

EDWARD P. BOLES

The Grand Council United Emerald Societies

2020 AIDE TO THE GRAND MARSHAL



Edward (Eddie) P. Boles was appointed to the FDNY on May 9, 1993 and was promoted to Battalion Chief in the FDNY in April of 2018. Chief Boles is currently assigned to the 6th Division in the Bronx and is the former company commander of Ladder 59 (The Blue Devils) in the Bronx and a member of the FDNY Ceremonial Unit. Eddie started his career as a firefighter in Engine 36 and Ladder 34, a Lieutenant in Ladder 55 and the Treasurer/ Lieutenant's Representative on the Executive Board of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA), Local# 854, I.A.F.F for eight years. While serving on the UFOA Board, Eddie was also the UFOA's Legislative Committee Chair, the Family Protection Plan Benefits Committee Chair and the District Vice President of the NYS Professional Firefighters.

Eddie Boles is a first generation Irish-American born in Woodside, Queens. His mother, Kathleen (nee McGee) is from Fintown, Co. Donegal and his father, Christopher Boles is from Geevagh, Co. Sligo.

A product of Catholic Education, Eddie graduated from St. Sebastian's in Woodside and St. Francis Prep High School before earning his Bachelor's Degree in Education from SUNY Cortland. He later attended Graduate School at Hunter College and Brooklyn College studying for an M.A. in Community Health. Before entering the FDNY, Eddie taught Health and Physical Education at Humanities High School in Manhattan for six years. He was also an Adjunct Lecturer at the Borough of Manhattan Community College for twelve years until he was elected to the UFOA Executive Board in 2005. In 2011, Eddie completed the prestigious Harvard Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School after receiving a scholarship from the International Association of Firefighters (one of two scholarship winners awarded annually).

As an enthusiast of his Irish heritage and culture, Eddie is an active participant in many organizations in the Irish-American community that include: serving as a Vice President for the New York Friends of Ireland; Executive Board Vice Chair and President for the Emerald Isle Immigration Center; Executive Committee member of the County Sligo Association; and a member of the FDNY Gaelic Football Club, FDNY Rugby Club, FDNY Emerald Society, FDNY Holy Name Society, the James Connolly Irish-American Labor Coalition, the Irish Arts Center, and a band member of Celtic Blend. Retired from Gaelic Football and Rugby after playing for nearly four decades, Eddie is instrumental in helping to raise money for the Burn Center Foundations in New York, Dublin, and Belfast through Gaelic Football charity matches against the Dublin Fire Brigade and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. Additionally, Eddie has been involved in many community and charity events throughout the years and has always advocated the importance of giving back to those most in need.

In 2007, Eddie received the Captain Timothy Stackpole Memorial Award at the Great Irish Fair in Coney Island, which was named for the Brooklyn hero firefighter who lost his life on 9/11. This award was in recognition for Eddie's service and dedication to the citizens of New York City. He was also honored by the County Sligo Association in 2008 as their Guest of Honor; he was a 2011 Irish Echo Labor 50 honoree; he was the 2013 Man of the Year for the FDNY Holy Name Society; he was the 2014 Deputy Grand Marshal for the Queens St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rockaway; an Irish Echo First Responder award recipient in 2014; a recipient of the Detective Barney Ferguson Emerald Legacy Award in 2017; and the 2018 FDNY Emerald Society Man of the Year.

When Eddie is not fighting fires in the Bronx, he serves as President of CPS Optical and Dental Inc. whose company provides vision, hearing and dental benefits to nearly 3 million union members and their families.

Eddie is happily married for twenty-nine years to his college sweetheart Trish (nee Carroll) from Holy Name Parish in Brooklyn and they are blessed with four wonderful adult children: Conor, Micaela, Ceili, and Brendan