, JOHN, KEVIN, DENIS AND PIO. HE AND HIS TWIN BROTHER, DENIS BEING THE THIRD BORN.

HIS PARENTS HAVE THE GREATEST LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE LIFE IT HAS GIVEN THEM, AS THEY HAVE FOR THEIR NATIVE COUNTY, IRELAND. THEY WISHED TO SHARE THAT AFFECTION FOR IRELAND WITH THEIR SONS, SO THEY GAVE THEIR CHILDREN THE ADVANTAGE OF GROWING UP IN BOTH WORLDS, BY GOING TO SCHOOL IN IRELAND AND SPENDING SUMMERS AND VACATION TIME BACK IN ROCKAWAY," THE IRISH RIVERIA."

AFTER COMPLETING HIS HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AT ST. BRENDAN'S COLLEGE, KILLARNEY, FR. FITZGERALD ENTERED MAYNOOTH SEMINARY, COUNTY KILDARE, TO BEGIN HIS FORMATION FOR THE PRIESTHOOD. IN 1995 HE GRADUATED WITH A B.A. HONORS IN HISTORY. HE THEN SPENT A PASTORAL YEAR WHICH INCLUDED SPENDING A YEAR, LIVING AND WORKING WITH, MOTHER THERESA IN CALCUTTA. HE THEN WENT ON TO CONTINUE HIS ACADEMIC FORMATION IN ROME, ITALY AND GRADUATED WITH A MASTERS IN THEOLOGY. HE CONTINUED WITH FURTHER STUDIES IN FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK WHERE HE RECEIVED A MASTER AND A P.D. IN EDUCATION.

FATHER FITZGERALD WAS ORDAINED IN SEPTEMBER 2000 IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK. HE SPENT HIS FIRST YEAR OF PRIESTHOOD IN MEELICK, COUNTY CLARE. HE WAS THEN APPOINTED AS DIOCESAN ADVISOR FOR EDUCATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF LIMERICK. FR. FITZGERALD HELD THAT POSITION FOR FIVE YEARS BEFORE RETURNING TO HIS NATIVE NEW YORK TO WORK AS A PAROCHIAL VICAR IN ST. BARNABAS PARISH, THE BRONX. FROM 2006 TO 2009. HE WAS APPOINTED AS PRIEST SECRETARY TO HIS EMINENCE EDWARD CARDINAL EGAN, IN SEPTEMBER 2012 HE WAS APPOINTED AS PASTOR OF REGINA COELI, HYDE PARK, NEW YORK.

IN JULY OF 2016 HE WAS APPOINTED PASTOR OF SAINT BARNABAS, THE BRONX. HE HAS BECOME THE CHAPLAIN TO THE FDNY EMERALD SOCIETY, FDNY HOLY NAME SOCIETY, FDNY G.A.A. UNITED EMERALD SOCIETIES, NEW YORK STATE AOH, AND THE NEW YORK GAA AS WELL AS CHAPLAIN OF THE KERRY ASSOCIATION.

Patrick Donlin Deputy Grand Marshal

Patrick Donlin is a Rockaway native and public servant who works in the NY Court System as an Associate Court Clerk in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens, NY. Patrick's maternal great-grandparents, George & Eleanor Neilson hail from Ireland. Their son, William Neilson, married Maureen Neilson and the two had three children. Their eldest daughter, Donna, married Kevin Donlin and they also had three children, the eldest of whom is Patrick.

Born and raised in Rockaway Beach with his two siblings Kevin & Kathleen, Patrick attended Mother Goose pre-K, kindergarten at PS 114, and continued on to St. Francis de Sales grammar school where he developed his love for basketball while playing C.Y.O. Patrick then attended Cathedral Prep Seminary where he continued playing basketball throughout all four years of high school, all while working at Baskin Robbins on Beach 116th St. After graduating from high school, he attended Siena College & graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. After working for five years at a marketing firm, in 2008 Patrick was recruited by the New York State Court System to enter the Court Officer Academy, which he graciously accepted. After 9 years in public service as a Court Officer, he was promoted to Senior Court Clerk. In 2024, he continued to climb the ranks and was promoted to Associate Court Clerk in Queens Supreme Court-Criminal Term. In 2025, he transferred to his current post in Queens Criminal Court, where he supervises numerous clerks and ensures the proper processing of thousands of cases annually.

When he began his career in the court system, Patrick joined the NYS Courts Pipes and Drums. With no musical background or education, he was finally eligible to join the band after two years of intensive training and practice. Patrick has proudly marched in every Rockaway and New York City St. Patrick's Day parade since 2009. He was recently elected to serve as the band's Pipe Sergeant, a true badge of honor and a testament of his commitment to his Irish heritage.

In 2016, Patrick became the proud father of Margaret "Maggie" Donlin. Maggie is in 3rd grade, plays the recorder & piano, and is truly Patrick's greatest accomplishment. Patrick and Maggie like to spend their free time at the trampoline park, the zoo and of course Maggie's favorite, Great Wolf Lodge.

Owen Loof

I am Owen Loof and I thank the Parade Committee for this great honor. I was born in Rockaway and have lived 64 years of my life here. The other twelve years I lived in Hawaii. I moved there after retiring from the Transit Authority, and armed with a master's degree in history, which I earned later in life, I taught History at Saint Damien School in Honolulu. I returned to Rockaway after Peggy, my wife of forty-five years, passed away. My two beautiful daughters, my extremely talented granddaughter, and a great son-in-law made the right decision an easy one. I needed them. As I needed my family after I returned from Viet Nam. Without them, I would not be here today.

I have always looked forward to the first Saturday in March and the Rockaway Parade. My grandparents on my mother's side are from County Mayo and County Roscommon. So, being able to celebrate my Irish heritage as a Deputy Grand Marshall in this Parade is just amazing, and would make my mother, Kay Loot with her high heels, very happy and proud.

Again, thank you for this great honor, and The Best Dressed Man will be happy too!

John Schilling Deputy Grand Marshal

John Joseph Schilling III is the Community Editor/Lead Reporter for The Wave, Rockaway's newspaper of record since 1893.

A lifelong Rockaway Beach resident, John is the son of Dr. John and Brenda Schilling, the older brother of Daniel Schilling, the boyfriend of Mary Doyle, and the grandson of John and Mary Schilling of Belle Harbor and John and Sue Ellen Sullivan of Rockaway Beach. He is a parishioner of St. Camillus Church and graduated from St. Camillus School in 2014 as the class valedictorian and the last lead drummer of the St. Camillus Marching Band.

John got his start in journalism during his high school years at Cathedral Preparatory School & Seminary, where he served as the Assistant Editor and Layout Editor of "The Current," the school's newspaper. Prior to his graduation in 2018, The Tablet awarded John for his movie reviews column two years in a row at the publication's High School Press Awards.

John began classes at CUNY Brooklyn College in the fall of 2018 and the following year, he joined The Brooklyn College Vanguard, the school's newspaper, as a staff writer. He was eventually promoted to the roles of Arts Editor and Managing Editor. In 2021, John started interning with The Wave and had his first byline in the hometown paper he grew up reading. When the internship ended, John remained with The Wave as a freelance reporter.

John then graduated with a B.S. in journalism and media studies in 2022 and taught writing to sixth graders at Cathedral Prep's Troike summer program before continuing his studies at CUNY's Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism that fall. During his coursework, John appeared on CUNYTV as an anchor for "219 West," the school's television magazine show, and earned an FAA drone pilot license. By the summer of 2023, John began interning with Schneps Media's The Queens Courier/QNS.com, covering local politics and arts events throughout Queens County.

In December 2023, John graduated with his M.A. and began working as The Wave's Community Editor in January 2024. Over the last two years, John has helped lead the weekly publication in collaboration with publisher Walter Sanchez and editor-in-chief Mark C. Healey. He currently serves on the St. Camillus-St. Virgilius Pastoral Council and the Cathedral Prep Board of Trustees, and he previously worked as Cathedral Prep's associate director of admissions.

John is a descendant of the Sullivan, Counihan, Geraghty, McCarthy, Coffin, Crowley, Healy, O'Leary, and O'Connell families across the counties of Cork, Mayo, Kerry, Waterford, and Kilkenny. His maternal great, great, great grandfather, John O'Connell, gave a speech in the House of Commons in 1893, asking for the right to start labor unions in Ireland. Upon returning to Ireland, O'Connell was beaten up by a gang and told to leave the country. Shortly after, O'Connell emigrated to Ellis Island with his family and helped start labor unions in the United States.

John is proud of his Irish roots and honored to be a deputy grand marshal in the 2026 Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

David (Dave) E. Stimus

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Ozone Park, Queens, Dave is the 2nd of four children born to David A. Stimus and Mary C. Stimus (nee Griffin); his parents are 2nd generation Irish immigrants with roots tracing back to County Cork, Ireland. An Irish-American through and through equally proud of his country of birth and Irish heritage. Although never married nor blessed with children of his own, Dave is a proud uncle of a dozen nieces & nephews as well as three godchildren which he supports in all endeavors and adores greatly. His siblings are Arthur & Regina (Stimus) Savarese, Timothy & Lori Stimus and William & Aileen (Stimus) Leibman.

Dave's early education included 12 years of Catholic school education; first at Nativity BVM grammar school in Ozone Park followed by 4 years at St. Francis Prep High School in Fresh Meadows. Upon graduation he entered the workforce and completed his college course of study on a part-time basis attending night courses at Pace University where he earned his Bachelors of Business Administration degree in Marketing.

His professional career spanned 30+ years in the insurance industry achieving executive positions at several multi-national companies the last of which was Global Accident & Health Risk Manager at Chubb Group, a global insurance corporation. He's been retired from his profession since 2018 and enjoys his life of leisure traveling and attending a multitude of sports and entertainment events. Additional activities and interests include golfing, skiing and supporting local pro sports teams.

Dave has been an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Rockaway Division 21 for the past 10 years and was recently elected to the Vice Presidency of the division after serving as division's Marshall for several years; he has consistently contributed to and volunteered at the various community fundraising and charitable events sponsored by and on behalf of the AOH.

Dave's religious life consists of being an active member of St. Helen Catholic Church in Howard Beach where for a short period of time he assisted the parish as a Sacristan. He currently volunteers as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) assisting at masses throughout the year in addition to visiting homebound parishioners on a weekly basis to distribute the Eucharist. He recently joined the parish's Holy Name Society and lives the faith daily.

RONDA DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL!!!

88th 1st Sergeant to Lead Queens Parade

Rockaway Beach, New York- The Queens County Parade and Cultural Committee has appointed 1st Sgt. Joseph Ronda of the 88th Company, Deputy Grand Marshal of the 51st Annual Queens County St Patrick's Day Parade.

The parade, long recognized as the 2nd largest St Patrick's Day Parade in the State of New York, steps off on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, from Bch 130th Street in Belle Harbor, Queens, at 1300hrs.

Ronda will not be the first New York Guardsman to be honored by the parade committee. The

88th's First Sergeant joins a growing list of honorees which includes, Lt. Raymond Lamboy (2018), Cpt. Ray Gallagher (2022), Csm. Steve Vera (2023), 2nd Lt. Michael Rogers (2024) and 2nd

Lt. Melissa Farrel (2025).

" It is a great honor to have been selected as Deputy Grand Marshal by the committee." said Ronda, "I grew up in Throgs Neck just around the corner from Meagher Avenue, and just 1.5

miles from Fort Schuyler, the birthplace of the 88th. " (*General Thomas Francis Meagher was the Commander of the Irish Brigade.*)

The 88th Company traces its lineage back to a time when it was the 2nd Regiment of the Union Army's Irish Brigade during the Civil War. At that, time the 88th was

primarily composed of Irish immigrants looking to gain their citizenship through military service. As the war dragged on and casualties mounted, the draft was used to furnish replacements for the fallen Soldiers. This diluted somewhat the Irish makeup of the 88th.

The Queens County St Patrick's Day Parade itself is preceded by two fund raising events. The next fundraiser is at Antuns on Saturday, February 7th, 2026. All those who would like to celebrate 1st Sgt. Ronda being honored as Deputy Grand Marshal are encouraged to attend. This event features dancing to a live band, a five-course dinner, and refreshments.

The UOD (Uniform of the Day) will be ASU (Army Service Uniform) or business attire. Additionally, there will be a Dinner Dance Journal carrying congratulatory ads for all of the honorees. Your support of this celebration would be most appreciated.

Contact Ed Shevlin for further information at thesentinel1917@gmail.com or via text at 917-226-5540.

JOHN "JAY" BURKE DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL

John "Jay" Burke was born in Sunset Park Brooklyn 08/25/1939 and summered in Breezy Point before permanently moving there in 1994. Jay's ancestors hail from County Galway. He was a member of the last class out of St. Ann's Academy before it became Molloy High School. Following his graduation from St. Ann's, Jay served in the United States Navy for 4 years. After being discharged, he earned his BA in English from St. Francis College. Jay then went on to earn a Masters in Communication from New York University.

While studying, Jay met and fell in love with Alice - a Brooklyn girl. They were married in Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 1963. They are still very much in love and raised seven children together. The Burkes are now grandparents to 17 children and great grandparents to 2

Jay's career began in the New York Public School system as both an educator and a coach. In the classroom, he taught English to countless students. He also served head coach in football, wrestling and softball. After a remarkable 35 year tenure in the school system, Jay retired. His retirement proved to be short lived, as he was called upon to help coach football at Xavier High School. This coaching position eventually led to him accepting a job teaching English. He was chosen to help lead Xavier as Assistant Headmaster, serving in that role for 8 years before his second retirement.

In addition to his coaching work with the New York Public Schools, Jay has been involved in athletics since 1960. He coached Little League & Sandlot baseball as well CYO basketball, and football. He also helped organize summer sports in Breezy. He is also involved with the Adaptive Sports Foundation and Wounded Warriors, spending many winters teaching people of varying abilities and obstacles to ski in Windham, NY.

Jay is a proud member of the American Legion and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 4 in Breezy Point. But what he's most proud of is being a coach for St. Camillus Special Olympics. He became involved in 1996, when he discovered the program while looking for group activities for his son then teenage son Terence, who has special needs, to participate in locally. Since then, Coach Jay has been a fixture at Springman Hall, teaching athletes and volunteers alike about sportsmanship and skills. He credits the program for helping Terence, now 43 and a great athlete, to prosper. Jay says "two things he never misses are pizza on Friday and St. Camillus Special Olympics on Monday nights." The program brought Terence to Ireland to compete in the world Special Olympics games, ski competitions in Windham, and other unique opportunities.

About St. Camillus Special Olympics, Jay has this to say: "The program helps all our kids become the best of who they are. They don't have to measure up to any set standard except their own accomplishments. This program has an adaptive focus on individual abilities. It is a place where all abilities can shine. The focus on the abilities not disabilities. Our athletes are special and should be celebrated. I am proud and grateful to have been a part of the journey."

Mary Beth Bertolini Deputy Grand Marshal

Mary Beth Bertolini, a life-long resident of Rockaway Beach, was blessed to have been raised by a very strong mother, Mary Colgan. Mary Beth's grandmother, Elizabeth often spoke of their Irish heritage, mentioning that their family roots stem from both County Mayo and County Cork. Together with her brother Tom, and sister Dana, Mary Beth enjoyed learning about Irish culture and being introduced to Irish- American music, and traditions throughout their childhood. Mary Beth has chosen to share her love of Irish culture with her daughter, Emma Rose

Macklin. Emma Rose, once an Irish Step Dancer, enjoys learning about their Irish heritage. Together, they have attended many Irish festivals, feisanna (dance) and fleadhanna (music) competitions. Together, they travelled to Ireland to explore their history and experience her beauty first hand.

Mary Beth attended PS 225, JHS 180, and Beach Channel High School. Throughout her youth she played sports and also coached both softball and basketball in the community. Her family lived in and were proud members of St. Camillus Parish, and she fondly remembers being a member of the choir. She enjoyed playing with the St. Camillus Band under Monsignor Burke.

Mary Beth completed her undergraduate degree at Molloy College and received her Master of Social Work from Fordham University. She worked as a social worker at St. John's Episcopal and Peninsula Hospitals. In 2014, she accepted a position at New York City Children's Center. Here, she pursued a lifelong career dream, working with children and adolescents.

Mary Beth founded Resilient Coordination in 2023. Together with her personally trained staff, the company helps to connect those with dementia and traumatic brain injury with all aspects of service coordination. This helps to keep seniors supported while they continue to live in the comforts of their own homes.

Mary Beth is a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 25 and currently holds the position of Financial Secretary for the local chapter 2672 of the Columbiettes. She is a member of the Killoran-Clancy-Whelan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, an organization that exists to promote Irish traditional music, song, dance, and language. She often volunteers at music competitions, ceilidh, and events hosted by Comhaltas. Mary Beth volunteers at the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade.

Mary Beth is very honored to have been selected as a Deputy Grand Marshall. This special acknowledgement is much appreciated. She wishes to congratulate her fellow honorees, to thank the parade committee for selecting her, and to wish all of her friends, family, and fellow members of the wonderful Rockaway Community a very Happy St. Patrick's Day Season. She is looking forward to a wonderful celebration of Irish Culture in her hometown of Rockaway Beach.

Anne Forde

The third of four children born to Liam Forde and Anne Sammon, Anne Forde was raised in a house devoted to pride in Irish heritage, faith, education, and family.

After making her first trip to Ireland at the age of 4, she has enjoyed a dozen trips visiting family in Clare & Galway (Sammon's), Cavan, Sligo, Leitrim & Fermanagh (Fitzpatrick's), and Mayo & Westmeath (Forde's). Family parties always involved passing the fiddle and accordion to play live music, taking turns singing Irish songs, and if you were not playing the music, you'd be dancing around the living room or backyard. Step dancing and accordion lessons were taken with my siblings from the Buckley Family in Belle Harbor and Marine Park, Brooklyn in the 80s and 90's. Spring and summer weekends were spent at the annual feis in Gaelic Park, Dunwoodie and New Haven, CT. Monthly ceilis in St Francis de Sales guided by Junior & Molly McKinney, Mr & Mrs Keenan and the Buckley family instilled a knowledge of set dances, waltzes and the Irish National Anthem while cementing friendships within the Irish community through the St Brendan Gaelic Society. It was with the St Brendan Gaelic Society that Anne first remembers proudly marching in the Rockaway St Patrick's Day parade in a sweater, knit with love by her Aunt Nora in Mullingar, in snow, rain, wind, and sunshine.

Pride in Irish Heritage was closely akin to the importance of Catholic faith. Baptized in St Virgilius Church and educated there through grade 8, Anne has been involved in almost every aspect of the church community - beginning with the choir while in elementary school. Her time in the choir ended when she began lecturing at the 10 AM mass while in high school, and then became a Minister of the Holy Eucharist shortly after. Now, more than 30 years later, Anne is proud to have been able to serve the parish of St Camillus as well, once our parishes merged. On behalf of the youth in both St Virgilius and St Camillus, Anne served as the PAR (Parish Athletic Representative) for St Virgilius and St Camillus to connect the CYO sports program of the Diocese of Brooklyn with the athletic teams of the BCAC in Broad Channel, while also serving as the Swim Coach of Vicam for almost 15 years.

The daughter of a teacher, she couldn't help but make a career in education herself. After graduating Beach Channel High School and then, St. John's University, Anne was hired at St Agnes Academic School in College Point, N.Y. where she was welcomed into the family of the Sisters of St Dominic of Amityville, LI. During her 18 years at St Agnes, she served as a Math & Science teacher, Department Chairperson, Volleyball Coach, and lastly, Assistant Principal of Academics before the school's closure was announced. She has since taught Physics for five years at The Mary Louis Academy and now teaches 5th and 6th grade Math at St Francis deSales Catholic Academy in Belle Harbor. In addition to her years at the elementary and high school level of academia, she has also worked as an Adjunct Instructor at St. John's University (both the Manhattan & Queens campuses) in the Department of Mathematics of St John's College of Liberal Arts since 2001.

Anne is proud of the support she has received from her parents, siblings, and their families - Patrick (Maria), Mary (Matthew), and William (Kristen); her nephew Patrick; nieces Ashley and Ava as well as her extended family of 42 first cousins and many aunts and uncles. Anne's father spent many years of his life working side by side helping Mike Benn in any capacity he could as a member of the Rockaway St Patrick's Day Parade Committee. His loss in 2010 has left her mom to carry on the family traditions established together.

Dr. Jameela Yusuff

Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Episcopal Health Services, works with the leadership team to develop and advance clinical strategies that align with the system's strategic plan, building benchmarks and tools to drive progress in care delivery, recruitment and retention, workforce planning, business development, and service expansion. She brings more than 20 years of healthcare leadership and clinical experience, including service as Chief Medical Officer at University Hospital of Brooklyn at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and as Medical Director of the STAR Program. Dr. Yusuff has been widely recognized for her contributions including the JetBlue Healthcare Heroes Award and Castle Connolly's Exceptional Woman in Medicine distinction.

Board certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Yusuff is a committed physician leader whose work extends across patient care, quality improvement, and public health. In addition to receiving numerous honors, she contributes her expertise nationally as a member of the National Quality Forum's Opioid and Behavioral Health Committee, and locally as a board member for CUNY Medical School and Communilife.

Dr. Yusuff earned her medical degree from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she also completed a Master of Science in Healthcare Delivery Leadership. She holds a Master of Public Health from SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, as well as a Bachelor of Science from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at City College of New York. In addition, she is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) and a Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS). Her research interests include HIV/HCV coinfection and smoking cessation interventions among people living with HIV.

Casey-Anne Brouder

Is a local artist, teacher, and community organizer from Rockaway Beach Queens. Born to Irish parents in 1985, Casey was raised in Breezy Point and attended St. Francis de Sales. Her father, who grew up on a farm in County Limerick met her mother while she was travelling in Ireland. They moved to New York and had three children, eventually settling down in Breezy Point.

Casey's talent as an artist emerged in her early childhood, and grew during her time at Stella Maris High School. She was accepted into The Fashion Institute of Technology as a Fine Arts Major. Her talent earned her awards in several art disciplines. During this time, she became a member of The Rockaway Artists Alliance, where she shared her talent and love of art with the Rockaway Community.

While marching with the Rockaway Artists Alliance in Coney Island's Mermaid Parade, a group of artists and community leaders decided to start a similar parade in Rockaway Beach. This was the birth of Rockaway's Poseidon's Parade, which is in its 11th year this summer. The Parade brings a variety of members of the Queens Community to the boardwalk each year for a display of creativity and expression. Casey dedicates her efforts to fundraising and organizing this colorfully creative event each year through her non-profit "Poseidon's Parade Inc."

Casey is also an art teacher in a local school for students with disabilities at P256Q. She brings her love of creativity and expression into the school setting, where she can share it with students who need it the most. Each year Casey has the privilege of working with these special students and helping them experience the joy of art. She has worked for the public schools in Rockaway Beach for over 15 years. "Running into my old students, many of whom have entered the art field as professionals brings joy to my heart. Helping people get in touch with their innate creativity and expression is what builds a strong and beautiful community."

Casey is married with two children who both attend St. Francis de Sales. She is dedicated to the Rockaway Community, and is proud of her Irish roots and citizenship. She is honored to be a part of the Fifty First St. Patrick's Parade. She has participated in, or viewed this parade every single year since her childhood, and it has helped foster her love of parades and community events; a love that has been spread throughout Queens County.

ALICE EDWARDS DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL

Alice L Edwards (nee Foley), was born in Manhattan, NY to Maura Burns Foley, who hailed from Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, and her father Michael Foley, who hailed from Lixnaw, Co. Kerry. Alice's family, along with her younger brother, Michael, moved from Manhattan to Rockaway Beach, NY in 1972. Alice attended St. Francis de Sales elementary school in both Manhattan, and Rockaway Beach and went to Stella Maris High School. Upon graduation, Alice started working in the city in 1982. Alice worked as an executive secretary at various companies, most notable was Guy Carpenter Reinsurance Company. In 2004, Alice started working for the NYC Department of Education and is currently a payroll secretary.

During high school in 1980, Alice met and later married Mark C. Edwards in 1989. Mark's father hails from Crumlin, Co. Dublin, and his late mother, Monica Brennan Edwards, parents hailed from Co. Mayo and Co. Kilkenny.

Alice and her husband have three children and one son-in-law, Maeghan is a NYC Teacher, her husband T.J. Carroll is a FDNY Firefighter, son Sean Edwards is a FDNY Firefighter, and Maura, a Junior Mechanical Engineering Student at York College PA.

Alice and her family spent many summers visiting her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins in Kerry and Monaghan. Alice's love of her Irish faith, heritage and music have been shared with her own children who have visited Ireland many times.

With deep pride for her Irish heritage, Alice joined the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 25 Rockaway Beach. Both Alice's parents had been members of the AOH/LAOH Division 21 & 22. LAOH Division 25, runs various fundraising events throughout the year, which benefit the surrounding community. Additionally, the division marches in both the Rockaway St. Patrick's Day Parade and the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC.

Alice and her family are extremely proud that she has been selected as a Deputy Grand Marshal for 2026 Rockaway St. Patrick's Day Parade.

DR. JUDY McLAUGHLIN, DNP,MS,BSN,BS,RN

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL

JUDY McLAUGHLIN IS A DISTINGUISHED REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE WITH A TERMINAL DOCTORATE DEGREE IN NURSING PRACTICE AND A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP. HER CAREER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE SERVING AS CHIEF NURSING OFFICER AT STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NORTHWELL HEALTH AND CHIEF NURSING EXECUTIVE AT THE BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER. PRIOR TO THESE ROLES, SHE DEDICATED MANY YEARS TO LUTHERAN MEDICAL(WHICH LATER BECAME NYU LANGONE HOSPITAL-BROOKLYN) WHERE SHE ROSE TO THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF AMBULATORY OPERATIONS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES.

DR. McLAUGHLIN ENSURES OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES THROUGH STRATEGIC UTILIZATION OF LEAN SIX SIGMA CERTIFICATION TO ENHANCE QUALITY INDICATORS AND MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PATIENT CARE. SHE IS A FORWARD THINKING LEADER WHO EMBRACES TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, FOSTERS INNOVATION, PROVIDES DEDICATED MENTORSHIP AND CHAMPIONS EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE. SHE IS COMMITTED TO CREATING COLLABORATIVE WORK ENVIRONMENTS WHERE NURSES ARE EMPOWERED TO CONTRIBUTE TO DECISION MAKING AND PURSUE CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DR. McLAUGHLIN'S HUSBAND IS A VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AS WELL AS A RETIRED DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE WITH THE NYPD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION. IRONICALLY, THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IS MARCH 17TH. SAINT PATRICK'S DAY. TOGETHER THEY HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME ENJOYING COUNTLESS PARADES AND FESTIVALS AS TOM PLAYED IN NYC TRANSIT POLICE IRISH WARPIPE BAND, HER SON AS A PIPE MAJOR FOR BOTH ZAVERIAN HIGH SCHOOL AND IONA COLLEGE PIPE BAND AND IS NOW A BAGPIPER WITH THE CEREMONIAL UNIT OF THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION BLACK AND GOLD PIPE BAND. JUDY'S DAUGHTERS ARE INTO IRISH STEP DANCING AND JUDY ENJOYS PAINTING, BOCCE, READING AND DEEPLY VALUES SPENDING TIME WITH HER FAMILY AND PLAYING WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN. AFTER SPENDING HER TIME WATCHING, JUDY IS NOW HAPPY TO FINALLY GET TO MARCH IN HER OWN PARADE, WHERE HER FAMILY CAN CHEER HER ON.

