

MESSAGE OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL



Good Day and God Bless

What an honor and humbling to be included as the 2020-2022 Deputy Grand Marshal of the 87th Anniversary celebration of the Newark Saint Patrick's Day Parade! To be asked to walk in the footsteps of so many fantastically accomplished Deputy Grand Marshal's is inspirational and heartfelt.

Thank you and congratulations to the Newark Saint Patrick's Parade Committee and its General Chairman, Susan cGartland, for seeking me out for the position. Best wishes always to the Grand Marshal, Jere Cole, and Deputy Grand Marshal, MaryAnn Hannon Kostecka.

The best way to start this memorable day is with our mass at the historic St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral, whose mission reflects the Newark Parade Committee beliefs of "ENCOUNTER • GROW • SERVE." I offer my condolences and best wishes to the family of †Mary Sweeney Hall, for whom the 2022 parade is dedicated.

I encourage you to share with me as we observe the Holy Day of Obligation as it is in Ireland by reflecting on the mission and the life of Saint Patrick, a man of piety. Today and all the days like it to come here on the Streets of Newark since 1936 is a celebration of faith, family, friends, heritage, and tradition.

My family and many of yours have been friends and community collaborators for over 60 years. We as a group develop deeply and spiritually by remembering all our encounters in our beautiful lives as they shape our future. each family and their ancestors for being incredible role models, always having pride in where they came from in Ireland and where they are today.

On September 11, 2001, my late husband Kevin melted into the predawn darkness going to work. Later that morning, Kevin left us all in World Trade Center 1. Kevin left behind so many who loved him. We all miss him so deeply every day because of his love and passion for life. We continue as he would wish, living the best we can daily by respecting each day as the gift it is. We are blessed to have another beautiful day on this earth.

We formed the Kevin J. Hannaford, Sr. Foundation, Inc with these thoughts. The Foundation contributes financially to the educational needs of bereaved children in our community. Over the past 18 years, we have provided financial resources to over 150 children supporting their academic journeys with the help and support of many, including our solid Irish community. Our sons Patrick, Kevin Jr., and I are privileged to pay it forward. Kevin, Sr. lives on through our gifts to these children.

Most importantly, I thank my sons Patrick and Kevin, who inspire me daily! My family, especially my parents Patrick and Mary McGinley, from County Donegal and County Fermanagh, my brother Patrick, family, friends, and strangers who stand with me.

Thank you All!

Godspeed, Eileen McGinley Hannaford ~~ Sláinte!