Mid-Hudson St. Patrick’s Parade Committee

PO Box 45

Chester, NY 10918

www.mhspp.org

Mr. Kevin Strommer, President

Mr. William Coffey, Vice President

Mrs. MaryAnne Garay, Treasurer

Mr. William Kirnan, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Unateresa Gormley, Financial Secretary

Mr. Mathew Buckley, Grand Marshal’s Breakfast Committee Chair

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Mid-Hudson St Patrick’s Parade Committee invites you to participate in our Parade and celebrations on Sunday, March 12th, 2023. The Grand Marshal for the 2023 Parade is **Mr. Thomas J. McCarthy.**Thomas Joseph McCarthy was born on Good Friday, April 19, 1935, to Helen V McCarthy (nee McCaffrey) and John J McCarthy at Poly Clinic on West 49th Street in Manhattan.  His mother was orphaned at 5 years of age and was adopted along with her two sisters by another John J McCarthy – no relation - (John Justin) a native of County Kerry. John Justin was a saloon keeper who turned to the hospitality industry during prohibition. They lived in various apartments in Washington Heights and Inwood before moving to Fall River, MA in 1945 and then to Dumont, NJ in 1949.  Tom’s paternal grandfather, John Joseph McCarthy, was born in Cork and served in the British Royal Navy from when he was 16 years old until he deserted His Royal Majesty’s service in South Africa at the turn of the 20th century.

Tom attended grammar school at Good Shepherd in Inwood and then St. Joseph’s school in Falls River.  He graduated from Dumont High School, joining the NJ National Guard (50th Armored Division) during his junior year and served for eight years until 1960.  After graduation, Tom began working for NJ Bell, where he worked for 15 years, leaving during the deregulation of the phone industry. After leaving NJ Bell, Tom had a varied career in the telecommunications industry, with management roles at companies such as Philips, American Satellite and MCI.  He also founded his own communications company, Atlantic Communications, which he operated until he retired at 71 years of age in 2006.

In 1956, Tom married the love of his life, Patricia Haug, granddaughter of James McAvoy of County Kerry.  After living 9 years in New Milford and Bergenfield, they moved to Monroe where they raised four daughters; Claire, Kathy, Karyn, and Kristin, all of whom are graduates of the Washingtonville School District. Tom and Pat have five grandchildren (Dana, Erin, Helen, Thomas, and Shaye) and four great grandchildren (Lawson, Graham, Desmond, and Riley).

Tom has had a lifelong passion for public service and has been involved in various civic projects throughout the years.  Following a devastating house fire in our community, Tom, along with a group of other concerned citizens, founded the South Blooming Grove Fire Association to address the lack of fire protection services in the community.  This resulted in the creation of the Independence Fire Company in Blooming Grove, inaugurated on July 4th, 1976, of which he was a charter member. His daughter, Kathy, later served for many years as the treasurer of the fire district. Tom was also an early member of the Sacred Heart Outreach Program of Monroe serving as the transportation and logistics coordinator for Our Father’s Kitchen and the Sonshine Boutique.  One of his proudest accomplishments was coordinating and providing transportation for a critically ill parishioner to receive his life saving dialysis treatments three times a week over a period of 18 months.  When Sacred Heart’s various transportation programs ended, Tom joined his wife, Pat, at the Sonshine Boutique where she had been a stalwart for many years.

Since he had long admired the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the positive work the AOH does in the community, Tom was honored to join and become an active member of the organization upon his work retirement.  Shortly after joining, he became the Marshall of Joseph Duelk, Division 1 and quickly then assumed responsibility for running the bus from Monroe to NYC for the St Patrick’s Day parade. He has served as Marshall for several years until running for Treasurer, a position he has held for over 10 years. Tom is also a trustee of the JDJ Corporation, the Marshall for the AOH County Board and Chairman of Catholic Action.

One of Tom’s deepest held convictions is that no child in the US should go to bed hungry.  For this reason, when Marty Hogan needed to step down from running the food bank, he immediately volunteered to take this on.  In the four years that he has been running the food bank, Tom has ensured that Sacred Heart Outreach, First Presbyterian Food Bank of Monroe and Country Kids Food Bank of Washingtonville have received monthly donations from Division 1, enabling them to continue providing much needed resources to those suffering from food insecurity.

Tom’s pride in his Irish heritage led him to accept an appointment to the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick’s Parade Committee, which he has served on for the past nine years. He loves marching with his friends and peers in the Mid-Hudson Parade, the New York City Parade and anywhere else the AOH is asked to participate.  It is a true highlight of the year for him as it enables him to continuously reconnect with his family’s Irish roots.

It has been his privilege to be a member of the AOH Division 1 and Tom is humbled and grateful to Division 1 for considering nominating him for this great honor.

**Sunday, February 5th, 2023: Kickoff to St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm** at the Tequila Grille, 63 Still Road, Monroe, NY. Entertainment provided by: Big Paddy and AOH Division 1 Pipe & Drums. Irish Step Dancers. $10 cover charge. St. Patrick’s Day Kickoff Menu, Door Prizes, 50/50 raffle.

**Sunday, March 12th, 2023: Mass in Honor of St. Patrick at** **9:00 am:** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 70 Carmelite Dr. Middletown, N.Y.

**Sunday, March 12th, 2023: Grand Marshal and Aide’s Breakfast at 10:30 am:** To honor Grand Marshal, Mr. Thomas J. McCarthy and his Aides at Middletown Elks No. 1097, 48 Prospect Street, Middletown, N.Y. 10940. Tickets are $25.00 each. Please fill out and return the form below **no later than February 25th, 2023**. Please make your check payable to Mid-Hudson St Patrick’s Parade Committee. Tickets will be sold at the door.

**Sunday, March 12th, 2023: The Parade - 1:00 pm lineup at the north lot of the Orange County Government Center Parking Lot. Step-off is at 2:00 pm.** The parade will be held in the beautiful Village of Goshen, N.Y. The parade will begin and end at the parking lot.

We look forward to seeing you at our Irish Festivities.

Very truly yours,

**Mathew Buckley**Breakfast Chair

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Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Amount Enclosed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact: Mathew Buckley 845-987-4530, mattybuc7@yahoo.com** or

**Mail request to**: Mathew Buckley, 3 Fernwood Drive, Greenwood Lake NY, 10925.