

INSIDERNJ.COM



2025
PRIDE IN IRISH
AMERICAN HERITAGE

NEW JERSEY'S IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025

INSIDERNJ's annual tribute to St. Patrick's Day and this year's list is our way of acknowledging the accomplishments and contributions of New Jersey's Irish American leaders.

Once again, the list includes dozens of newcomers and veterans, alike. Their profiles attest to their pride in the Irish American heritage.

Last year's traditional "Tip of the Top Hat" was a salute to three men of the Giblin clan, New Jersey's iconic Irish American family. For three generations they were honored with the Grand Marshal's top hat and sash to lead New Jersey's oldest Irish parade.

TIP OF THE TOP HAT



IRISH AMERICAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE William J. Brennan, Jr.



This year, considering the topical issues of immigration and constitutional rights, we offer a salute to the son of Irish immigrants, the late United States Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr., with a “Tip of the Top Hat.” Justice Brennan was a strong advocate of individual freedoms and the principles of equality and justice. He was one of America’s most influential jurists.

While paying homage to Justice Brennan, we also acknowledge one of the individuals on this year’s list, none other than Guy Sterling, the retired, award-winning, old-school reporter for the (no longer a print edition) Star-Ledger newspaper.



Guy Sterling

Guy’s invaluable contribution to Irish American history is evidenced by the pivotal role he played, along with county officials, in the erecting of the Justice Brennan statue outside and atop the steps of the Essex County Hall of Records where it proudly stands today. Guy traces his maternal Irish roots to County Kerry and on his father’s side to County Antrim in the north of Ireland.

Guy’s own words reflect both the reverence and importance of the historical role of the Irish American experience in America and how the Irish rarely forget those who have come before them.

“After retiring from The Star Ledger...I decided to get involved in civic activities and history-related projects in Newark. My family was from Newark, and I had lived and worked in the city for more than 30 years.

“The first project... was getting a statue erected in honor of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr., a Newark native and a true giant in American jurisprudence... particularly for what he had done on behalf of a free press in America.

“...where better than the city in which he was born, raised and went to high school, the city that was close to his heart until the day he died and where his father, an Irish immigrant, had once been a city commissioner and one of Newark’s most beloved leaders.”

Justice Brennan was born April 25, 1906, in Newark, New Jersey the second of eight children of William Joseph Brennan and Agnes McDermott Brennan, Irish immigrants originally from Co. Roscommon, Ireland.

Justice Brennan’s father, William “Bill” Brennan Sr., was a labor union leader (Local 55) and eventually became a Newark City Commissioner. A popular figure, he died in 1930 at age 57. More than 40,000 people came to see him lie in state at City Hall. His mother, Agnes Brennan, was a homemaker.

They didn’t know each other before they met in NJ. They were married at St. John’s Catholic Church in Newark on the 17th of June 1903.

Justice Brennan graduated from the city’s Barringer High School, the University of Pennsylvania

in 1928 and from Harvard Law School in 1931. He was admitted as an attorney in 1932. He practiced law and served in the U.S. Army as a Judge Advocate General attaining the rank of Colonel before he was appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court in 1949.



Pictured on their wedding day: William J. Brennan Sr., born at Leggatinty, Frenchpark Roscommon (Dec 1872), and his wife, Bridget Agnes McDermott, born at Cloonfad, Tibohine, Roscommon (June 1878).

Justice Brennan was elevated to the appellate division prior to joining the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1952.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower named him to the United States Supreme Court in 1956. He served as associate justice until retiring in 1990 at the age of 84. He died on July 24, 1997, at the age of 91.

He was the first Roman Catholic appointed to the Supreme Court. His unshakable belief in the Constitution as the guardian of individual rights and liberties garnered him worldwide acclaim and respect.

His statue, created by Jay Warren of Oregon, and erected on June 3, 2010, was the first one to be dedicated at the Essex County Government Complex since Gutzon Borglum's "Seated Lincoln" was unveiled in 1911.

The William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse in Jersey City is also named for him, and a bronze bust of his likeness is outside the NJ Supreme Court courtroom at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton. (Sources: The Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C., and the New Jersey Courts)

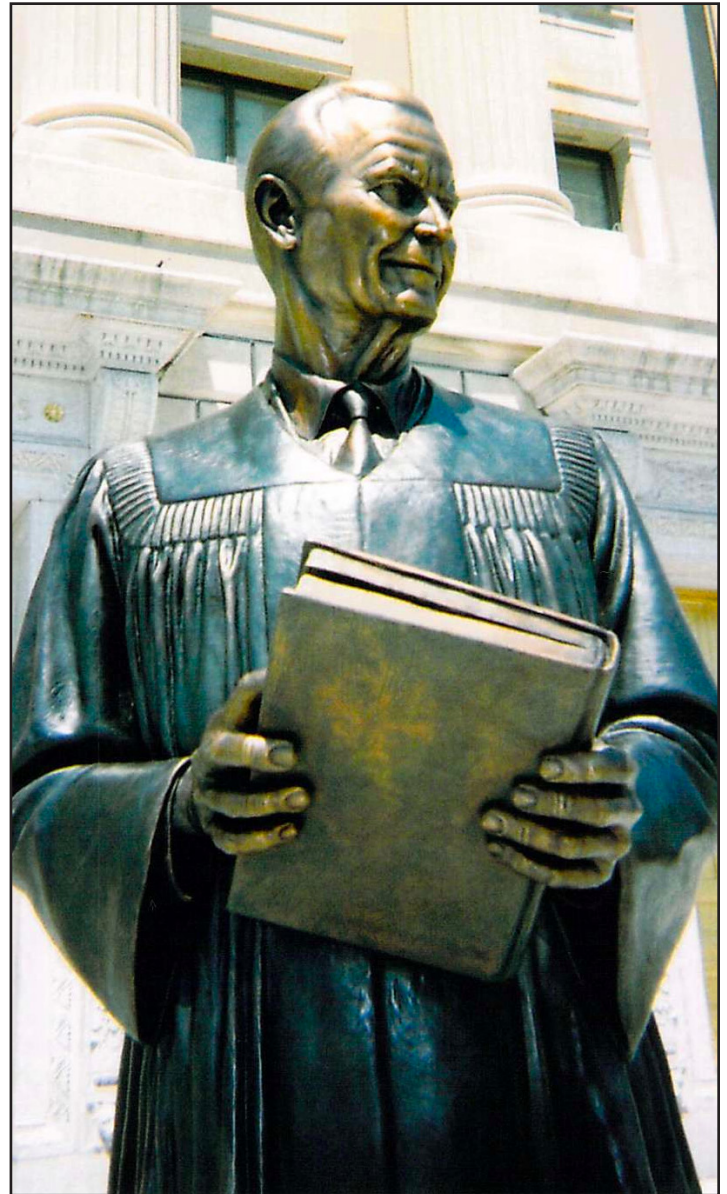
In keeping with tradition and as a salute to St. Patrick's Day, we pay homage this year to Supreme Court Justice Brennan, proud son of Irish immigrants, and his champion Guy Sterling on what's often referred to as these Irish 'High Holy' Days.



TOM BARRETT

Compiler of the list would like our readers to know it is purely subjective.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!



IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



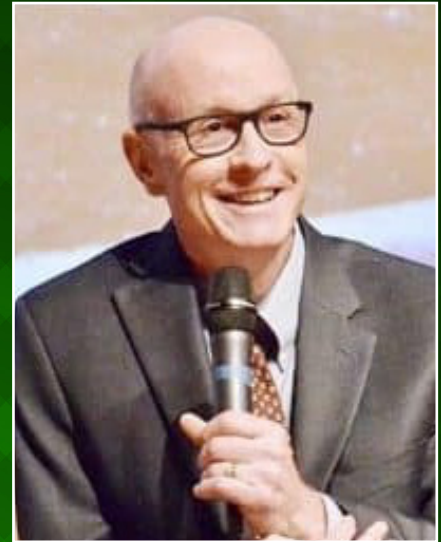
CHRISTOPHER D. ADAMS, ESQ.

Partner Greenbaum Rowe, Red Bank. Past President/Criminal Defense Bar. Selected by Best Lawyers as Woodbridge "Lawyer of the Year"/ Criminal Defense/ General Practice (2023).



WILLIAM (BILL) BARONI

Former NY/NJ Port Authority Executive, Seton Hall Law Professor and New Jersey State Senator. His mother immigrated to America from Ireland.



DAN BARRY

Maplewood-based. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist and author. Winner / Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award.



AIMEE BELGARD

New Jersey Superior Court Judge, Burlington County. Aimee served as an Edgewater Park Township Committee- woman and Burlington County Freeholder. She was a former candidate for Congress (CD-3).



BRIAN BORU, INC. HONOREES.

82nd Anniversary: Bernard Corrigan, Abbot Augustine J. Curley, Stacy McCormack, and Judge Francine Schott (ret.).



MAUREEN DUNPHY BRADY

Instructor/ Rutgers (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) & Brookdale Community College. Member / Advisory Committee/ Irish American Cultural Institute, John Walsh Chapter. Summa Cum Laude grad / St. John's University with a NYU Master's Degree: Irish & Irish - American studies.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JOSEPH P. BRENNAN, ESQ.

Three-term Essex County Surrogate (retired). Twice elected West Orange Council President. Decorated Vietnam War veteran. Former Grand Marshal / West Orange Irish Parade.



LAUREL BRENNAN

Highly regarded South Jersey Labor leader. Secretary-Treasurer NJ State AFL-CIO. Past recipient of the Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award. 2022 Brian Boru Honoree.



JESSICA SHEA-BROWN

Founder and President of the (new) chapter/Monmouth County Daughters of Ireland.



DECLAN BURKE

Senior Director/ Center for Science & Digital Assessment Design, ETS, Princeton. "Man of the West" / Dunmore, County Galway, Ireland. Graduate/ Ireland's National University, MA/Seton Hall, MBA / Rutgers.



MEGHAN BARRETT BURKE, ESQ.

Deputy General Counsel, Colas Inc. Global Infrastructure Construction Co., Morristown. Former Partner / Connell Foley. Honors grad. Providence College/University of Galway, Ireland. JD / SHU Law School.



STEPHEN BURKE

Ten term Fairview Borough Councilman. League of Municipalities Hall of Fame Inductee. Business Official /NJDOE (retired). Member /Hudson County AOH Division 1.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JACKIE BURNS

Political Operative/Communications Expert / Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-11). Former Campaign Manager. Five years / Office of the Historian/ U.S. House of Representatives. Deputy Campaign Manager / Gov. Phil Murphy. George Washington Univ. grad with Master Degrees /London School of Economics & Columbia University.



EUGENE J. BYRNE, ESQ.

Trustee of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the Oranges. Former Grand Marshal / Newark Irish Parade. Serves as Committee Counsel. Gene has marched in the NYC Irish parade faithfully for more than 66 years.



TOM BYRNE, JR.

Founder/Byrne Asset Management LLC. Former Chairman / NJ State Democratic Committee. Past Chairman / New Jersey State Investment Council. Son of the late Gov. Brendan T. Byrne.



COL. PATRICK CALLAHAN

Superintendent / NJ State Police. Re-nominated by Gov. Phil Murphy as full-time head of force. Former Chief Honoree / Irish Echo / Law & Order Awards.



BRIAN CAMPBELL

Finance Executive, Writer / Essayist. Silver Pen Award winner / Star Ledger. Grandson of George Bell / 1961 Grand Marshal of Newark's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



DENNIS F. CAREY, III

Essex County Superior Court Judge (retired). Grandson of the legendary Dennis "I run Essex" Carey (1953-1969) who engineered a 50,000 countywide vote plurality for JFK in 1960.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JOHN CARR

Past President / Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh/Belmar Chapter. Former Belmar / Lake Como Parade Grand Marshal. Past Chairman, NJ Irish Festival and driving force for its new location at Monmouth Park.



MICHAEL PATRICK CARROLL

Former GOP Assemblyman. Member / Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Son of the late Maurice (Mickey) Carroll, former NY Herald Tribune reporter and director of the Quinnipiac Polling Institute.



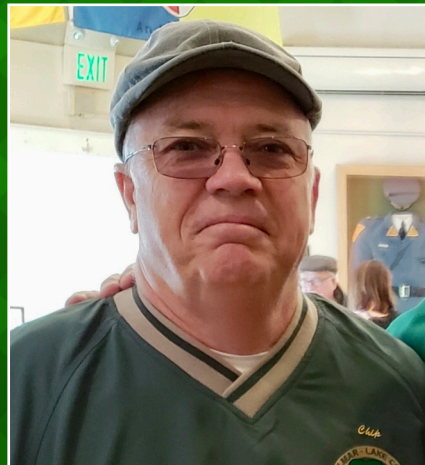
ROBERT "BOBBY" CARROLL

Morris County Prosecutor. Son of the late and famed labor leader 'Big' Jim Carroll of Heavy Construction Laborer's Local 472 in Newark.



JASON CARTY

President Ewing FMBA Local 93. Well-known, well-regarded labor operative in Burlington County.



CHIP CAVANAUGH

Former Grand Marshal/Belmar / Lake Como Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Parade. Served as the Chief of Belmar Fire Department. Member of the Goodwill Hose Fire Company for 47 years. 2024 Essex-based Brian Boru, Inc. honoree.



DENNIS M. CAVANAUGH

U.S. District Court Judge / District / NJ (retired) whose mother was born in County Clare, Ireland. Related to the late Frank McGovern, famed proprietor of McGovern's Tavern in Newark.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MARY PAT FOSTER CHRISTIE

Former NJ First Lady. University of Delaware grad. Seton Hall University MBA. Ninth / 10 children born to a Pennsylvania Irish Catholic family. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.



MARY ELLEN CLYNE, PH.D.

President and CEO/ Clara Maass Medical Center. Only person who holds a BSN, MSN and a Ph.D in Nursing from Seton Hall University. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.



EUGENE AND RAYMOND CODEY

Still the 'dynamic duo'. Twin brothers, Gene a retired Superior Court Judge in private practice with Connell/Foley, LLP and Raymond, Business Manager for Madison Township.



PATRICIA CODEY, SC, ESQ.

Accomplished attorney and Sister of Charity. President / Catholic HealthCare Partnership of New Jersey.



GOV. RICHARD J. CODEY

Served with distinction, bi-partisan praise as the state's 53rd Governor. Former President / NJ Senate. Retired after 50-year career. One of most influential legislative leaders in NJ history. Strong mental health advocate.



DAWN MARIE COLE

Stalwart organizer for the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade. Serves as Recording Secretary. Committee member / NJ Irish Festival. Staff member / Essex County Clerk's Office in Newark.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JERE' COLE

Essex County Sheriff's officer (retired). Currently National Secretary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. 2022 Grand Marshal / Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.



MARY HURLEY COLE

2025 Grand Marshal/ Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade. Maternal grandparents hailed from County Clare and paternal grandparents from County Cork, Ireland. Jersey City State College grad. Taught for 33 years at various Catholic schools.



PAT COLLIGAN

President / New Jersey State PBA. Former Grand Marshal of the Nutley Irish Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.



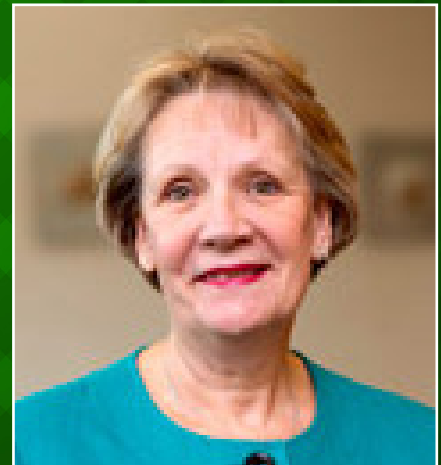
JACK COLLINS

Princeton Public Affairs. Former Speaker of New Jersey General Assembly. College Professor. Basketball Coach. Lawyer. Farmer.



MARTY COLLINS

2025 Grand Marshal of the (32nd) annual Somerville Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Marty, 90-year-old resident of Somerset, is long-term member of the Somerville Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH).



KATHLEEN M. CONLON

Director / Burn Community & Disaster Programs/ St. Barnabas Medical Center. Former Deputy Grand Marshal / Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



HUGH W. CONNELLY
One of the founders / Burlington County St. Patrick's Day Parade. President / Business Banking / Univest Bank & Trust Company.



THOMAS B. CONSIDINE
Managing Partner / Gravlaur Solutions, LLC. Former NJ Commissioner / Banking & Insurance. Named Top 100 Lawyers of Irish Descent.



CAROL SHARKEY CORCORAN
Former Grand Marshal / West Orange Parade. Her mother, Helena Sharkey, was the 1979 Grand Marshal (first NJ woman Grand Marshal) and her father Alfie Sharkey was 1999 Grand Marshal. The family hails from County Roscommon, Ireland.



MICHAEL C. CORCORAN
Morristown's first civilian Public Safety Director overseeing police, fire and office of Emergency Management. Former West Orange Deputy Police Director / U.S. Navy veteran.



PATRICIA K. COSTELLO
Essex County Assignment Judge (retired). Stellar judicial career that spanned 25 years including 10 years as top judge in NJ's busiest courthouse. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.



CRAIG J. COUGHLIN
Well regarded Speaker of the NJ General Assembly (D-19) of Fords, Woodbridge Township. Graduate St. John's Law School. Former Municipal Court Judge. Lawyer in private practice. 2023 Essex County Irishman of the Year.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JENNIFER CRITCHLEY, ESQ.

Judge / Essex County Superior Court. Former partner with Connell Foley law firm. Began her career as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Mark Falk, United States Magistrate Judge (District of NJ). Experienced litigator in both federal and NJ and NY state courts.



MICHAEL CRITCHLEY, ESQ.

Highly regarded Defense Attorney, involved with numerous Irish American and charitable organizations. Former Essex County Irishman of the Year.



JAMIE CRYAN

Parsippany's Business Administrator, formerly of Cranford. Rutgers School of Public Affairs grad. Served as Trustee at Habitat for Humanity (Hudson County) for many years.



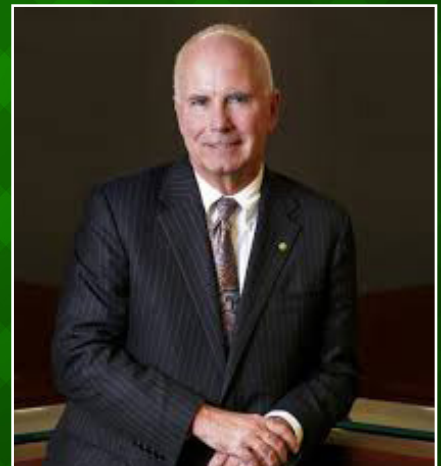
JOSEPH (JOE) CRYAN

NJ State Senator (LD 20), Chair / Union Township Dem Committee. Former Union County Sheriff and State Assemblyman. Served as NJ Democratic State Committee Chairman. 2023 Grand Marshal/Union County Parade.



MEGAN CRYAN

Senior VP / AVOQ with clients spanning health care, labor, higher ed. non-profit and emerging Fortune 500 companies. President / John F. Cryan Association. Active member/Union County Daughters of Ireland.



KEVIN CUMMINGS

Pres. / CEO/Investors Bank, 3rd largest bank hdqtr. in NJ. Former Grand Marshal / Newark's Irish Parade. 2017 honoree / St. Patrick's Guard of Honor. 2018 Jersey City Irish Parade Grand Marshal.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



ABBOT AUGUSTINE CURLEY

Writes and speaks about the Irish of New Jersey, particularly Essex County. Serves with monastic community, and the wider communities of Newark Abbey, St. Benedict's Prep, and St. Mary's Parish. 2025 Brian Boru honoree.



SEAN DARCY

Democratic Party strategist, principal with Round World Consulting. Former press secretary to Governor Richard Codey.



MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

2025 Young Irishman of the Year/ Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the Oranges. Customer Service Advocate/Varney Agency, Whippany, N.J.



ERICA DAUGHTREY

Popular, well-known Hudson County community activist. Served as Communications Director for former U.S. Congressman Albio Sires. DNC National Convention delegate.



ELLEN M. DAVENPORT

Former Maplewood Mayor / Essex County Freeholder who served as Secretary of the NJ State Senate. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.



JIMMY DAVIS

Mayor of Bayonne. Retired police officer. Known for numerous community fund raising activities including raising money for slain police officers and autism.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



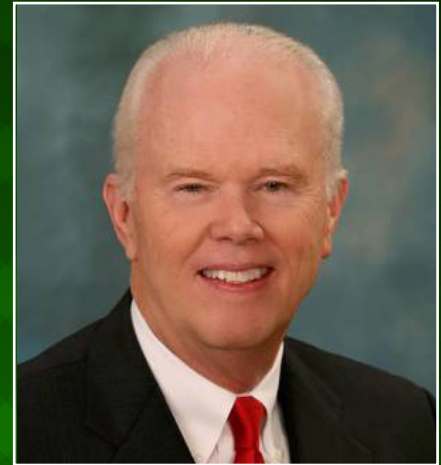
JOHN J. DEGNAN

Former Chairman / Port Authority of NY/NJ and NJ Attorney General. Vice-Chair / Chief Operating Officer of the Chubb Corporation. Harvard Law School graduate.



TOM DEIGNAN

Author / "Irish Americans: Coming to America". Contributing writer / "Irish American Chronicle". Writes weekly Sidewalks column: Irish Voice newspaper. Regular contributor / Star Ledger.



PAT DIEGNAN

New Jersey State Senator (LD 18). Former State Assembly member. Seton Law School grad. Credited with spearheading comprehensive laws on concussions.



MATT DOHERTY

Former Mayor / Belmar. Member of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh; Former Irishman of the Year / Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh.



MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

Warren County Surrogate. Former Member/ NJ State Senate. Graduate / West Point, Seton Hall. Captain / Army Reserves 1985-93.



ROBERT H. DOHERTY

State President / NJ / Bank of America. Chairman / NJ Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Board member: Community Food Bank of NJ, Newark Museum, NJ Performing Arts Center.

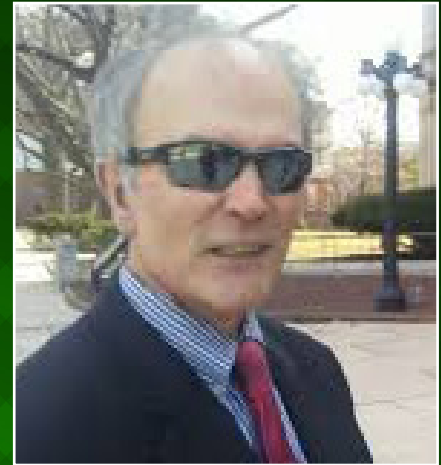
IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



CHRIS DONNELLY
General Manager/AVOQ's NJ Office. Former press secretary to Senate President Steve Sweeney and author of four books on baseball. Traces roots to Ennis and Tulla, Ireland.



ED DONNELLY
President / NJ State FMBA representing 5000 firefighters statewide. Chairman / Bd. of Trustees / Police & Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS). Twenty year veteran / Union Fire Department.



JOE DONOHUE
Former (and legendary) Star-Ledger reporter. Now Deputy Director of the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission.



JOSEPH P. DONOHUE
Former Ass't Essex County Prosecutor. Currently Superior Court Judge, Criminal Division, Union County. SHU Law Grad.

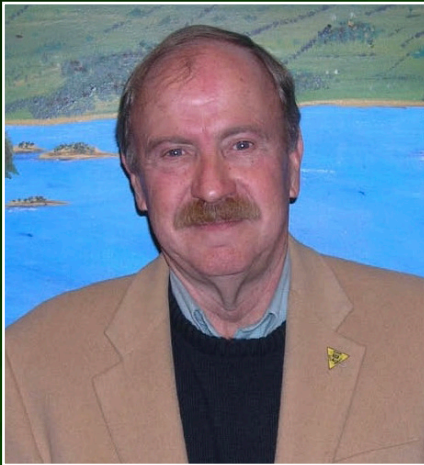


MICHAEL J. "MIKE" DONOHUE
New Jersey Superior Court Judge (retired). Former firefighter, teacher, practicing attorney, church volunteer and Chairman of the Cape May County Republican Committee.



TIMOTHY M. DONOHUE, ESQ.
Partner / Arleo & Donohue. Specializes in white-collar criminal defense. Also serves as local counsel to various governmental bodies and businesses. Honors grad SHU Law School.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



EDWARD DONOVAN
30-year veteran / NJ State Police (retired Captain). Elected three terms / Manasquan Borough Council. Former Mayor, Grand Marshal / Belmar Lake Como Irish Parade (2017). Grand Marshal / Manasquan Memorial Day Parade.



KATHE' DONOVAN
Former Bergen County Executive, Clerk and former Chairlady of the New Jersey Republican State Committee. Served on the Port Authority of NY / NJ.



TOM DONOVAN
Former publisher/ Asbury Park Press, Named executive director of Asbury Park Music Foundation. Former Grand Marshal / Asbury Park St. Patrick's Day Parade.



TIMOTHY (TIM) DOUGHERTY
Popular Mayor of Morristown. Former Councilman and Chairman / Morristown Zoning Board. Retired Chief Engineer at Prudential Center / Newark. 2024 Brian Boru honoree.



MARC DOWLING
2025 Grand Marshal/ Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Westfield resident. Co-owner/Dowling's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Roselle Park. VP/ Joseph Nugent Assoc, Executive Board/Union County Celtic Festival. Traces roots to Ireland's counties Cork, Laois, and Tyrone. His father, Kevin, was parade's general chairman.



JOANN DOWNEY
Former Member/NJ State Assembly. Served on Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee. Trial Attorney. MA / Social Work/Boston University. JD / New York Law School.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JOHN "JACK" DOWNS

Named Parade Starter for the 2025 Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade for exceptional service to the local community. Jack, Madison resident just shy of his 92nd birthday, is a proud Irish American with dual citizenship. Marine Corp Veteran, retired fire fighter, played a bass drum with the CúChullain Pipe Band.



MEGHAN DOYLE

Formerly with Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, now in private practice. Daughter of the late Norman A. Doyle, Jr. (decorated Vietnam war veteran) and Kearny Mayor Carol Jean Doyle.



CAROL JEAN DOYLE

Mayor of Kearny, first woman Mayor since 1938. Council member for 27 years. Clerk/ Hudson County Board of Commissioners. Former Honorary Irish Woman / West Hudson United Irish, among numerous awards. Former Deputy Grand Marshal Newark Irish Parade.



MICHAEL R. DRESSLER

2025 Grand Marshal/Bergen County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Bergen County Surrogate. Served as President / Constitutional Officers of NJ (COANJ) and member of NJ Highlands Protection and Water Planning Council Board. Member/Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck.



PATRICK C. DUNICAN, JR., ESQ.

Chairman and Managing Director / Gibbons Law Firm in Newark (retired). Major supporter and former Grand Marshal of the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.



CHRIS DURKIN

Essex County Clerk. Member, NJ Democratic State Committee. Former Grand Marshal/Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade and Essex County Irishman of the Year.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JOAN DURKIN

Revered leader of the Durkin clan. Essex County Tax Administrator. 2018 Essex County Democratic Committee Hall of Fame honoree.



JOSEPH V. EGAN

Assemblyman (LD 17) (retired). New Brunswick City Council President for more than ten years and serves as Business Manager for IBEW Local 456.



TIM EUSTACE

Executive Director / North Jersey District Water Supply Commission. Former Bergen County Assemblyman (D-38), 2012-2018. Strong advocate for environmental causes.



JAMES P. FALLON, MS.

Director / Department of Research at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark. Jim, a Bloomfield resident, traces his roots to Ireland's County Roscommon.



JOHN J. FARMER JR.

Former NJ Attorney General, senior counsel for 9/11 Commission. Former Assistant U.S. Attorney. Former law school Dean/currently special counsel to Rutgers President. Faculty member/ Eagleton Institute. Traces Irish roots to Counties Armagh, Kerry, and Mayo. Former Newark Irish Parade Grand Marshal.



SUSAN A. FEENEY

Partner / McCarter & English Law Firm/ Former NJ State Bar Assoc. Pres. / Former Newark Irish Parade Deputy Grand Marshal.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MARTHA MCDONOUGH FINAN

Executive Board Secretary / Belmar Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Vice President / Women of Irish Heritage. Former Parade Deputy Grand Marshal.



STACEY LEA FLANAGAN

Jersey City Dept. of Health and Human Services Director. Won statewide acclaim for battling the pandemic, aiding the homeless, and feeding the hungry. U.S. Peace Corp volunteer.



JIM GANNON

Well regarded Morris County Sheriff, descendant of NYPD detective. Drum Major / Police Pipe & Drums. FBI Academy graduate.



RICHARD S. GANNON, ESQ.

One of the founders of / GTB Partners (Gannon, Torpey, Bellin), Trenton. Currently, Board Chairman, Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and Int'l Relations.



KEN GARDNER

Senior Advisor / Lead Fundraiser / The Woodbridge American Irish Assn Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. 2019 Irishman of The Year, Former Council President and Fire Chief.



ROBERT GARRISON

Eastern Region Construction Market Rep for Laborers' National LECET Fund. Member / Westfield Board of Education.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



SUSAN HAPWORTH GARTLAND

Chairwoman/ Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade. Former Caldwell Mayor / Councilwoman and Deputy Grand Marshal / Newark Parade. Board of Trustees of Mount St. Dominic Academy. Former honoree / Brian Boru, Inc.



EDWARD M. (TED) GIBLIN

Newark Irish Parade Grand Marshal (2024) Honors graduate/ Providence College. MBA / Seton Hall University.



NOREEN M. GIBLIN

PSE&G Executive Former Cabinet Secretary / NJ Gov. Phil Murphy. Served as Chief Counsel, NJ Board of Public Utilities and with McGreevey Administration. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.



THOMAS P. GIBLIN

Former Assemblyman (LD 34). Business Mgr. Union Local 68, IUOE. Former Essex County Freeholder Board President/Essex County Surrogate, Essex County and NJ Democratic State Chairman.



VINCENT M. GIBLIN

Equity Partner / DeCotiis Law Firm. Trial counsel/state and federal courts. Handles union, trust fund matters, and white-collar criminal defense. Former Assistant U.S. Attorney / NJ. Rutgers Undergrad / Seton Hall Law.



BRENDAN GILL

Member / Essex County Board of Commissioners. Head of BGill Public Affairs. 2018 Essex County Irishman of the Year. Former Grand Marshal / Nutley Irish Parade.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



EILEEN P. GILLEECE
NJ State Police Detective. Fellow with both JFK School of Government and United Nations Leadership School. Past President of Women of Irish Heritage (North). Former Newark Deputy Grand Marshal.



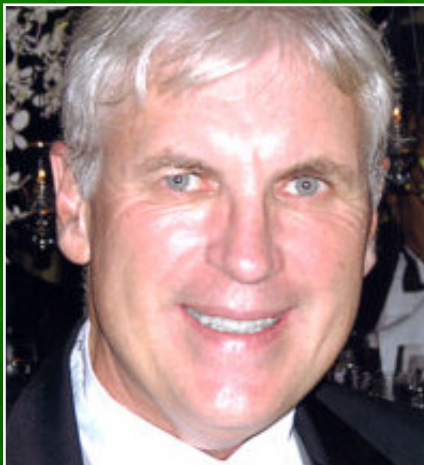
DON GILMARTIN
Traces roots to County Roscommon. Former Newark Parade Grand Marshal. Founding member / Past President of Essex County Police and Fire Emerald Society.



TERRY GOLWAY
Historian, author, and a journalist, having served as a columnist and editorial board member for The New York Times and a long-time editor and writer at The New York Observer.



WILLIAM L. GORMLEY
Former State Senator and Judiciary Committee Chairman. Assemblyman (1977-1982). His father was former Atlantic County Sheriff. Notre Dame grad, Marine Corps captain.



JOHN F. X. GRAHAM
Founder of Verona based Fairview Insurance. Member / Democratic National Committee (DNC) / Friend of U.S. Presidents and Secretaries of State. Publisher / Insider NJ.com.



MICHAEL GRAHAM
Chief Executive Officer. Insider NJ, award winning website dedicated to political news in New Jersey. Graduate / Yale University. JD Fordham Law School.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



RYAN GRAHAM
Business Development Director
/ Fairview Insurance. Former NJ
Jaycees State Director. Associate
Publisher / InsiderNJ.



**MATT LEE & FRAN
GRIFFIN**
2025 Grand Marshals/Belmar Lake
Como St. Patrick's Day Parade. Matt,
Middletown resident, is a member of
the Shillelagh Pipe Band/ Old Bridge.
Fran, Sea View Island resident, served
as parade announcer for many years.
Former chair/NJ Irish Festival.



**KIMBERLY ANN
(MCFADDEN)
GUADAGNO**
NJ's first Lieutenant Governor. Served
as Secretary of State. Former Ass't
United States Attorney. 2017 GOP
candidate for Governor.



KEVIN P. HAGAN
Principal / Princeton Public Affairs
Group. Seasoned Democratic Party
Strategist. Former Chief of Staff / State
Senate President. Staffed Governors,
US Senators, NJ Democratic State
Committee. Drew University graduate.
College basketball standout.



**SHARON ANNE
HARRINGTON**
Commissioner/ NJ Casino Control
Commission. Previously, served as Chair/
Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
Motor Vehicle Commission. Sharon
served as State Director for two U.S.
Senators, and as Commissioner of the
State Ethics Commission.



NOREEN HAVERON
President / CEO / Job Haines Home,
Bloomfield, non-profit provider of
compassionate senior care. Mother,
Noreen K., former president / Nutley
Democratic Club and late father, Owen.
BA Seton Hall. Master's degree / Public
Adm. / Kean University.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025

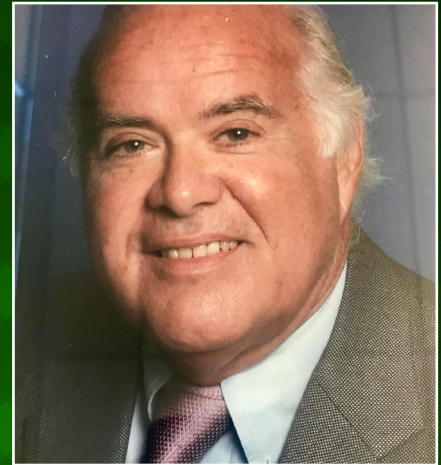


JOSEPH A. HAYDEN, JR., ESQ.

Sought after, highly regarded Criminal Defense Attorney. Served on the Rules Committee for the Democratic National Convention. 2016 Democratic National Convention delegate. Legal Counsel / Insider NJ and Co-Chairman of its Advisory Board.



JERRAMIAH HEALY
48th Jersey City Mayor and former Chairman of Hudson County Democratic Committee. Renowned singer of Irish Ballads.



ELMER J. HERRMANN, JR.

Supporter / Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. His mother, Theresa Elizabeth, was the niece of Charles P. Gillen, Newark's only Irish born Mayor and the Newark Parade's first Grand Marshal (1936).



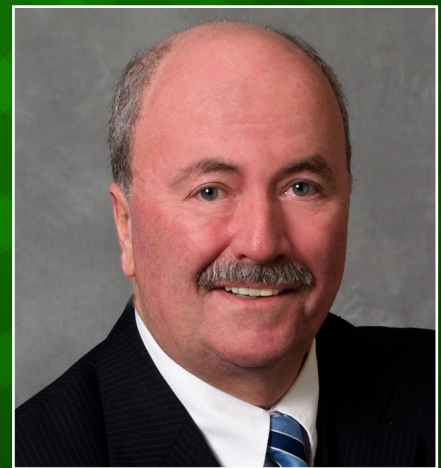
JOHN HOGAN

Bergen County Clerk. Election authority for more than 70 Bergen County municipalities. Studied at St. Thomas Aquinas College, NY.



BRIAN HUGHES

Former Mercer County Executive. Son of late Governor & Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes. Former Pres. / County Executives of America, a national, non-partisan organization.



JOHN HUGHES

Also, son of the late Governor Richard J. Hughes. Retired Federal Magistrate / US District Court / NJ. Villanova Law graduate. Currently engaged in mediation work.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MAUREEN KILLEEN HULINGS

Chair / Board of Commissioners / Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority. Employed / Connell Foley law firm. Executive Director 200 Club. Former Honoree Essex-based Friends of Brian Boru.



LEO J. HURLEY

Partner / Connell Foley's Commercial Litigation & White Collar Defense Group. Selected by NJ Law Journal: "New Leaders of the Bar". Former Assistant Prosecutor / Hudson County. Trustee 200 Club.



MATTHEW HURLEY

Bloomfield resident. Now with the U.S. State Department. Former Counsel General / Guadalajara, Mexico.



SEAN JACKSON

Chief Executive Officer of Isles, a nonprofit community development / environmental organization headquartered in Trenton. Former State Director, top aide to former U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli.



PETER KANE

Summit resident. Publisher / Fitzgerald's NJ Legislative Manual / owned by Kimmage Publishing LLC, named for Kimmage, Ireland (outside Dublin). Traces roots to County Roscommon.



JOHN KAUFMAN

Nutley business owner; 2025 Nutley Irish Parade Grand Marshal along with Deputy Grand Marshal Kevin Smyth, Washington School Teacher/ Nutley HS Crew Coach; Police Officer of the Year Brendan Sim / Belleville Police Department; Member of the Year Mary T. Darragh and Parade Queen Rachel May Hamilton.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



STEPHEN KEALY

Legendary labor leader and former Business Agent (retired) for flagship Laborers' Local 472 (LIUNA) of Newark.



EILEEN KEAN

Government Affairs. Commissioner / Monmouth County Board of Elections. Drumthwacket Trustee and member / Women of Irish Heritage. Traces roots to Counties Cork and Armagh, Ireland.



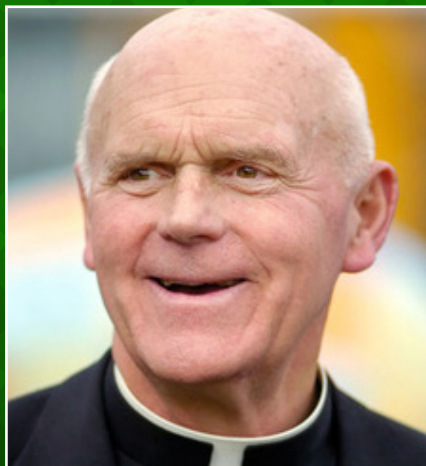
SEAN T. KEAN

NJ General Assembly / (R-30) Monmouth County. Traces roots to County Cork, Ireland. Former Irishman of the Year / Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh / Jersey Shore. Sponsor of legislation celebrating Irish-American contributions to American society.



GERALD "JERRY" KEENAN

President, NJ Alliance for Action. Founded in 1974. Non-partisan, non-profit association representing thousands of business, labor, government, utility, education professionals to improve NJ's economy with capital construction and infrastructure investment.



MSGR. MIKE E. KELLY

President, Seton Hall Prep, oldest Catholic prep school in NJ. His Holiness Pope John Paul II named Msgr. Kelly as a Prelate of Honor. Appointed liaison / Irish Community / Archdiocese of Newark 1990.



SEAN KENNEDY

VP / Government Affairs / Rowan University. Recently won appointment to the Governor's New Jersey-Ireland Trade Commission. Shown with Notre Dame Fighting Irish Football coach Marcus Freeman.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JAMES J. KENNEDY
Assemblyman (D-22). Elected in 2015.
Former Rahway Mayor, lobbyist.
Principal, Skye Consulting, LLC.



JOHN C. KENNEDY
Judge of the Superior Court,
Appellate Division. (Retired). Former
Corporation Counsel / Jersey City.
Fellow: Advanced Science and
Technology Adjudication Resource
Center in Washington, D.C.



**PATRICK JOSEPH
KENNEDY**
Former Rhode Island Congressman,
son of Senator Ted Kennedy, JFK
nephew. Mental Health Advocate /
Brigantine.



ADELE KENNY
Author of more than two dozen books /
poetry and nonfiction / published world-
wide. Recipient / 1st place/2021 Allen
Ginsberg Poetry Award. Director/Fanwood
Arts Council/Shade Tree Commissioner
/ Featured at poetry readings in the US,
England, Ireland, and France. Member/
Secular Franciscan Order.



BERNARD F. KENNY
Former Member of both NJ State
Senate and Assembly. Former Grand
Marshal/Man of The Year for Hobo-
ken's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Held
the rank of Lieutenant in the United
States Navy. Member / Advisory Board
/ Insider NJ.com.



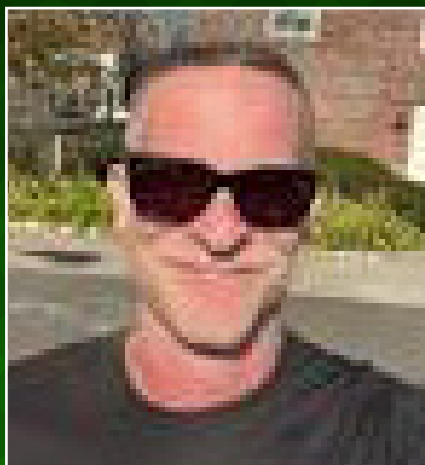
BRIANNA KOSTECKA
Chairwoman 50th Annual New Jersey
Irish Festival. Irish Dance Instructor /
Heritage Irish Dance Company.
Medalist / World Championships.
Attorney / Seton Hall Law graduate.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JESSE O'LEARY KURTZ

Atlantic City Councilman, former State Assembly candidate. Born and raised in AC. Stalwart supporter of the Atlantic City St. Patrick's Day Parade.



JAY LASSITER

Award winning columnist for Insider NJ.com and one of only 3 NJ activists who traveled to Ireland in support of the 2015 marriage equality referendum which overwhelmingly won approval. Descendant of the Sullivan clan of County Sligo.



REV. EDWIN D. LEAHY, O.S.B.

Headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep, Newark since re-opening in 1973. A 1963 Prep school graduate. Grand Marshal of the 82nd Anniversary Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.



GERALD P. LENIHAN

Security Manager/ Seton Hall Law School & Essex County Prosecutor's Office (retired). Former Grand Marshal and General Chairman/ Newark Parade and the NJ Irish Festival.



STEVE LENOX

Lenox Consulting. Dual American / Irish citizenship. Former State Director / Senator Frank Lautenberg. President / Irish Network USA.



KATHLEEN SMITH LORIA

Executive Director, Atlantic Brain & Spine, affiliate of Atlantic Health. Member, Women of Irish Heritage, North NJ. 2025 Deputy Grand Marshal, West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



BRIAN M. LOWE
Public relations consultant.
Co-Chaired the 48th Annual New Jersey Irish Festival.



JIM LOWNEY
Veteran journalist. Raised in Hillside now of Toms River. Photog for The Newark Evening News. Wrote for NYT's / Asbury Park Press. 30-year columnist for the Irish Echo.



LEN (CORCORAN) LUCIANO
Essex County Commissioner representing the county's western suburbs. Grandson of Mary Corcoran of Orange, NJ and County Roscommon, Ireland.



KIERAN LYNCH
Director / Bergen Irish Assn. / Served as co-chair of the March St. Patrick's Day Gala. / Member/ Executive Board. Traces roots to Counties Kerry, Waterford, and Clare.



KELLY STEWART MAER
More than 20 years of legislative and lobbying experience. Kelly serves as a Board Member for Horizon Blue Cross / Blue Shield of New Jersey.



COLLEEN M. MAHR
Past President / NJ League of Municipalities. Mayor of Fanwood Boro. Former President / New Jersey Conference of Mayors. Director of Business Dev. for DMR Architects.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MICHAEL MAITLAND
McCarter & English, LLP. Government Affairs Advisor/Experience in policy with knowledge of the legislative process and workings of NJ State Legislature. A former chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross, Michael traces family roots to Ireland's Counties Clare and Roscommon.



PATTI CASSIDY MARTIRANO
Long time Judicial Ass't / Judge Katherine Sweeney Hayden / State & Federal Court. Traces roots to family hometown Ballymaguigan, County Derry, Ireland.



KEVIN MCCABE
Middlesex County Democratic Party Chairman. Partner/River Crossing Strategy Group, one of Trenton's leading full-service government affairs firms. Member / NY/NJ Port Authority Board of Commissioners.



JOHN J. "JACK" MCCARTHY
Former Secretary / NJ State Senate. Member of the Electoral College. Served as Bergen County Democratic State Committeeman / Secretary / Bergen County Division #1 AOH.



LAURENCE (LARRY) MCCARTHY
Past President, Gaelic Athletic Association. Chair, Economics and Legal Studies, Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University.



JOHN E. MCCORMAC
Mayor of Woodbridge. Elected In 2006 in the oldest original township in the state of New Jersey. Former NJ State Treasurer.

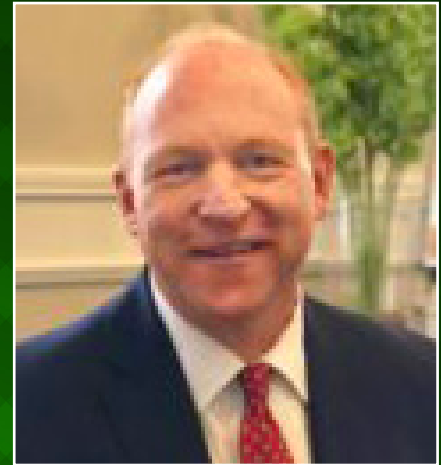
IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



STACY MCCORMACK
Partner/ TWENTYTWO Public Affairs. Co-founded women-owned firm to offer lobbying, policy development, and political strategy services to a diverse clientele. 2025 Brian Boru, Inc. honoree.



MARY MCCORMICK
2024 Gala Chair / Waves of Health. Provides basic medical care to underserved communities in Dominican Republic and Uganda. BSN, MSN, NP-C, Seton Hall University. Summit Medical Group, Frequent Irish traveler.



GREG AND MATT MCDERMOTT
Brothers: Greg, former Mayor of Westfield and Matt, experienced government lobbyist with the Kaufman Zita Group. Sons of the legendary late Francis X. McDermott, former / NJ Senate President / Union County GOP Chairman and candidate for NJ Governor.



TERRENCE T. MCDONALD
New Jersey newspaperman for more than 15 years covering Trenton politics to municipalities “exposing public corruption”. Winner of 23 New Jersey Press Association awards.



FRAN MCENERNEY
Senior Consultant, Public Accounting / Litigation support with PKF O’Connor Davies. Strong supporter of Irish causes. Bagpiper/Marine Corp veteran. Former Essex County Irishman of the Year.



JENNIFER NAGLE MCGOVERN
Co-Owner of the award winning DeNogla Academy of Irish Dance. Traces her roots to County, Kerry, Ireland. Former Newark Parade Deputy Grand Marshal.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



SEAN MCGOVERN

2025 Grand Marshal/Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade along with Deputy Grand Marshals Maura Campbell, John Gethins, Tim McConway, and Rev. John McCrone. Sean, a former Roseland Councilman, is a Newark based attorney and well-known proprietor of McGovern's Tavern in Newark.



CHRISTINE MCGRATH

Verona Township Councilwoman. Leader and strategist for community-based organizations.



JAMES E. MCGREEVEY

Elected New Jersey Governor 2001. Former State Assemblyman and State Senator. Former Grand Marshal / Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade. Lauded for pioneering prison reform efforts.



JOHN E. MCGUIRE, JR.

Former member of NYPD and decorated veteran Detective / Essex County Sheriff's Department (retired). Former Essex County Irishman of the Year and past West Orange Democratic Chairman.



PATTI MCGUIRE

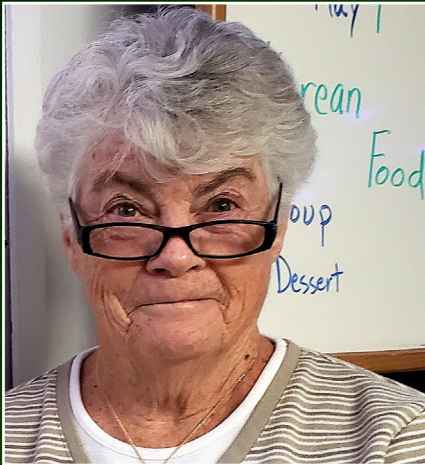
More than 30 years of political / government affairs experience. Since joining PPAG-Princeton Public Affairs Group has focused on Legislative Strategy for Clients, Business Projects, Education and Healthcare. Co-Chair of the New Jersey Leaders Council



VINCENT MCKELVEY

Hamilton Township St. Patrick's Parade Committee Chair and President / Ancient Order of Hibernians, Msgr. Crean Division 1.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



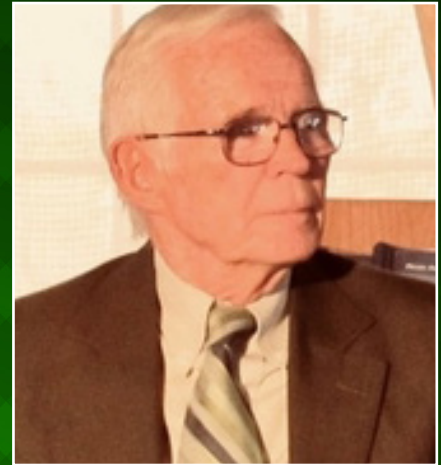
**SR. JANE MCKENNA,
SSJ**

Oversees the Women & Children's Center at St. John's Soup Kitchen on Mulberry Street / Newark. Pioneered by the (late) director, Barbara Maran, with help from Sister Jane, the Center offers an indoor facility for women, children and the handicapped to eat breakfast and lunch in safety, free from frigid cold or scorching heat.



JOHN MCKEON

NJ State Senator (LD 27). Formerly served in State Assembly where he chaired the Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee. Former Mayor of West Orange. Attorney and longtime organizer of the West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade.



**HENRY (HANK)
MCNALLY**

Retired educator / Secondary School Principal. Sought after lecturer of Irish history in shore area. With Irish Studies Program at Brookdale Community College / Rutgers. BA / MA Fordham. Studied at University College, Dublin, Ireland. Resides in Manasquan.



JOHN MCPARTLAN

Owner of Molly Maguire's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Clark. "Champion for the Center for Hope Hospice / NJ Coalition of Autism Awareness." 2018 Grand Marshal 22nd Union County Irish Parade.



**BERNADETTE P.
MCPHERSON ESQ.**

Adjunct Prof / Law John Jay College. Honors grad/LaSalle / JD Temple. Former Councilwoman / Mayor / Rutherford. Bergen County Freeholder. Honored by Irish Echo. Roots in County Mayo.



JIM MCQUEENEY

Former White House Bureau Chief / Star-Ledger. Successful public relations executive, political analyst, and ex Fox and N12 show anchor. Fellow and Instructor/Sacred Heart University. Roots in County Leitrim.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MICHAEL MCQUEENY, ESQ.

Partner, and Co-Chair of Foley Hoag's national Cannabis Group. Counsels clients on complex issues of regulatory compliance. Irish Echo: "Forty Under 40 Award" Syracuse Grad., Villanova Law School.



EDWARD PAUL MCSHERRY

2025 American Irish Assoc. of Woodbridge's Grand Marshal along with parade honorees: Irish Man of the Year Sean R. Daly, Irish Woman of the Year Peggy Foley, and Parade Chair Keven McCreary.



MARY ELLEN MCVEIGH

Curator of Education, Liberty Hall Museum / Kean University. MA / Seton Hall. Family hails from the Irish Aran Islands.



JOHN MEADE

Former Grand Marshal/Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade (1997) and owner of the St. James's Gate Publick House in Maplewood.



MARY MEEHAN

Seton Hall University's 1st woman President (retired). BA, MA and Ph.D (Seton Hall). MS / Health Policy & Management / NY Medical College.



ROSEMARIE L. MELLODY

First woman Grand Marshal in the 89 year history of the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade. Native of County Longford, Ireland.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MAGGEE MIGGINS
Former Millburn Township Mayor. Award winning Short Hills Real Estate Broker. Owner: Maggee Miggins Group / Compass RE. Fairleigh Dickinson University grad. Deputy Grand Marshal / 2009 Newark Irish Parade.



WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.
New Jersey Assemblyman (D-5th). Deputy Majority Leader. Fifth generation Irish American. SNJ Business People Magazine's "40 Under 40" in 2018. MPA degree / University of Pennsylvania.



KAITLIN MOONEY
President/Co-Founder/ Union County Daughters of Ireland. Community Service group cultivating friendships while honoring Irish Heritage.



ERIC MOORE
2025 Grand Marshal /Rutherford St. Patrick's Day Parade. Dublin born, raised in coastal town of Balbriggan, nestled between the Irish sea and countryside of North County Dublin. Officer with Bank of New York. Held leadership roles in organizations such as Chairman of the Irish Network/ NYC.



MAGGIE MORAN
Award winning national Public Affairs consultant. Former Deputy Chief of Staff / Governor Jon Corzine. Former State Director / NJ Senators Corzine and Lautenberg.



TOM MORAN
Accomplished veteran Star-Ledger Editorial Page Editor / Columnist. Once told NYT's, he has "a front-row seat on the spectacle of NJ politics."

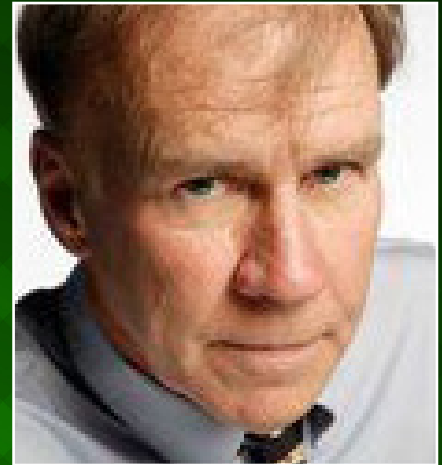
IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



WILLIAM 'BILL' MULLEN
President / NJ State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Former President of Ironworkers Local 11. Influential voice among legislative leaders in Trenton.



GENE MULROY
Co-Founder/Capital Impact Group, prominent contract lobbying firm; West State Street veteran and voice in state and national politics, served in varying capacities for presidential, gubernatorial and legislative campaigns. Gene's family hails from Ireland's County Mayo and further north in County Donegal sits Mulroy Bay.



PAUL MULSHINE
Star-Ledger journalist since 1995. Grew up in Toms River. Worked for the Philadelphia Daily News. Regards himself as the sole remaining old-time conservative columnist at a major American newspaper.



CAROL A. MURPHY
NJ State Assemblywoman (LD-7). Burlington County. Majority Whip. Vice-Chair Judiciary Committee. Member / State Budget and Financial Institutions Committees. First woman in 20 years to represent the Seventh Legislative District.



JOHN MURPHY
Financial Advisor / Private Advisor Group / Morristown. Former Freeholder, Morris Township Committeeman / Mayor. Active member: Morris Township Volunteer Fire Dept., Former Grand Marshal / Morris County Irish Parade.



MARY K. MURPHY
Director Planning and Regional Development PANY & NJ. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MICHAEL MURPHY
Former Morris County Prosecutor.
Gubernatorial candidate / 1997
Democratic primary. Stepson of the
late Governor Richard Hughes. Heads
up Impact NJ. Successful lobbyist.



PETER MURPHY
Chairman / Passaic County Republican
Committee. Once described as “the
hardest working person in politics.”
Owner: Murph’s Tavern.



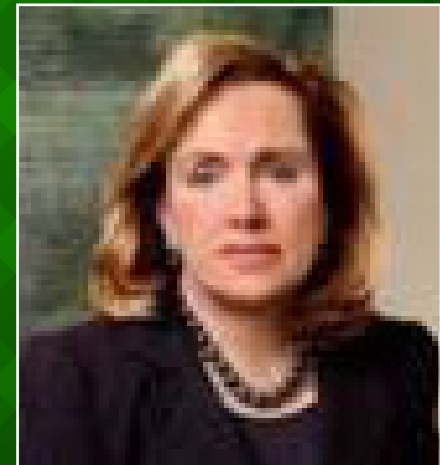
GOV. PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor of New Jersey. Former
Ambassador to Germany (2009-2013).
Former Goldman Sachs Executive / National
Finance Chairman for Democratic National
Committee. Wife, Tammy, parents of four.
Graduate of Harvard and Wharton School,
University of Pennsylvania. 2019 Irishman
of the Year/ Essex County.



CAROLYN A. MURRAY
Former Family Court judge. Former
state / federal prosecutor appointed
by Attorney General / Acting Sussex
County Prosecutor. Georgetown
University (cum laude) and NYU
Law School. Former Essex County
Irishwoman of the Year.



ED NEAFSEY
Active in Irish American civic activities.
Superior Court Judge (retired). Teaches
course on Northern Ireland Civil Rights
Movement at Rutgers Law School /
Newark. Volunteer trial observer /
Irish Diplock Courts. Dual American
Irish citizenship. Contributor / Irish
Central News. Grand Marshal / 2024
Belmar-Lake Como Irish Parade.



LYNN FONTAINE NEWSOME, ESQ.
Past President/NJ and Morris County
State Bar Associations. Well respected
attorney in the area of Family Law,
member / Editorial Board/ New Jersey
Law Journal.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



JOE NORTON
Leader of the Bloomfield Irish Club,
former Caldwell GOP councilman /
Owner of the Bloomfield Travel
Network.



**AIDAN P. O'CONNOR,
ESQ.**
Former Trial Attorney / Supervisor U.S.
Attorney's Office. Co-chair / Pashman
Stein Walder Hayden Criminal Defense
Practice Group. Traces his roots to
Counties Kerry and Waterford, Ireland.



DANIEL J. O'CONNELL
2025 Burlington County St. Patrick's
Day Parade Grand Marshal. County
Commissioner (retired). Delran
resident. Served his community as
a locomotive engineer as well as
leadership roles in local government
and organized labor.



BILL O'DEA
Author; The Legacy of Haguesville.
Youngest member ever elected
to the Jersey City Council at age
26 in 1985. Longtime member of
the Hudson County Board of
Commissioners.



KEVIN O'DOWD
Co-President and CEO of Cooper
University Health Care. Former Chief
of Staff / Governor Chris Christie.



**BRENDAN (DAN)
O'FLAHERTY**
Economics Prof / Columbia Univ.
Marathon runner, political strategist,
author, Trustee / Newark Historical
Society.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



ERIN K. O'GARA-MEIER

Longtime West Orange Irish leader and former Director of Constituent Services for now retired State Senator Richard J. Codey.



MAUREEN E. O'HARA

Renowned West Orange Irish community leader and former Grand Marshal of the WO St. Patrick's Day Parade.



NOEL G. O'KEEFE

2025 Grand Marshal/ 72nd Annual West Orange Irish Parade along with Deputy Grand Marshal Kevin Bolan, Rich McDonald, Jim McGuire, and Kathleen Smith Loria. A member of the South Park & District Pipe Band. Neil's parents, West Orange Parade Marshals in 2008 and 2015, hailed from Waterford and Dublin, Ireland.



TRISH O'KEEFE

President, Morristown Medical Center. Senior VP, Chief Nurse Executive at Atlantic Health System and recognized by United Nations as one of 21 Nurses with Global Impact and by Irish America magazine to its Healthcare and Life Science list, among many career tributes.



DECLAN O'SCANLON

NJ State Senator. Former Republican Assemblyman / Monmouth County (R-13) known for advocating improvement for drivers who travel on the state's roads.



JOHN O'SHEA

President, Bergen Irish Association, founded 1964 to preserve and celebrate Irish culture/tradition in Bergen County. Hails from Kenmare, Co. Kerry, Ireland, Thirtytwo-year member.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



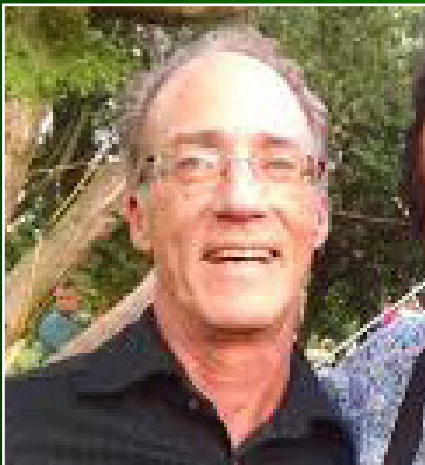
BETHANY O'TOOLE
Chief Financial Officer / Essex County Utilities Authority. Chairwoman & Commissioner / Essex County Board of Elections. Traces family roots to County Tipperary. Former Essex County Irishwoman of the Year.



KEVIN O'TOOLE
Chairman / Port Authority of NY / NJ. Former NJ State Senator (R-40) and Essex County GOP Chairman. Former Essex County Irishman of the Year.



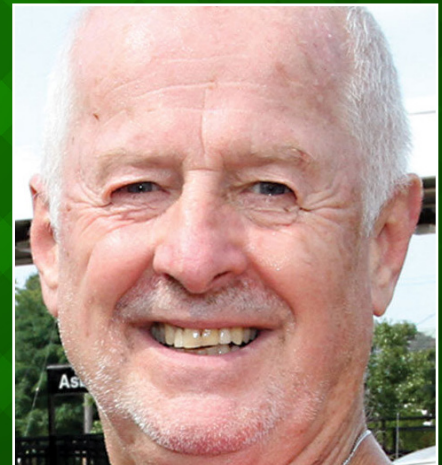
SEAN PENDER
National Director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), State AOH President and former Grand Marshal of the Hamilton St. Patrick's Day Parade.



PATRICK O'SHEA POLITANO
Well known Union County political strategist, former journalist. Named for Ireland's patron saint by his mother Flora O'Shea. Union County Parade supporter.



BRIDGET PIERCE
2025 Grand Marshal/Atlantic City St. Patrick's Day Parade. A lifelong AC resident, Bridget is first woman to attain the rank of Deputy Chief with Atlantic City's Police Department.



TOM PIVINSKI
2025 Grand Marshal/ Asbury Park St. Patrick's Day Parade. Tom chaired the Asbury Park Environmental Shade Tree Commission for more than 20 years. A former Catholic priest, Tom now assists at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asbury Park.

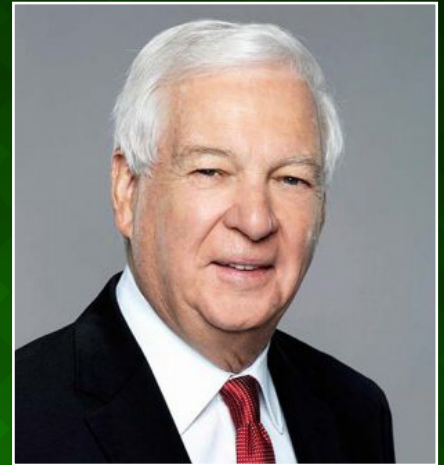
IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



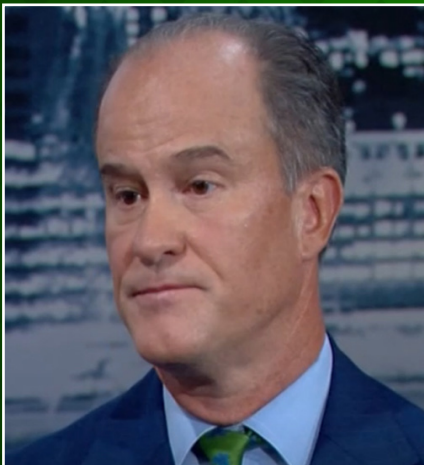
MICKEY QUINN
President MQ Strategies. Political Strategist. Former Deputy Executive Director / New Jersey General Assembly / Trustee / Rowan College at Burlington County.



MIKE QUINN
Founding member of the Morris County Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick. Served as Parade Grand Marshal 2017. Instrumental in bringing the parade to Morristown from Wharton more than 26 years ago.



BILL RAFTERY "THE COACH"
Analyst and play-by-play announcer / CBS Sports (college basketball). Named Mr. Basketball (1959), 3-sport all-state HS player, coached at Fairleigh Dickinson and Seton Hall (1970-81).



KEVIN QUINN
Chairman, NJ Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) which enhances economic vitality and long-term economic competitiveness. Resident of Short Hills.

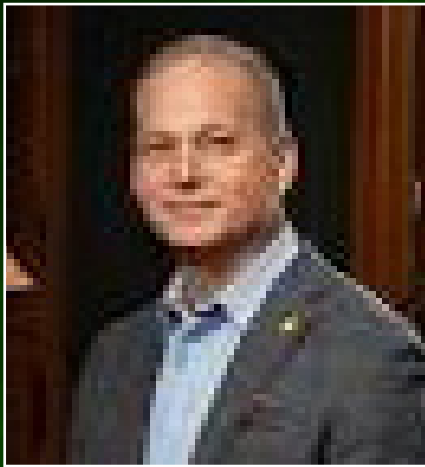


DAN REILLY
Former Chairman / NJ Irish Festival. Supporter of Special Olympics and benefit projects for disabled veterans. 2018 Belmar / Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal.



CELESTE M. RILEY
Cumberland County Clerk, former NJ Assemblywoman (D-3). Former Bridgeton City Council President. Family hails from counties Cork and Mayo.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



CHRISTOPHER RINN
Fair Haven resident. President and CEO/VNA Health Group, one of the nation's largest non-profit providers of home health, hospice, and community-based care. Grand Marshal/2025 Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade.



JOSEPH "JOE" ROBERTS, JR.
Former Camden County Freeholder Director who went on to serve with distinction as Majority Leader and Speaker of the NJ General Assembly.



NORMAN "NORM" ROBERTSON, ESQ.
Member/NJ State Parole Board / Former GOP NJ State Senator (34thLD). Rutgers University / Fordham Law School grad. Served on Passaic County Freeholder Board. Former Chairman / Passaic County Utilities Authority. Member/ Advisory Board/Insider NJ.



ROBERT ROWBOTHAM, ESQ.
Newark Counsel & Trustee / St. Patrick's Day Parade. Trustee / St. Patrick's Guard of Honor. Trial Attorney / Bramnick, Rodriguez, LLC. Former NJ Deputy AG.



MARGUERITE "PEG" SCHAFFER
Vice Chairwoman / NJ Democratic State Committee. Chairwoman / Somerset County Democratic Committee, President/Managing Principal at the law firm Shain Schaffer PC. Known for her sharp wit, brilliance in and out of court and tenacious political activism.



WILLIAM "BILL" SCULLY
Legend in Irish circles for his quick wit, fine voice, classic moustache, short game in golf (which includes putting from sand traps) and as the long time proprietor and host of McGovern's Tavern.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



DONALD SHAUGER

Executive Vice President / The Shauger Group, family owned and operated contracting company founded 1981. Former Grand Marshal / West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade.



JAMES SHEA

Jersey City Public Safety Director. Retired Deputy Chief from the New York City Police Department.



JOHN SHEA III

Director/Committee on Political Education (COPE) for New Jersey State AF-CIO.



MIRIAM (MIMS) SHERIDAN

Born in Dublin, renowned for her volunteerism and a strong supporter of the Belmar / Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade. Former Deputy Grand Marshal.



MIKIE SHERRILL

U.S. Congresswoman / 11th CD. Member / Armed Services Committee. Chair: House Science, Space & Technology subcommittee / Investigations & Oversight. Ten year Navy veteran. Helicopter Pilot. Mother of four. Graduate / US Naval Academy, London School of Economics (MA), JD / Georgetown Law. Former Federal Prosecutor. Former Irishwoman of the Year / Essex County.



KEVIN J. SLAVIN

St. Joseph's Health (SJH)/President, Chief Executive Officer/ Multi- hospital major academic, healthcare system based in Paterson, NJ / formerly at East Orange General Hospital and St. Clare's Health System in Morris County. Rutgers grad., MHA, University of Colorado.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



CHRIS SMITH

U.S. Congressman (R-4 NJ). Senior member / Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organization Subcommittee. Recipient / American Ireland Fund's Distinguished Leadership Award.



JAMES (RYAN) SPANGO

Mayor of Roseland. Career law enforcement/Essex County Undersheriff. Traces his family's Irish roots to the Ryans and Mooneys of County Meath, Ireland.



BRIAN P. STACK

State Senator (D- 33rd District). Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee. Union City Mayor since 2000. Former member of the State Assembly.



BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO

New Jersey State Assemblywoman (D-31). Executive Assistant, Spectrum Health Care, Inc. Jersey City Democratic Committee Chair. Irish Woman of the Year/ Jersey City Irish Parade Committee in 2018.



CHRISTINE A. STEARNS

Chief Government Relations Officer/ New Jersey Hospital Association. Listed on NJ Spotlight's "Top 10 Healthcare Lobbyists." Christine advises C-suite leadership clients on various legislative and public policy issues.



GUY STERLING

Journalist, author / historian. Columbia J-School grad. 35-year newspaper career / reporter with Star-Ledger. Only New Jersey-based reporter to interview Richard Nixon after he moved to the New York area.

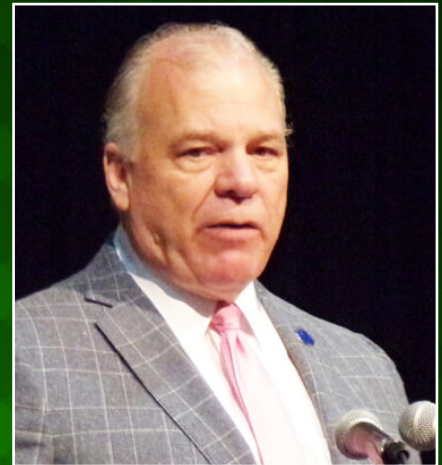
IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



MARYPAT SULLIVAN, RN, MSN, CNS
Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)/ Chief Experience Officer at Overlook Medical Center, MaryPat's leadership of the nursing staff has been instrumental in many of Overlook's achievements and accolades.



TIM SULLIVAN
Chief Executive Officer / NJ Economic Development Authority. Born and Raised in Bergen County.



STEVE SWEENEY
Served with distinction as NJ Senate President. Former Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 399 and now General Organizer for the Int'l Association of Ironworkers.



ROBERT SWENSON
Deputy Grand Marshal of the 2022 West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade. Professional Photog / Champion Golfer.



JIM TANSEY
Union County Prosecutor's Office (retired). Former Grand Marshal / Union County Irish Parade, Piper with Essex County Emerald Society. Traces his roots to Counties Roscommon and Mayo, Ireland.



JOSEPH M. TAYLOR
First American executive officer / Panasonic Corporation (retired). Moved the company's headquarters to Newark 2013. Former Grand Marshal Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



**BRITNEE
TIMBERLAKE**

New Jersey State Senator (LD 34) whose mother Cathy Walsh and grandfather Frank Walsh trace their roots from Trenton and Hamilton, New Jersey to Kilkenny, Ireland.



**CARDINAL JOSEPH
WILLIAM TOBIN**

Archbishop of Newark, Large Irish Catholic family, oldest of thirteen children. Elevation to Cardinal (one of 18 nationwide) November 2016. Installed January 2017. First time Newark Archdiocese is headed by a Cardinal. 2020 Grand Marshal / Bergen County.



**MICHAEL P. TORPEY,
ESQ.**

Founding Partner/ GTB Partners. Thirty years experience in government, politics, business and law. Former Chief Counsel and Chief of Staff to Governor Christine Todd Whitman.



**CHRIS AND MAIREAD
TULLY**

Chris a NJ State Assemblyman (D-38), former Council President / Bergenfield and top aide to U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer and Mairead, a writer with the Irish Echo.



ANN TWOMEY

Distinguished President (retired) / Hospital and Professional and Allied Employees (HPAE-AFT), state nurse's union. Delegate to the Democratic National Convention(s). VP / NJ State AFL-CIO. Membe / Advisory Board / InsiderNJ.com.



**VIRGINIA "GINNY"
TREACY**

Executive Director/Jersey Nurses Economic Security Organization (JNESO). Respected leader with 35 years of service to labor causes (retired)). Former Deputy Grand Marshal/Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



KEVIN D. WALSH
Acting State Comptroller. Leads day-to-day operations that audits and reviews government programs and operations, investigates misconduct by government employees and officials. Catholic University and Rutgers Law School grad.



THOMAS J. WALSH
Superior Court Judge. Former President / Union County Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Family hails from County Sligo, Ireland. Married to the well regarded, former Star Ledger reporter Diane (Curcio) Walsh.



SHEILA LENIHAN WALSH
University Hospital, Newark APN. Former Newark Parade Deputy Grand Marshal. Her (late) husband, John, was a former Newark Parade Grand Marshal.



MEGAN WIGGINS
Judicial Law Clerk (Permanent) / Federal Judge Katherine Hayden. Strong supporter of Irish causes. Married to Irish leader Jamie Cryan.



ROBERT C. (BOBBY) WILLIAMS
Trustee of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the Oranges. Attorney in private practice. Life long West Orange resident.



KEITH WOOD
Grand Marshal /2025 Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Chester resident, Keith is an accomplished Great Highlands Bagpiper and Pipe Major with the Rory O'Moore Pipe and Drums which he helped establish. A stalwart parade marcher since 1979. Keith traces his roots to Counties, Meath, Cork, and Cavan.

IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS 2025



DANIEL ZEISER

Director of Union Township Police.
Past Grand Marshal Newark St. Patrick's
Day Parade. Former Newark police
officer.

In Memoriam



James A. Cavanaugh

1944-2024

Chester Township: Entrepreneur, Essex County Freeholder-At-Large, Undercover Investigator, active in the Community, beloved and devoted family man. An Irish and Italian American, Jimmy was the *Italian Tribune's Man of the Year* in 1996 while the same year he served as Grand Marshal of the Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade. 2010 inductee/ Essex County Democratic Committee Hall of Fame, Jimmy was the owner of the acclaimed Iron Bar/Revolution Gastro Pub in Morristown.

In Memoriam



Thomas William Ryan

1948-2024

Morris Township. Tom passed away after a brief illness in December 2024. TR, as many knew him, was born in Scranton, PA, raised in Rochester, NY, attending Bishop Kearney High School. Earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University and MBA from Rutgers. An avid storyteller and amateur poet, beloved by all who knew him. Actively involved with the Alzheimer's Association of New Jersey, Summit Speech School, and St. Patrick's Honor Guard.

In Memoriam



John Thomas Neary

1949-2025

“Known as “Muskrat Jack”, or just Jack, John Thomas Neary, passed away surrounded by family at the age of 75. He called Point Pleasant Boro home for 40 years. Devoted his life to the humane rescue and rehabilitation of animals. Jack served as Animal Control officer for several municipalities. He was a source of compassion and support for those in need. Jack was proud of his Irish heritage, loved to share about his trip to Ireland. He often spoke of retiring to County Mayo on Ireland’s west coast.” (Kevin Shea for NJ.com. Photo: Jim Murdoch)

In Memoriam



Thomas J. Miggins

1959-2025

Mendham. Beloved member of the Miggins Family, originally from the Vailsburg section of Newark. Tom passed away at home on February 6, 2025. Spent many years in Newark before moving to Union and Berkeley Heights, settling in Mendham. He was employed by Comcast Cable. Tom loved animals, especially dogs, and enjoyed relaxing by fishing with friends. Predeceased by his beloved wife, Lenore (Puzzo) Miggins; his parents, Michael J., and Margaret (Lahey) Miggins; his brother, Kevin E. Miggins; and his sister, Margaret Anne Miggins. He is survived by his loving daughters, Gianna Miggins, Caitlin Chemis, and her husband Michael; his brother, Michael J. Miggins, and wife Maggee as well as his nephews, Vincent Politano Jr. and Daniel Miggins and niece, Elizabeth (Miggins) King.