

April 3, 2009

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Annual "Salute to the Irish" Event Honors Grand Marshals, Deputy Grand Marshals & Organizing Committees of the Newark, Nutley & West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parades



From left to right - Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, piper Jack McGarry, Essex County Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr., and Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo)

(Newark, NJ) – The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders held its Annual "Salute to the Irish" Celebration in recognition of St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at the Hall of Records. The program included the presentation of Commendations from the Board to the Grand Marshals, Deputy Grand Marshals and members of the organizing committees for the Newark, Nutley and West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parades.

The event was a collaborative effort of the Freeholder Board sponsors, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh and Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo, Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, and Essex County Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr.

The 74th Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade, New Jersey's oldest, was held on Friday, March 13th, in downtown Newark. This year's Grand Marshal was Daniel J. Zieser, a 36-year veteran of the Newark Police Department who retired with the rank of Deputy Chief in 2008. He currently serves as Director of the Union Township Police Department and resides in Clark. Maggee Miggins of Short Hills, a well-known real estate broker/associate with Keller Williams Realty, served as this year's Deputy Grand Marshal. Kevin Frey served as Chairman of the Parade Committee.



Front row (left-right): Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo, Grand Marshal Daniel J. Zieser, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Deputy Grand Marshal Maggee Miggins, Vice Chair of the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Grace Cunningham, and Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson.

Back row (left-right): Freeholder Carol Y. Clark, County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson, and Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr

The 31st Annual Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Saturday, March 7th, when participants marched down Franklin Avenue and Centre Street. Scott Sim served as this year's Grand Marshal. He is a 25-year veteran of the Belleville Police Department, where he currently serves as a Captain, and resides in Belleville. Kevin Nally of Nutley, a Captain in the Jersey City Fire Department, served as Deputy Grand Marshal. Also honored were Nutley "Queen of the Parade" Margaret "Peggy" McIntyre of Nutley, an elementary school teacher, and Danielle Carlo, the Nutley Irish American Association's "Member of the Year" for 2009. The Parade Committee was co-chaired by Thomas Donohoe and Danielle Carlo who were represented by Tom McEnery, President of the Nutley Irish American Association.



Front row (left-right): Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo, Deputy Grand Marshal Kevin Nally, Queen of the Parade Margaret "Peggy" McIntyre, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson and Tom McEnery, President of the Nutley Irish American Association

Back row (left-right): Freeholder Carol Y. Clark, County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson, Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr., and Grand Marshal Scott Sim

The 58th Annual West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Sunday, March 15th, along Main Street. Frank Gately, owner of Gately Plumbing & Heating, Inc., served as Grand Marshal. The Deputy Grand Marshals were Mary Pat Bogart of Glen Ridge, a legal assistant and real estate agent; Eileen Gilleece of Hamilton, a 24-year member of the New Jersey State Police; James Masker of Bloomfield, an educator of 31 years who retired in 2002; and Daniel Meeks, a Marine Iraq War veteran and Clifton firefighter. Joseph Ryan served as this year's Parade Committee Chairman.



Front row (left-right): Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo, Deputy Grand Marshal Eileen Gilleece, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Deputy Grand Marshal Mary Pat Bogart, WO St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Chairman Joseph Ryan and Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson

Back row (left-right): Freeholder Carol Y. Clark, County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson and Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr.

Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh of West Orange applauded the honorees and parade organizers when she said, "Thanks to all your hard work, the wonder and joy of Irish traditions and culture are alive and well in Essex County." Freeholder Vice President Ralph Caputo of Belleville thanked Essex County's Irish community for "... allowing me to be an honorary Irishman, even if it's only for one week every March."

County Clerk Christopher Durkin and Surrogate Joseph Brennan assisted in the presentations to the honorees and entertained the attendees with their stories and jokes. Piper Jack McGarry of the Essex County Emerald Society provided authentic bagpipe musical entertainment and guests were invited to enjoy light refreshments at the conclusion of the program.

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