



# Robert J. McCann

2026 Grand Marshal  
NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Robert J. McCann was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and is a third-generation Irish American with roots in County Armagh. He holds dual Irish and American citizenship, embodying the enduring connection between Ireland and New York City. Serving as a bridge between his ancestral homeland and the city that shaped his professional life, he is President of the Irish Arts Center's Board of Directors. In this role, Mr. McCann has been instrumental in promoting and preserving Irish culture in New York, particularly through the Center's transformative growth, which led to the opening of a \$60 million new facility in 2021 and redevelopment plans for its original building.

Professionally, Mr. McCann has played a significant role in strengthening New York's position as a global financial capital through leadership positions at three distinct financial services firms. As President of Global Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch and later as CEO of UBS Americas, he led organizations employing thousands and contributing greatly to the city's economic vitality. Today, as an investor and Co-Chairman of NewEdge Capital Group, Mr. McCann continues to impact the financial landscape of the New York metropolitan area while also championing the vibrant Irish-American cultural community that has been central to the city's identity for generations.



# Patrick J. Ryder

## 2026 Irishman of the Year

### GCUES Aide to the Grand Marshal

Patrick J. Ryder, was appointed Acting Police Commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department on July 20, 2017. He was formally sworn in as Police Commissioner on February 26, 2018.

Commissioner Ryder's distinguished law enforcement career commenced with the New York City Police Department on January 4, 1984. Subsequently, he joined the Nassau County Police Department on July 18, 1986, and was assigned to the 3rd Precinct. In 1989, he was transferred to the Bureau of Special Operations. In 1995, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the 5th Precinct, 8th Squad, and the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) as the Deputy Commanding Officer.

In 2008, he was designated as the Commanding Officer of Asset Forfeiture & Intelligence (AFI). During his tenure, he proactively implemented several life-saving programs and initiatives that significantly contributed to ensuring officer and public safety. These initiatives include the Nassau County Police Department's Real-Time Intelligence (RTI) system, the R.E.A.C.H. Program, the Civilian Intelligence Analyst Program, the DNA Collection Initiative, and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Unit, Think Tank, and the Department's Criminal Intelligence Rapid Response Team (CIRRT). Collectively, these initiatives have substantially reduced crime. Nassau County was recently ranked as the safest county in America in 2025, continuing its reputation for low crime rates and effective law enforcement.

Commissioner Ryder holds a Master's Degree in Homeland Security and Management from Long Island University. He is an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and Intelligence-Led Policing at Nassau Community College and previously taught at Dowling College. Currently, he serves on the Advisory Board for Criminal Justice at SUNY Farmingdale and has been a Counter-Terrorism Lecturer at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security.

Patrick's parents, Seamus and Kathleen Ryder, were newly wed when they arrived in New York City in 1955 from County Dublin, Ireland. Like many of the new Irish immigrant families, they settled in Queens. Subsequently, Seamus and Kathleen relocated east for a better life in Lynbrook, New York, where they raised six children.

Patrick and his wife Jill have three children: Liam, Sean, and Meghan.



## Brian Hennelly

FDNY Emerald Society  
GCUES Aide to the Grand Marshal  
Bayside Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Brian Hennelly is a Lieutenant with the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) and serves as a Board Member of the FDNY Emerald Society. Raised in Fresh Meadows, New York, he comes from an Irish Catholic family and is the eldest of five children of Thomas and Patricia Hennelly. He was educated at Holy Family Grammar School, Saint Francis Preparatory High School, and Iona College.

In the fall of 1995, he began working on Bell Boulevard as a bar back at BB Jr's, later becoming the owner of Bellview Sports Bar, which he operated from 1998 to 2004. Following the sale of the business, he continued bartending on Bell Boulevard for the next 16 years at Monahan's, Sullivan's, and OSP. A former high school and collegiate football player, he returned to his alma mater to coach high school football for ten years.

Brian is an active member of the FDNY and was involved with the Bravest Football Team for sixteen years. He currently serves as Director of the Rooney Fund, which supports firehouses with members diagnosed with 9/11-related cancers and now also provides scholarships to Catholic high schools for children of Emerald Society members. He is also a licensed Real estate Agent with deep ties to the Garden City South Community.

In 2006, Brian married his wife, Lea. They have three beautiful daughters: Mia (17), Kylie (15), and Dylan (10). He coaches his daughters' basketball team for St. Anne's Parish in Garden City and has served as a board member of his daughters' Little League since 2015, where he continues to volunteer and coach.



## Francis J. Sheridan, Jr.

NYS Courts Emerald Society  
GCUES Aide to the Grand Marshal  
Brooklyn Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Francis (Frank) J. Sheridan, Jr., was born in Brooklyn, NY to Frank and Marie Sheridan, both of whom were of Irish descent (Counties Cavan and Galway, approximately 1820 And 1850). Growing up in the small community of Garritsen Beach, Frank lived with his parents, his grandmother, his two older brothers, one younger brother and his seven sisters. Frank was the 10th of 11 children. Frank always had a strong commitment to family, community, and his Irish heritage. Frank attended Resurrection R.C. grade school in Gerritsen Beach, and then Sheepshead Bay High School. After graduating from high school, his parents sold their home on Knapp St. in Brooklyn and moved to Ticonderoga, New York. Ticonderoga was a special place for the Sheridan family as every year during the last two weeks of August, this is where the family would go on for a family vacation.

In October 1978, Frank joined the United States Air Force shortly after moving to Ticonderoga. Frank was an Air Force security policeman assigned to the 91st Missile Security Squadron at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

After separating from the Air Force in 1982 as a Staff Sergeant, Frank joined the United Nations Security Police at the New York headquarters. In 1984, Frank began his court system career as a court officer assigned to the Appellate Term of the New York State Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Under the guidance of former Chief Clerks Jack Cahill and Nancy Sunshine, Frank rose through the ranks. In 2007, Frank was promoted to Court Clerk Specialist, working as the Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Operations in the King's County Clerk's office for former Celts Grand Marshall, Kings County Clerk/Commissioner of Jurors, Honorable Nancy T. Sunshine, Esq. In December 2025 Frank was promoted to Chief Deputy County Clerk and Deputy Commissioner of Jurors for the Kings County Clerk/Commissioner of Jurors office.

Frank and his wife Lorraine, have two sons and their spouses, Gregory Patrick (Hillary Jordan) and Sean Ryan (Danise Pimpinella). As a dad and an active member of the Marine Park Community, and an active member of St. Columba parish, Frank has been a volunteer coach for his children at football, baseball, basketball, and hockey. In addition to coaching his sons for Saint Columba Youth Council, Frank has been active for the last 35 years in running the Youth Council sports program for over 1500 boys and girls. Frank's love and dedication to his family is evident to all who know him, and this is true of his court family as well. Many members of the Sheridan family have or continue to work in the court system, including Frank's three brothers, two nephews, a niece, and a cousin.

Frank has been a member of The Celts of The New York State Court System since he first began his court career and has proudly marched in the Celts Saint Patrick's Day Parade for over 20 years. Frank was also the last Grand Marshall along with the Honorable Robert Miller in 2020. Frank has been the President of the New York State Courts Emerald Society since January of 2025.



## Father Brendan Fitzgerald

FDNY Emerald Society  
GCUES Deputy Grand Marshal  
Queens County Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Fr. Brendan Ahern Fitzgerald is one of four sons born to Esther and Denis Fitzgerald, both natives of County Kerry, Ireland. Growing up, Fr. Brendan attended high school in Ireland and spent his summers in the Rockaways, NY. After completing his secondary education at St. Brendan's College, Killarney, Fr. Fitzgerald entered St Patrick's Seminary, Maynooth, in County Kildare, Ireland, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and then spent a pastoral year working with Mother Theresa in Calcutta. Fr. Fitzgerald went on to continue his academic formation in Rome, where he graduated with a Master's in Theology. He continued his studies at Fordham University, where he earned a Master's and an A.P.D. in Education. In 2000, Fr. Fitzgerald was ordained a priest at St. John's Cathedral, Limerick, Ireland. He spent his first year of priesthood in Meeelick, County Clare, and was then appointed a Diocesan Advisor for Education for the Diocese of Limerick. Fr. Fitzgerald held this position for five years before returning to New York to work as a Parochial Vicar in Saint Barnabas Parish the Bronx, from 2006 to 2009.

He then spent a brief period as Parochial Vicar at St. Margaret of Cortona, Riverdale, before being appointed priest secretary to His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan. In 2012, Fr. Fitzgerald was appointed Pastor of Regina Coeli, Hyde Park, NY, and in 2016, Pastor of Saint Barnabas in the Bronx. Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald is Chaplain to, the FDNY Emerald Society, as well as the FDNY Holy Name Society, FDNY G.A.A, United Emerald Societies, AOH Division 5, the New York GAA, as well as Chaplain of the NY Kerry Association. Since 2018, Fr. Fitzgerald annually celebrates a mass in Gaelic and it has become a national AOH event. In 2022, Fr. Fitzgerald was honored with the 'The Spirit of 1916' Award by Bronx County AOH. He served as the Bronx County Aide to the Grand Marshal, Michael Benn, in the NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, 2025.



## Kevin Burke

FDNY Emerald Society  
FDNY Aide to the Grand Marshal  
NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Kevin, a lifelong Bronx resident, is the third of four children born to Bridget (Nee Hoare) and Michael. His Mom hailed from County Kerry while both of Dads parents were from County Galway.

Kevin and his siblings were raised in the Wakefield section of the Bronx where they attended grammar school at St. Frances of Rome. Kevin attended high school at Mount St. Michael Academy and later went on to Manhattan College where he would obtain a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering.

In January of 1985 he joined the NYPD (Housing) and in August of the same year he was sworn into the FDNY. Upon graduation from the Fire Academy he was assigned to Ladder 51 in the Bronx. Promotions included Fire Marshal in 1994 and Lieutenant in 1996 where he would eventually be assigned to Ladder 35 (Manhattan). A promotion in March of 2003 to Captain would lead him back to the Bronx (Division 6). In February of 2004 he would find a home in Engine 71 in the Melrose area of the Bronx where he continues to proudly work today.

He is a member of both the Emerald Society and Holy Name Society.

Growing up in the Wakefield section, Kevin has not gone too far as he moved 'over the bridge' to Woodlawn (some call it County Woodlawn). In 2004, he was finally able to convince Diane (Nee Flanagan), AKA 'the Beautiful One', to marry him. In 2016, his stepson Michael married Eilish Reilly in County Cavan where Eilish is from. They live nearby in Yonkers. Diane and Kevin are active members of St. Barnabas Church where they were married and continue to live in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx.



## Kevin Sherlock

NYPD Emerald Society  
NYPD Aide to the Grand Marshal  
NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Kevin Gerard Sherlock was born in Queens, New York, to parents who immigrated from Ireland. He grew up with two siblings, Geralyn DeMayo and Thomas Sherlock. His father, Thomas Sherlock, originated from Doo Castle, County Mayo, while his mother, Ann T. Sherlock (née Honan), was from Baltard, County Clare.

Kevin attended Saint Mary's Help of Christians from first through eighth grade. He continued his education at Christ the King High School. He later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York (SUNY), Master of Public Administration from Marist College and completed a certification in Child Protection at Harvard University. He also holds the qualification of New York State Certified Police Instructor.

Kevin dedicated thirty-three years to law enforcement, beginning his career with the New York City Police Department on January 21, 1985. He advanced through various bureaus and was promoted to Lieutenant. In 2003, he became the Commanding Officer of the 25 Detective Squad in East Harlem. His commitment earned him another promotion in August 2006, when he became Lieutenant Commander of Detectives. In his final assignment, Kevin served as Commanding Officer of the Citywide Missing Person Squad within the Special Investigations Division. He oversaw crucial cases involving missing individuals throughout New York City. His leadership helped ensure diligent and professional investigations, providing closure for families and communities. Kevin retired from the NYPD on November 28, 2018.

Kevin has actively participated in both professional and community organizations. He served as President of the NYPD Manhattan, Bronx, and Staten Island Holy Name Society. He is a member and former delegate of the NYPD Emerald Society, and is also affiliated with the Police Anchor Club, the Knights of Columbus George W. Hudson Council, and the Fraternal Order of Police Stephen P. Driscoll Memorial Lodge #704.

Kevin resides in Kent, New York, Putnam County, with his wife Sheila (née Tierney), who is from Woodside, Queens. Sheila's parents, Gerald and Ann Tierney (née Reilly), are originally from Ballyhaise and Cootehill in County Cavan. Kevin and Sheila are the parents of two daughters, Brenna Marie and Annie Caiteriona.

As a proud Irish American, Kevin has visited Ireland more than twenty times, spending several summers working on family farms, saving hay, and helping milk cows. He enjoys Irish plays, musicals, and concerts in the Metropolitan area. Kevin is also an active participant in Irish music sessions, where he enjoys singing.

Kevin has been a resolute participant in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade since childhood. In previous years, he represented the Holy Name Society at parade committee meetings, contributing to preparations for this memorable event.



## Brian McCabe

NYPD Emerald Society

Grand Marshal

Mid-Hudson Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Brian is one of a large Irish American family with a distinguished tradition of service in the political, legal, law enforcement, fire service, educational, building trades and cultural life of the Irish-American Community.

Growing up in a family of twelve siblings, Brian was introduced to his Gaelic heritage and Catholic faith from the cradle. He has raised his five children with the same pride in those traditions, and is doing the same with his six grandchildren.

Brian has been involved in very many aspects of our shared traditions, supporting Gaelic Athletic Association growth and events, sponsoring and supporting Irish art and music, mentoring recent Irish arrivals on the path to citizenship and maintaining focus on the unfinished promise of the Good Friday Agreement, seeking peace and reconciliation in a United Ireland.

To that end, Brian is currently a representative for Ireland's Future, advocating for national reunification through an all-Ireland referendum and recently leading a team to the nation's capital to meet with Congressional leaders to advance that goal.

The former Chairman of the American Irish Historical Society, Brian led the successful campaign to reform that important symbol of the contributions of Irish and Irish American people to the development of the United States of America.

Brian feels it very important to continue to maintain the standing of our community and expand, promote and raise our profile in wider society. To that end he has been involved in numerous initiatives to promote our shared culture including:

Organizing and chairing "The Meitheal, Irish-America In Support of Healthcare Workers", an organization that supported hospital workers, primarily our sisters in Nursing, and Irish American businesses that suffered during the initial months of the Covid pandemic.

Organizing and receiving a new charter for Orange County AOH Division 3 in 2019, the first new Division to be installed in New York State for a very significant length of time. Brian serves as President of Div.3 and is also a Board Officer of the Orange County AOH.

Organizing a parade in Warwick where he has resided with his wife Joan and family for over twenty years.

Conceiving of an annual Warwick Valley Irish Cultural and Athletic Festival which is currently in development.

Passionately believing in the conservation and promotion of our shared values and heritage, Brian believes it essential to grow our organizations and in particular, reach out to young people to keep the flame alive.

Brian enjoyed a long and accomplished career primarily in the NYPD Detective Bureau as a detective and squad commander and was widely recognized for his service in the Irish Peace Process during which he served as the American liaison and facilitator for key Irish participants in the process, while also providing logistical support and security.

He is currently a System Director with the WMC/Bon Secours Charity Health System and is a consultant in investigative and security operations, creative and educational projects.

Brian is also a featured columnist with the Irish Echo newspaper.



## 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.



## Francis O'Keefe

DSNY Emerald Society  
Aide to the Grand Marshal  
Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Frank O'Keefe has been a Yonkers resident for the past 46 years where he and Mary, his wife of 49 years, raised their three children. Frank, son of Nora (Curran) and James O'Keefe, both from County Kerry, Ireland grew up in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx. He was the youngest of six children. From a very young age, Frank embraced his Irish heritage and has passed that passion onto his own children and grandchildren.

Frank attended Mt St Michael Academy and graduated from St. Leo University in 1974 with a degree in History. He was a member of Local 1 Paperhandlers Union and worked for the New York Post for 23 years. During his tenure, he served as Recording Secretary of the Union for 10 years. He then joined NYC Department of Sanitation where he was employed for 23 years, rising to the rank of District Superintendent. Through DSNY, he was an active member of the Emerald Society, and served as a Board member, Scholarship Chairman and Journal Chairman for many years. Additionally, Frank played the drums in the DSNY Emerald Society Band and was Secretary of that group. He retired from DSNY in 2013 and is currently a Tour Guide at Yankee Stadium.

Frank has always been very active in the New York Irish community, and joined the Kerry Association in 1975. Through the years, he has held various positions within the Association, including President from 2018-2020 following in his Fathers' footsteps, who was President from 1953-1955. Frank is currently serves on the Board of Kerry AssociationProperty Inc. and is a delegate for the Kerry Association to the United Irish Counties.

As a long-standing delegate of the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, he served as President for two terms. Currently, he is on the New York City St Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee, a role he has held for the past 10 years. Additionally, he is the Secretary of the Narrowbacks, Thomas Minogue division, and a member Division 9 of the AOH New York County.

As proud as Frank is of his Irish heritage, it is Frank's family that is his true passion. Eldest son Patrick, married to Megan and has Brynne, 14 and James 12 and live in Eastchester. Son Sean, who lives in New Rochelle is married to Donielle and they have five children; Brendon 19, Kyleigh 16, Declan 12, Timmy 9 and Maeve 4. Molly, who served as the 2011 Southern California Rose of Tralee is the youngest child.

For many years, Frank has participated in the Yonkers parade both as a participant and spectator. His earliest recollection is marching proudly up South Broadway in the '50's holding his fathers hand. Growing up and spending so much of his childhood years on McLean Ave, passing St Barnabas where he attended grade school and received all his sacraments add to this very special honor. Frank wishes to dedicate this day to honor his older brother Paddy who died serving his country in South VietNam in March of 1968.