52™ ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND 2025

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BELMAR & LAKE COMO ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE EST. 1973



THE HISTORY

OF THE BELMAR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

In 1974, for the first time, men and women of the Jersey Shore joined together and marched up Main Street in honor of Saint Patrick.

Formed and led by the newly formed Jerry Lynch Club, the parade was intended to be a showcase for the "Irish Riviera." Entertained by marchers, bands, and a lot of fire engines, crowds line the streets early on in this parade. Within four years the parade was developing rapidly and attracted statewide attention. Marchers numbered close to a thousand and the crowds kept growing. By 1981 the railroad added special trains on parade day to accommodate the ever-growing number of spectators from North jersey and New York.

By 1985, the parade had come into its own as such, needed its own committee. Led up to this point by members of the Jerry Lynch Club, a committee was formed to deal solely with the job of putting a parade on the street. The executive committee was led by then chairman, Dave Stanley. The group, at the time, boasts 25 members. Also this year The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of Old Bridge became the first pipe band leading the parade. The following year, another tradition is born with the investiture Mass at St. Rose R.C. Church and parade spectators neared 80,000.

1992 saw the beautiful St. Patrick parade banner for the first time at the head of the parade. It now leads the parade every year. By 1993, more than 4000 marchers, 35 bands and 20 floats down Main Street. Within 10 years our numbers grew to over 5,500 marchers and more than 40 bands. Roughly 200,000 spectators revel in what the parade had become. Also in 1992, the newly formed Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Jersey Shore joined our parade. Because they were new, they were at the back of the parade. After marching, their fellow Shillelaghs from Old Bridge and Essex, came back and marched with the Jersey Shore Shillelaghs.

In 1999 the newly formed Women of Irish Heritage of the Jersey Shore marched for the first time in the parade and have done so every year since. In 2004 we said goodbye to our friend Dave Stanley and the parade needed a new Executive Board leader. The parade had grown substantially in size, coordination had become almost a full-time job from December to March. The office had been computerized and staffed several days a week. In an effort to not miss a beat, two new leaders were names as Parade Chairmen, Chip Cavanagh and Bill O'Connell.

2008 Bill O'Connell assumed the position of Treasurer, and Chip Cavanagh as our Chairman and leader.

In 2013 we celebrated our 40th parade and we honored the original parade committee, Ed Hendrickson,

Andy Gallagher, Anne Aker, Jerry Lynch, Fran Lynch, Dick McMorrow, Paul Caverly, Jackie Cavanagh, Tim O'Leary, Charlie Sylvester and Dave Stanley.

In 2020 we lost Jerry Lynch and in 2021 Fran Lynch who were on the original committee and put their hearts and souls into this parade.

In 2023 we celebrated our 50th year, our office has been updated with programs that include online registration for participating organizations and other features we couldn't have contemplated when it all began.

We remain the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the state of New Jersey. The Parade draws thousands of visitors to see the sprawling sea of pipe bands and parade floats. New Jersey transit has even added additional trains to help move the crowds in and out of beautiful Belmar.

What started as a dream and a plan by a young Jerry Lynch Association has become one of the highlights of the Saint Patrick's Day season and has now transformed into one of the great Irish events of the Saint Patrick's Day Season!

This year we celebrate another successful year and thank the original parade committee members for their dedication and years of service to the Irish community.



Welcome friends and family to the 52nd year,

we celebrate this wonderful tradition of honoring Saint Patrick in the Irish Riveria. The first parade of the season and we have the privilege of bringing it together for you beginning with the beautiful mass at St. Rose, followed by this wonderful meal. Thank you to Pat Feehery, Pat Donnelly and committee.

Each year I get the privilege to honor our Grand Marshals for the parade. Every Grand Marshal chosen is very special and is selected in some way due to their effort in promoting Irish-American culture. Both Fran and Matt have deep Irish roots and a rich Irish heritage and both emphasize the importance of actively passing down Irish culture through their communities. Both have been active in the local Pipe Bands as pipers, they also volunteer and belong to Irish organizations, such as the Friendly Sons for Matt and the IACI and Irish Festival for Fran. I would also like to recognize both for their long commitment towards this parade. They have both been on the Belmar Lake Como Parade Committee for well over a decade. Your passion, dedication and hard work have truly made a difference, and we are so grateful for the time you've given to us. You are truly worthy of this honor.

Since last year's parade we have had a beautiful summer and a frigid winter at the Jersey Shore. The parade and all the celebrations that lead up to this weekend are only possible with hard work and dedication by the parade committee members, sponsors and friends. Thank you all for your support whether it is in donation of time, money or commitment. We recognize it all and thank you for it!

> WISHING YOU A RAINBOW, FOR SUNLIGHT AFTER SHOWERS MILES AND MILES OF IRISH SMILES FOR GOLDEN HAPPY HOURS SHAMROCKS AT YOUR DOORWAY FOR LUCK AND LAUGHTER TOO, AND A HOST OF FRIENDS THAT NEVER ENDS EACH DAY YOUR WHOLE LIFE THROUGH!

This year we are also celebrating the life of our past committee member and 2011 Grand Marshal, Bob Jenkins. Bob passed away early last year and is dearly missed. Until **we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

Slán go fóill,

Eugene "Chip" Cavanagh PARADE CHAIRMAN

PAST GRAND MARSHALS & DEPUTY GRAND MARSHALS

- 1974 JAMES J. HOWARD THERESA BURKE
- 1975 JOHN TAYLOR CLARENCE REED CATHERINE MCCANN
- 1976 PAUL KIERNAN JENNIE NICOL
- 1977 BRIAN KENNEDY ELIZABETH MCGILL
- 1978 WILLIAM KELLY MARGARET BYRNE
- 1979 MICHAEL DOOLAN MIRIAM TOOHEY
- 1980 DAVID STANLEY FRANCES MCSHEA
- 1981 FRANCIS PYANOE CORNELIA RYAN
- 1982 JERRY LYNCH MARY TRACHMAN
- 1983 FRANK "PAT" DODD JOAN "SAM" GRACE
- 1984 LEO CARLIN JENNIFER JOYCE
- 1985 ANDREW J. GALLAGHER MARY FOLEY REILLY
- 1986 EDWARD P. MC GLYNN MARY SHARKEY KELLY

- 1987 RICHARD REGAN FRANCES LYNCH
- 1988 JOSEPH "BO" SULLIVAN ANN HOURIHAN REA
- 1989 THOMAS P. POWERS NOREEN McCORMACK
- 1990 THOMAS F. MURPHY CATHY FINN
- 1991 JOHN F. FLEMING ISABELLA SMITH
- 1992 LAWRENCE R. CODEY MARGARET O'NEILL
- 1993 JOHN "LARRY" KELLY MARILYN MALONEY
- 1994 JOSEPH FINN DELIA "DOLLY" HARRIS
- 1995 MSGR. ALFRED D. SMITH EILEEN P. O'CONNELL
- 1996 JOHN KELLY ROSEMARIE PLUNKETT REILLY
- 1997 TOM MOORE JOSEPHINE ANN SHEEHAN
- 1998 JACK REA KATHLEEN DONNELLY
- 1999 ROBERT O'CONNOR HELEN FAY

- 2000 WILLIAM O'CONNELL SHARON DAY
- 2001 KEVIN KELLY ED KELLY FLORENCE SHEEHAN
- 2002 CHARLES DONNELLY PEGGY CARROLL
- 2003 VINCENT HARRIS EILEEN HERBERT
- 2004 JOHN "JACK" FEENEY JANE McGOVERN
- 2005 JAMES BYRNE JOAN M. FAUX
- 2006 EUGENE "CHIP" CAVANAGH SHEILA MURPHY DINA MURPHY-STARACE
- 2007 REV. FR. BRIAN T. BUTCH CLAUDIA MONTEVERDI
- 2008 EDWARD NEAFSEY PEG O'CONNOR
- 2009 KENNETH PRINGLE PATRICIA NEARY BYRNE
- 2010 CHARLES FLYNN JANET McGRATH
- 2011 ROBERT JENKINS PATRICIA FEEHERY
- 2012 JOHN CARR JANE GUILD



2013	LARRY WALSH ANNE AKER JACKIE CAVANAGH
2014	JOHN SHERIDAN MARY KEANEY
2015	PAUL CAVERLY JANE DONOVAN
2016	BOBBY BYRNE MARTHA FINAN
2017	ED DONOVAN MIRIAM P SHERIDAN
2018	DAN REILLY PATRICIA JENKINS
2019	MICHAEL B. RYAN MARGARET NEAFSEY
2020	SCOTT FITZGERALD EILEEN DONNELLY BIENNAS
2021	COVID
2022	CRAIG COYLE AMANDA LOUISE CREGAN
2023	EUGENE "CHIP" CAVANAGH
2024	

2024 EDWARD NEAFSEY MICHELLE CASSERLY KATHLEEN CASSERLY MEGAN LEVIS

FRAN GRIFFIN & MATTHEW LEE **GRAND MARSHALS**

Fran Griffin lives on Seaview Island and grew up in Wharton, a small town in northwestern NJ where her father. Edward was born. Her mother Barbara hails from Jersey City. Fran. her brothers Marty and Eddie, and sister MaryBeth grew up in a town with many cousins.

Irish culture activities were common in the Griffin house and Fran took step-dancing lessons for a few years. In 1974, the Irish American Association of Northwest NJ was founded, and Fran's father was one of the original members. The Association organized their first St. Patrick's Day parade in Wharton in 1979 and her father donated the organization banner in memory of his father which Fran, her brothers and sister carried as they led that first parade with their parents proudly behind them. After college Fran learned to play the bagpipes, playing with CuChullain and Rory O'Moore bands in many parades and at area festivals.

Fran had an early interest in health care, becoming a volunteer at the local hospital in high school and an EMT on the town first aid squad. Fran graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University and worked as a Registered Respiratory Therapist in two hospitals in Morris County. Her favorite area was the neonatal ICU where she worked most often. Fran advanced to hospital administration and earned a master's degree in public administration. In 2000, she moved to the shore to work in administration at a local hospital and then went on to roles with organizations working to improve health care quality. Currently Fran oversees quality programs for the Infectious Diseases Society of America and does some independent consulting.

Fran is proud of her Irish American ancestry, including a wee bit of Scottish. Most of her ancestors emigrated in the 19th century from counties Cork, Galway, Meath and Roscommon. Through genealogical research Fran discovered cousins in County Galway and in 2022 traveled



there to meet them. A maternal third greatgrandparent's father was born in County Down, emigrated to colonial America and served as a captain in the Continental Army; his mother's ancestors were on the Mayflower and in Jamestown.

Fran joined the Belmar Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade committee in 2004, where she has made many friends. She has supported the parade by volunteering at fundraisers, organizing the Evening of Irish Culture from 2011-2016 and creating and managing the parade Facebook page. In 2015, Fran was the announcer for the parade and proud to recognize her brother Eddie, as he marched with the Belmar Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh. Fran has enjoyed serving as the announcer since then. In 2013 she joined the NJ Irish Festival committee and was honored to serve as chair in 2018. Fran manages Facebook pages for the Irish American Cultural Institute Jersey Shore Chapter and the St. Vincent de Paul Society Belmar, is a parishioner at St. Rose where she volunteers for the children's liturgy, and a member of Manasquan Elks Lodge 2534.

Fran is honored to have been selected as a grand marshal for the 2025 parade along with fellow grand marshal Matt Lee. She is looking forward to marching with family and friends and will proudly carry her great-great-grandfather's blackthorn shillelagh walking stick that her father carried in that first Wharton parade.

Matthew Lee is a resident of Port Monmouth. Middletown. He is a proud member of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh club and pipe band in Old Bridge. He is also a member of the **AOH Vol. Patrick Torphy Monmouth** County Division 2 in Middletown. His family tree boasts connections to multiple parts of Ireland with paternal grandparents having emigrated from Carrick on Shannon, Co. Roscommon and Cloonagh, Curry, Co. Sligo. His maternal grandfathers family also traces their roots back to Co. Cork.

Those family connections were strengthened by While Matt grew his work experience, he also got back to learning to play the pipes. Initially working with a member of the Essex Shillelagh pipe band to continue his instruction. From there he joined St Anns of Hampton Pipes & Drums. While enjoying his time with the band, he still felt a pull to where it all started and eventually came back to play with the Friendly Sons Pipe Band in Old Bridge. Within a short time, Matt also became a member of the club as well. Soon after he brought his design skills to bear for both the club and band. When the opportunity presented itself, Matt then joined fellow Shillelaghs on the Belmar parade committee and took lead on the design of the ad journal. Almost 15 years later he still works with the committee to help support his favorite parade. Matt takes pride in marching in the Belmar parade each year as a Shillelagh piper and club member. He is humbled by this honor as Grand Marshal and

his wife Mary, who's family comes from Monaghan and Kerry. Matt and Mary embrace their culture and history for their two sons Jack and Michael, maintaining close relationships with family still living in Ireland. The oldest child of John and Diana Lee, Matt was born in Jackson Heights, Queens. As a young child the family moved to Old Bridge and he grew up there with his younger sister Karen. He attended St Ambrose Elementary School in Old Bridge, St Mary's Regional High School in South Amboy and Rowan University. While in high school, Matt was introduced to the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh in Old Bridge after expressing interest in the bagpipes to a family friend who was a member. This was the beginning of his journey to becoming a bagpiper.

After graduating from Rowan, Matt began his design career working in Manhattan for the auction house, Sotheby's. From there he worked with a few different ad agencies, introducing him to a range of industries including food, finance, and insurance brands



It was at this time he also began to consider giving back and sharing his talents. After losing his father to ALS when he was 15, Matt wanted to give back to the organization that supported his family during that difficult time, so he began volunteering as a designer for the ALS Association, Greater Philadelphia Chapter. This relationship has continued to this day as he supports the organization as a piper and designer when they have a need.

After a few years, Matt settled into a focus on healthcare advertising and has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 20 years. Helping to launch new brands, emphasize disease awareness, and give voice to rare disease communities and treatments. He currently works as an Associate Creative Director for Pryme, a provider and patient agency located in Morristown.

is excited to take that stroll down Dave Stanley Ave.

with his family, friends.

Belmar & Lake Como Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee



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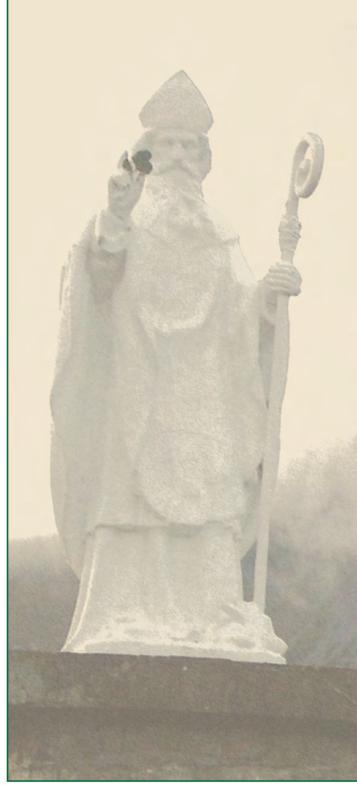
1973 BELMAR ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE



Top row: Ed Hendrickson, Andy Gallagher^{*}, Anne Aker^{*}, Jerry Lynch^{*}, Dick McMorrow Bottom row: Paul Caverly, Jackie Cavanagh^{*}, Tim O'Leary^{*}, Charlie Sylvester^{*} Missing: Fran Lynch^{*}, Dave Stanley^{*}

*deceased

2025 BELMAR PARADE IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF





Bob Jenkins



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Congratulations to the **Belmar Parade Committee** for another year

and to the 2025 Parade **Grand Marshal's** Matthew Lee & Fran Griffin

From the members of The Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Old Bridge, NJ

P.O. Box 317 • 15 Oak Street, Old Bridge Township, New Jersey 08857 Telephone 732-251-9840 • www.fsos.com

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& THE BELMAR PARADE **COMMITTEE FOR A JOB WELL DONE**



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The Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore

Congratulations to the Grand Marshals



Matt Lee & Fran Griffin



May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and the wind be always at your back.



Belmar & Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade **IBEW Local 1289** WISHES TO CONGRATULATE **ALL OF THE GRAND MARSHALS** FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO **THE IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY.** In Solidarity, The Officers and Members of **IBEW Local 1289**

There were people of all ages Gathered round the gable wall Poor and humble men and women Little children that you would call

We are gathered here before you And our hearts are just the same Filled with joy at such a vision As we praise your name

Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland All my cares and troubles cease As I kneel with love before you Lady of Knock, my Queen of Peace

Oh, your message is unspoken But the truth in silence lies So I gaze upon your vision And the truth I try to find

Here I stand, with John the teacher And with Joseph at your side

And I see the lamb of God On the altar glorified

Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland All my cares and troubles cease As we kneel with love before you Lady of Knock, my Queen of Peace

And the lamb will conquer And the woman clothed in the sun Will shine her light on everyone1 And the lamb will conquer And the woman clothed in the sun Will shine her light on everyone

> Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland All our cares and troubles cease As we kneel with love before you Lady of Knock, my Queen of Peace In loving memory of our parents

Lady of Knock My Queen of Peace



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52ND ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

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Sheila Murphy



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With us in spirit-our dear father, Edward M.Griffin and brother, Edward A. Griffin





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Congratulate the 2025 Grand Marshals

Fran Griffin Mathew Lee



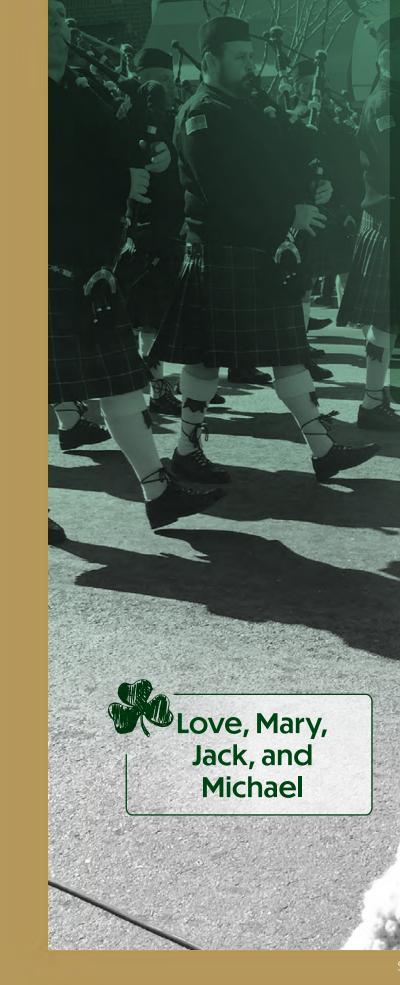
CONGRATUALTIONS MATT !

patrick's Day para

Your Role as Grand Marshal brings us all so MUCH JOY! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. BEST WISHES AND HAPPINESS TO YOU, MARY, JACK, MICHAEL, AND EVERYONE CELEBRATING THIS SPECIAL DAY. SLÁINTE! 🗱

WITH LOVE, IRENE & PAOLO





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Mattee

Congratulations

to my amazing husband Matt Lee for being named Grand Marshal.

The boys and I are so proud of you for receiving this honor.

> Your dedication, passion, and hard work have earned you this recognition and it is so well deserved.

Seeing you lead the parade will be a moment to remember, and we look forward to proudly marching alongside you.

MONMOUTH & OCEAN COUNTIES CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

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- **Bar Anticipation Congratulates** Fran Griffin And Matt Lee
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- Belmar-Lake Como St. Patrick's Parade
 - **Grand Marshalls**
- We also raise a glass In memory of Bob Jenkins And to the Belmar-Lake Como St Patrick's Parade

"Slainte"

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CONGRATULATIONS GRAND MARSHALS Fran Griffin Маттнеw Lee

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Congratulations & Best Wishes

Have a Happy and Healthy St. Patrick's Day!



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То

The Belmar & Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade & Committee

Enjoy the 52th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



Congratulations FRAN GRIFFIN & MATT LEE

AS GRAND MARSHAL

And Remembering

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> I FOREVER CHERISH THE IRISH BLESSING OF a SHARED LIFE WITH YOU AND SAY:

My glory was I had such a friend. - WB Yeats

LE MO GHRA GO LEIR! DUBH

Thank you for your everlasting love and everything you bestowed upon us. We carry you in our hearts.

With love from Ed and Meg

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Edward M. (Bud) Neafsey 2008 Belmar & Lake Como Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Agnes T. (Murphy) Neafsey.

The Casserly and Levis Clan wish to congratulate the 2025 grand marshals, Fran Griffin and Matt Lee, and the entire Parade Committee.

Slainte!



CONGRATULATIONS GRAND MARSHALS Fran Griffin Matthew Lee



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MATT CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING NAMED THIS YEAR'S GRAND MARSHAL. WE ARE SO PROUD OF HOW YOU AND MARY ARE KEEPING THE IRISH TRADITIONS ALIVE.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY TO YOU, MARY, JACK AND MICHAEL!



GRAND MARSHAL - BELMAR PARADE 2025

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TO ALL THAT CAME OUT AND SUPPORTED OUR FUNDRASIERS!!





52ND Belmar Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade

Congratulations to Matt Lee & Fran Griffin **Grand Marshals**

We celebrate our members who are former Grand Marshalls and Deputy Grand Marshalls Bobby Byrne Paul Caverly **Robert Jenkins** Frank "Pat" Dodd **Edward Neafsey Kenneth Pringle** Mary Foley Reilly **Isabel Smith** Sharon Day Patricia Neary Byrne



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Bobby Byrne (Grand Marshal 2016)

Salute and Congratulate 2025 Belmar Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshals

Fran Griffin and Matt Lee

For their unwavering commitment to the Parade Committee and to the Irish-American community

Sláinte, Bobby & Pat

and Pat Byrne (Deputy Grand Marshal 2009)



WOIHJS PAST PRESIDENTS Peggy Carroll 1998 - 2002 * Eileen Herbert 2002 - 2005 Claudia Monteverdi 2005 - 2006 * CC Gerraty 2006 - 2009 Barbara Bassell 2009 - 2012 * Mary Keaney 2012 - 2015 Kathy Essner 2015 - 2018 * Amanda Cregan 2018 - 2019 * Jean McLean 2019 - 2022

May good luck be with you wherever you go, and your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow. May your days be many and your troubles be few, May all God's blessings descend upon you, May peace be within you, May your heart be strong, May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

> **Pat and Jack Feehery** Jane and Ed Donovan Martha Finan Jane and Bob Guild

Eileen Donnelly Biennas

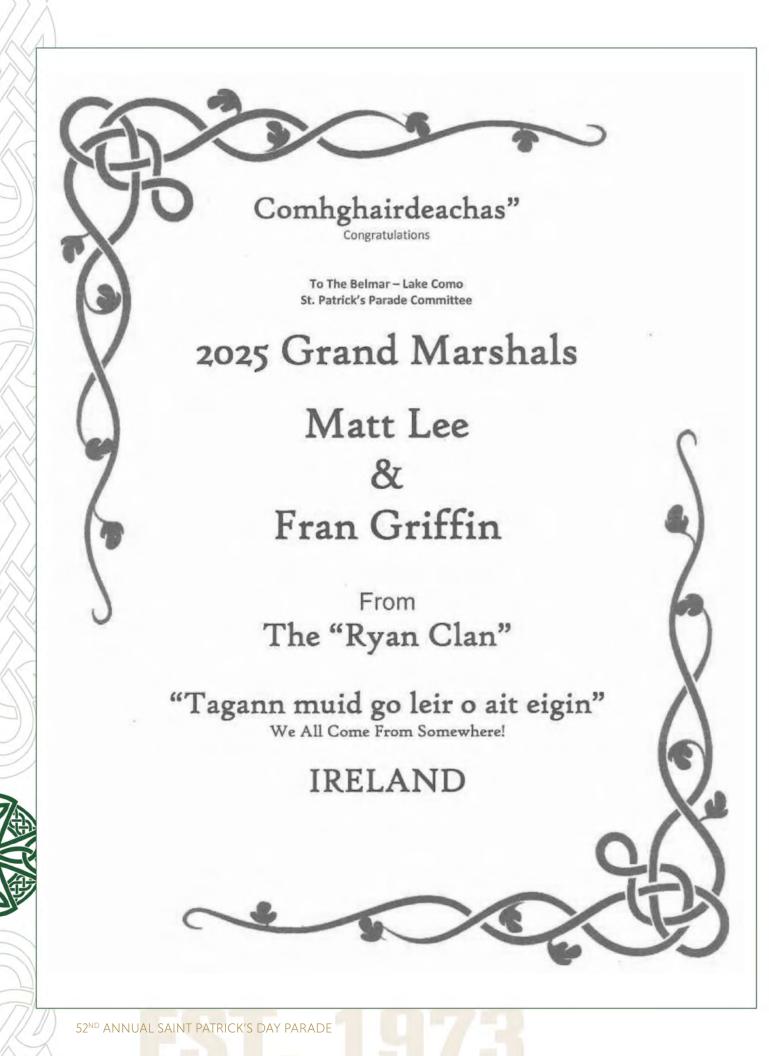
Kathleen Hobbs

Mary Lavender

Maureen O'Halloran

Dina Murphy Starace

Congratulations to our 2025 Grand Marshals, **Fran Griffin and Matt Lee!**



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Local 68 Powers and Maintains New Jersey

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 68 is the voice of over 7,000 engineers and facilities workers in New Jersey. Local 68 members maintain and protect the critical infrastructure that our state depends on including power plants, hospitals, colleges, sports arenas, retail and industrial centers, and casinos.

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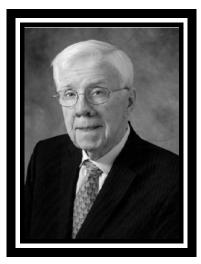


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Remembering Reggie Martin and Dave Stanley





IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE JOHN WALSH JERSEY SHORE CHAPTER

Congratulations to **2025 GRAND MARSHAL** FRAN GRIFFIN!

Fran is an invaluable IACI JS member who gives generously of her time and technical expertise to ensure the success of our programs.

She is a woman of many talents, whose ties to multiple Irish organizations has helped the IACI JS become a vital part of the local Irish community.



The goal of the John Walsh Jersey Shore chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute is to provide leadership and resources to preserve, interpret and promote Irish and Irish American cultures. We hold monthly meetings at the Jersey Shore to spread the stories, music and history of the Irish culture.

www.iacijerseyshore.com

Cell: 732-829-1711 Fax: 732-223-7434 Dan Reilly

CONGRATULATIONS **GRAND MARSHALS FRAN GRIFFIN** & MATT LEE **ON THIS WELL DESERVED HONOR. ENJOY EVERY MOMENT! DAN & EILEEN REILLY**

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TO THE 2024 BELMAR - LAKE COMO SAINT PATRICK'S DAY COMMITTEE

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND ENDLESS SUPPORT.

> THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! CHIP



Michael Calleo, President **Thomas Mitchell, Vice President-Tolls** Joseph Fahrion, Vice President-Maintenance **Darnell Ross, Vice President-Administration** Michael McDermott, Treasurer Jennifer Foster, Secretary Mark Conners, Sgt. at Arms **895 Green Street** Iselin, N.J. 08830 Congratulations to Grand Marshals: Matt Lee and Fran Griffin

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Congratulations to all Participants & Happy

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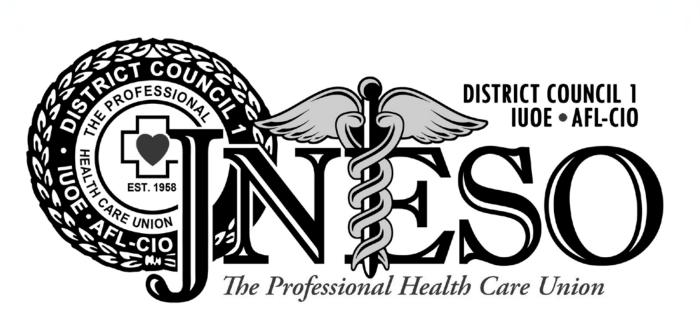
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CONGRATULATIONS **GRAND MARSHALS** MATT LEE & FRAN GRIFFIN! **A GREAT TRADITION!** Liz & John De Maio





Congratulations **Grand Marshals**

From Your Friends At JNESO

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52ND ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

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