

MESSAGE OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL



It is with great excitement and an extremely humble heart that I greet you today as the 2022 Deputy Grand Marshal of the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade. How wonderful it is that we can gather again after a two-year hiatus!

Today would not be possible without my Dad, Donald Hannon Sr. He taught me from a young age the importance of Keeping the Tradition Alive and of honoring my Irish heritage. I watched him for many years play an integral part in the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, including as General Chairman from 1987-1989 and as Grand Marshal in 1991. The Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade has always been a family affair. My grandfather, William Hannon Sr. was part of the very first parade in 1936, and my Uncle Paul Reilly also served as Grand Marshal. I am so proud to be following in all of their footsteps today.

With every step today, I will be thinking about my late mother, Carol Hannon. She was a longtime member of the Women of Irish Heritage and also instilled in me the importance of honoring our Irish culture. I wish she was here today, but I know she has the best seat in the house. I miss her every day.

As I march up Mulberry Street today, I will be thinking about all of the people who helped get us through these last two years. My colleagues at St. Barnabas Medical Center and all of the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff throughout the world; our first responders; our essential workers; our teachers; our scientists; our government officials. Today, I march for all of them, in tribute to their strength and resilience.

I would like to thank the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for this honor today, especially to General Chairman Susan Gartland, Karen Golding, and Father Pat Donohue. I am so incredibly grateful and humbled by it. Just know, this has meant the world to me. Thank you for keeping this parade alive and for all of your tireless work to get the parade on the streets. I would also like to thank Tom Giblin for his support over the years.

I want to send a big Congratulations to Grand Marshal Jere Cole and my co- Deputy Grand Marshal Eileen McGinley Hannaford. I am so excited to share in this honor with you and to march with you and all of your aides today.

To all of my aides, thank you for your support and your love always. To my two Special Aides, Harper and Theo, Aunt Mare loves you more than you will ever know.

And finally, to my children, my Chief of Staff Brianna and my Aide Kerry, and to my son-in-law John, I love you to the moon and back.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Erin Go Bragh!

Maryann Hannon Kostecka
2022 Deputy Grand Marshal