

# **PRESS RELEASE**

March 27, 2017

## **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



Mr. John "Jack" McGarry plays the bagpipes during the Essex County Freeholders "Salute to the Irish" Event at the Hall of Records. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders held its Annual "Salute to the Irish" Celebration on Thursday, March 2, 2017, in the Main Lobby at the Hall of Records in Newark. The program was highlighted by presentations of the Board's Commendations to the Grand Marshals, Deputy Grand Marshals and members of the organizing committees for Essex County's three St. Patrick's Day Parades: Nutley, West Orange and Newark.

This year's event was a collaborative effort of the Freeholder Board and its lead sponsors, Freeholder Vice President Brendan W. Gill of Montclair, Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell, and Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin.

Freeholder Vice President Gill began the ceremony by saying, "Today's celebration is one we look forward to every year, because it gives us an opportunity to celebrate our Irish heritage and to wear our Irish pride on our sleeves." As the previous Grand Marshal of the 2014 Nutley Parade, Freeholder Gill shared his firsthand experience of being a part of the parade with the distinguished honorees. Freeholder Leonard N. Luciano, also offered remarks, sharing his joy for the parades and celebrating both his half-Irish and half-Italian heritage.

Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake gave greetings during the event, sharing how important it is to celebrate diversity in Essex County. She thanked the honorees for their contributions and acknowledged all that the Irish Community has contributed to communities across the country.

As the Essex County Deputy Administrator and Speaker Emeritus in the New Jersey General Assembly, Assemblywoman Shelia Y. Oliver gave remarks on behalf Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr. Chairman of the Essex County Democratic Committee, Mr. LeRoy Jones, Jr., also offered greetings during the event.

**The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade**, which was held on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, was represented by Grand Marshal Frank Dauksis, Deputy Grand Marshal Shane McClafferty, Parade Queen Morgan Mairead Sim, "Member of the Year" Colleen Nielsen, "Firefighter of the Year" Michael Budinick and Parade Chair Deidre Hollywood.



(from left to right, front row) Ms. Colleen Nielsen, Deidre Hollywood, Mr. Michael Budinick, Freeholder Vice President Brendan W. Gill, (second row), Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano, Ms. Morgan Mairead Sim, (back row), Mr. Michael Budinick and Frank Dauksis gather together during the Board's Salute to the Irish Event. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

Grand Marshal **Frank Dauksis** of Belleville is a fourth generation Irish American who can trace his roots to County Roscommon. He is the second generation owner of Michael's Roscommon House in Belleville and is involved in many charities and organizations.

Deputy Grand Marshal **Shane McClafferty** of Nutley is one of four children born and raised in Achill Island, County Mayo, Ireland. He moved to New Jersey in 2003 and is member of the Carpenter Union local 608, Electrician Union local 102, and is a State Trooper.

**Colleen Nielsen** has been a resident of Nutley for the past 30 years and currently works for the Township of Nutley in the Code Enforcement Department. Her Irish roots trace back to Ennistymon, County Clare, and her great-grandparents on her grandfather's side migrated here from County Mayo around 1840.

**Morgan Mairead Sim** is a resident of Nutley and a senior at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown where she will graduate in May 2017, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She can trace her roots back to the Westport area of County Mayo and County Down, through the Healy, McClean, and Quinn lineage. The Quinn's came by way of Liverpool, known then as the 2nd Capitol of Ireland.

**Michael Budinick** of Nutley can trace his Irish heritage back to County Cork through his great-great-grandmother on his mother’s side. He is a member of the Jersey City Firefighter’s Emerald Society and served for 9 years as an Executive Board member for the Firefighters Union. In December 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain, and is currently serving as a Captain Representative for the Fire Officers Union.

The **66<sup>th</sup> Annual West Orange St. Patrick’s Day Parade** was held on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Main street was renamed “Kinney Boulevard” in honor of Grand Marshal Kevin Kinney. Deputy Grand Marshals Robert Raymond Hoehn, Gwen C. Glazier, Marian Reilly Cardace and Parade Chair Sheila Parisi led the Parade.



(from left to right, front row) Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano, Sheila Parisi, Gwen C. Glazier, Marian Reilly Cardace, Freeholder Vice President Brendan W. Gill, (from left to right, second row), Robert Raymond Hoehn and Kevin Kinney celebrate Irish Heritage during the Freeholders’ “Salute to the Irish” Program. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

Grand Marshal **Kevin Kinney** of West Caldwell can trace his Irish roots back at least 4 generations on both sides of the family. The Kinney family prospered as farmers on the banks of the Delaware River until the late 1800’s. His paternal great-grandmother, Margaret Keating, came to the United States from County Cork, Ireland. On his mother’s side, the Smith, Burns, McBride and Delaney families began arriving from Ireland in the mid-1800’s. Kevin is currently a realtor with Rhodes, Van Note and Co., in Montclair and has received numerous awards.

**Robert Raymond Hoehn** of West Orange was can trace his Irish roots through his mother’s side to the “Maryland Catholic League” families from 1785. He taught English Composition and English Literature at several universities and has worked at Essex Sign Co., Inc., where he served as Vice President after 1984 and President from 1990 to 2012.

**Gwen C. Glazier** of West Orange is the granddaughter of Thomas Beirne and Mary Rushe who migrated to the United States from Ireland in the late 1800s, settling in Newark and the Oranges, Both hailed from County Roscommon (Grandfather of Frenchpark and Grandmother of Elphin). Gwen currently serves as a counselor for MetLife and Prudential Benefit, parishioner at St. Joseph’s Church in West Orange.

**Marian Reilly Cardace** of Roseland can trace her Irish roots through her paternal grandmother, Anna (Hannah) Veronica Butler of Cork City, Ireland, and her paternal grandfather John Thomas Reilly who settled in County Cavan. She has family that settled in Cahersiveen County Kerry and County Tyrone. She has worked as an executive administrative assistant at Saint Barnabas Medical Center and Barnabas Health (RWJ Barnabas Health), for the last 25 years.

**The 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Newark St. Patrick's Parade**, New Jersey's oldest, was held on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, in Downtown Newark represented by the Grand Marshal Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B., Deputy Grand Marshal Elizabeth Anne "Betty" Sheehan Teevan and the Parade Chair Michael D. Byrne. This year's Newark Parade was also dedicated to Mrs. Marguerite Quinn Largey and Mr. Robert Hugh Largey.



(From left to right) Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano, Robert Hugh Largey, Michael D. Byrne, Elizabeth Anne "Betty" Sheehan, and Freeholder Vice President Brendan W. Gill celebrate the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade during the Board's "Salute to the Irish". PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

Grand Marshal **Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B.**, graduated from St. Benedict's Preparatory School in 1963 and became Headmaster in 1972. He was chosen to re-open St. Benedict's in 1973 with 89 students, 14 faculty members, and 13 monks to serve young men from largely low-income families in Newark. Today, the school has nearly 6,000 alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their respective careers, good fathers, husbands, and citizens.

Deputy Grand Marshal **Elizabeth Anne "Betty" Sheehan** can trace her heritage back to her maternal great-grandparents Isabelle Lafferty Ash and Thomas Ash from County Donegal, Ireland, and her paternal great-grandparents, Margaret Feeney Sheehan and William Sheehan from Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland. Elizabeth is currently a parishioner at St. Catherine Church in Holmdel where she has lived for 38 years and proprietor of The Full Shilling Irish Restaurant and Pub in the Wall Street area of New York City.

The 2017 Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade was dedicated to the late **Mrs. Marguerite Quinn Largey** and **Mr. Robert Hugh Largey**. Mrs. Largey's Irish roots stem from her mother's family from County Waterford and her father's family from County Roscommon. She retired from New Jersey Bell Telephone Company after 40 years of service. Mr. Largey's parents were from

Adrigoole near Knock, Co. Mayo, and Cloghogue near Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, respectively. Mr. Largey graduated from Fordham University in New York and retired after a long, successful career in the early 1990's. After courting for 19 years, the couple married on July 19, 1992. In 2016, Mrs. Largey developed a rare respiratory condition and fought bravely through it all. They celebrated their 24th anniversary at the rehabilitation facility, and in her last hours, he was right by her side. She passed away peacefully on August 14, 2016. The Parade Committee chose to celebrate the couple by honoring their years of dedication to the Irish community.

This year's program also featured opening and closing prayers from Reverend Paul Donohue of St. Lucy's Church, musical selections from John "Jack" McGarry and Carolyne Volpe Curley, and a special Irish Dance performance by students from the DeNogla School of Irish Dance.

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