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March 12, 2006

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Committee of Washington, D.C.
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is a non-profit organization registered in the District of Columbia, founded for the sole and express purpose of organizing and producing the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

The corporation will neither make nor allow to be made any expression or sign that, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, is deemed to be political or sectarian or that in any way violates the purpose of the Corporation.

Any and all new business that is outside the ordinary or necessary conduct of the staging of the annual parade must be submitted only to the Board of Directors for consideration and vote.

*Adopted unanimously Feb. 4, 1980*


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The 35th Annual
Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade
The "Nation's" Parade
Sunday, March 12, 2006



Grand Marshal
Susan O'Malley



Gael of the Year
Walter Durkin

## Good Sports in the Community


Chairman's Letter ..... 5
Ambassador's Letter ..... 7
President's Proclamation ..... 9
2006 Grand Marshal, Susan O'Malley ..... 11
Gael of the Year, Walter Durkin ..... 13
Division Marshals ..... 14
Parade Committee ..... 15
Friends of the Parade ..... 17
A Tradition of Dance ..... 18
Hurling ..... 23
In Memoriam ..... 24
2005 Parade Trophy & Awards ..... 25
Fundraisers ..... 27
2006 Parade Order of Marsh ..... Insert
Past Parade Grand Marshals ..... 28
Past Parade Gaels ..... 29
2006 Silent Auction Donors ..... 29
Irish-American Olympians ..... 30
Hurricane Katrina ..... 31
Fun Times From 2005 ..... 43


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March 12, 2006

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 35th anniversary of the Nation's St. Patrick's Day Parade.
The parade committee honors as its 2006 Grand Marshal, Susan O'Malley, President of the Washington Wizards and a distinguished Irish American business woman and motivational leader.

As our 2006 Gael of the Year the parade committee honors Walter Durkan, former president of the Irish American Club for his gracious generosity and endless support of our community.

This year has been a year of tragedy for many especially those who were affected by Hurricane Katrina, yet sometimes in the darkness of tragedy the light of the community shines through in its generosity both of time and spirit. The theme of this year's parade is *"Good Sports in the Community"*. We dedicate the parade to those in our community who give of themselves to help their neighbors in need.

On behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee we wish to thank Mayor Anthony Williams, The National Capital Park Service, and all the businesses, organizations and individuals who made the 2006 parade possible. We hope that you enjoy the parade festivities with your family and friends and wish you a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day.

May the Blessings of St. Patrick be yours,

Virginia M. Kelly
Chairman
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## Céad Mile Fáilte

It gives me great pleasure, as Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, to extend warmest good wishes to all involved in the 35th annual Washington D.C. St. Patrick's Day parade.

St. Patrick's Day is an invaluable opportunity to celebrate the shared heritage between the United States and Ireland. The Washington D.C. St. Patrick's Day parade has grown considerably since its inception in 1971 and represents an important symbol of the enduring relationship between both countries. I commend all those in those who have worked tirelessly to ensure that residents of the District and the greater Washington metropolitan area are able to join with Ireland and Irish communities around the world in celebrating our proud heritage.

I wish Ms Susan O'Malley every success in her role as Grand Marshal and I offer my warmest congratulations to Mr Walter Durkan for being honoured with the 2006 Gael of the Year award.

I hope you enjoy the parade and other festivities.

Beannachtai na Féile Padraig oraibh go léir.

Noel Fahey
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## A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

The story of the Irish in America is an important part of the history of our country. This month, we pay tribute to Americans of Irish descent who have shaped our Nation and influenced American life.

Long before the great wave of Irish immigration in the 1840s, people of Irish ancestry were defining and defending our Nation. Charles Thomson, an Irishman by birth, served as Secretary of the Continental Congress and helped design the Great Seal of the United States. Irish-born Commodore John Barry fought for our country's independence and later helped found the United States Navy.

Irish Americans have been leaders in our public life, and they have retained a proud reverence for their heritage. In June 1963, President John F. Kennedy spoke to the Parliament in Dublin and told the story of the Irish Brigade, a regiment that fought valiantly for the Union and suffered terrible losses during the Civil War. Two decades after President Kennedy's visit, President Ronald Reagan returned to his great grandfather's hometown in County Tipperary, Ireland, and greeted the crowd in their own Irish language.

The industry, talent, and imagination of Irish Americans have enriched our commerce and our culture. Their strong record of public service has fortified our democracy. Their strong ties to family, faith, and community have strengthened our Nation's character. The Irish are a significant reason why Americans will always be proud to call ourselves a Nation of immigrants.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2005 as Irish American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH



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# 2006 GRAND MARSHAL

## Susan O'Malley

By Marie Matthews



She is arguably the most powerful female executive in professional sports. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to honor Susan O'Malley as the Grand Marshal for our 2006 Parade.

O'Malley was born and grew up in Maryland with her parents, Janice and Peter O'Malley and her four brothers and sisters. Her father, a lawyer for Abe Pollin, owner of the Bullets basketball team and the Capitals hockey team, used to bring young Susan to the games. Hanging around the arena, O'Malley knew from the age of eleven that sports was the kind of work she wanted to do.

She began to build a career by trying to play basketball--but her gym teacher suggested she get a desk job instead! Switching her aspirations while still in grade school, she wrote a paper declaring her goal was to run a sports franchise. The teacher awarded her a good grade but cautioned that the young girl's goal was "not very realistic."

(Her teacher probably didn't know that O'Malley traces her roots back to Grace O'Malley of County Mayo, legendary pirate of the seas, seafarer, trader and chieftain in Ireland in the 1500's. As a young child, Grace knew she wanted to be a sailor but her ambitions were dismissed. Upset when her sea captain father refused to take her on a sailing trip, she cut off all her hair and dressed in boys' clothes to prove she was willing to live a sailor's life. Her father, impressed by her persistence, began to bring her on trading missions overseas. She spent her young life learning the ways of the sea and grew up to be a sailor--eventually having her own fleet of ships. In her later life, Grace took up piracy by taking on Turkish and Spanish pirate ships and even the English fleets. She grew her estate to include several islands and castles on the west coast of Ireland. In her 70 years of life, she and her family saw the English rule spreading throughout Ireland, but due to her strength and leadership her clan and those around her were mostly unaffected by it. It is said that from the year of her death in 1603 and onward, no Irish chieftain had been able to preserve the old Gaelic way of life as had Grace O'Malley in her lifetime.)

O'Malley attended Mount St. Mary's College in northern Maryland and graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business and finance. While still in college, she served as an intern with the Bullets and the Caps. After graduation, heeding advice to gain experience elsewhere and come back to the team mid-level, she worked for the Earle Palmer Brown Advertising firm for three years. In 1986, she returned to the Bullets as director of advertising. A year later, O'Malley became director of marketing and then executive vice president of the Bullets. In 1991, at the age of twenty-nine, she was named president of the Bullets, becoming the first female president of an NBA franchise as well as president of a multi-faceted sports and entertainment company.

After being named President, O'Malley focused on improving relationships with ticket holders, corporate sponsors, and the media. Consequently, the team experienced the largest ticket revenue year in the history of the franchise. That same year, the club achieved the highest

continued on page 16




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# Walter Durkan

by Richard J. Barry



The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. is proud to honor Walter E. Durkan as its 2006 Gael of the Year.

Walter is an integral part of the Irish American community in the Washington, D.C. area. He has served three terms as president of Washington, D.C's Irish American Club and continues to actively participate in it. He's a strong advocate for the organization and encourages local Irish Americans interested in belonging to contact him at celine2@verizon.net. Durkan is actively involved in numerous other cultural and charitable programs including his efforts to fundraise for victims of hurricane Katrina. Many Irish American and community groups have called on Durkan over the years to lend his Midas touch in support of local youth soccer and various programs which cultivate Irish heritage.

Walter is the sixth of seven children, four girls and three boys, born to Kathleen and Walter J. Durkan in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. His father's family lived in the town of Corrower in County Mayo and his mother's ancestors hailed from County Armagh, where he attended primary and high school under the expert guidance of the Patrician Brothers. During this time young Durkan made deliveries twice a day on his milk route without compromising academic performance was an avid sportsman and gifted Gaelic football and soccer player throughout his school years. His love of sport continued with several local clubs upon his graduation. Walter combined his athletic activities with a position for a local solicitor as a paralegal preparing wills and other documents...

Durkan's personal, professional and athletic achievements demonstrate a strong sense of enthusiasm, spirit and commitment. Walter and his wife Marie first met in her hometown of Ballyhay, where she was a school teacher and he was playing league football. In hopes of a more prosperous future, Durkan came to the United States in the midst of the 1957 economic recession, first living with his uncle in Arlington, Virginia. Within three weeks Durkan accepted a job with an electrical distributorship in Rosslyn, Virginia. He progressed rapidly, learning many facets of the business. This prepared him well for a 1966 offer from the multi-national electrical manufacturing corporation, Cutler-Hammer. This company distributes a wide variety of medium and high voltage electrical equipment for the utility and industrial markets including distribution transformers, capacitors, voltage regulators, reclosers, switches, etc. Walter advanced quickly as a sales executive during the next 31 years, before retiring in 1997.

Walter Durkan and Marie Nee Moen of County Monaghan married in 1962 at Saint Thomas Moore Church in Arlington. The Durkans have three children: Brendan, Ann-Marie and Ciara plus six grandchildren. Their eldest son Brendan serves as an airborne ranger attached to a Special Forces unit in Georgia. He and his wife Amanda have three children-Sean (17), Kevin (15) and Kaitlyn (8) and their middle child Ann-Marie and her husband Carlos have two children Tierney (7) and Declan (3).Their youngest, the former "Rose of Tralee" of Washington, DC in 1989, Ciara and husband Butch have one son Seamus.

Durkan played Gaelic football as a young man for County

continued on page 36

# DIVISION MARSHALS

## Ed Kelly



Ed Kelly was born in Brooklyn, New York. He is the first child of Maryann and Patrick Kelly; his mother was from Ballinsloe Co. Galway and his father from Castleblaney, Co Monaghan. Ed graduated from St. Matthews's grammar school and then St. Francis Prep. In 1956, he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York. Since graduation he sailed on Merchant ships and was called to active duty in the Navy. He retired as a Captain from the Navy in 1988. In 1993 he was appointed a Rear Admiral in the U.S.M.S. He also worked for Lockheed Aircraft and DynCorp. He is presently the Vice President of the American Maritime Officers a labor union that represents Mates and Engineers sailing on Deep Sea, Inland and Great Lake vessels.

*continued on page 38*



## Dennis Lucey

A native of Redwood City, California, Dennis Lucey came to Washington, DC in 1965 after graduating from the University of San Francisco.

He initially joined the computer manufacturer Burroughs Corporation and continues in the computer business today as Vice President with TKC Integration Services--A Federal Government Systems Integration Company.

Active in many Irish causes, Dennis is the Co-Chair of the Annual American Ireland Dinner held here in Washington, member of the Advisory Board of All-Hallows Seminary in Dublin and a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

His Father was born in Macroom, County Cork, and his Mother hailed from Kilronan in the Aran Islands of County Galway.

Dennis serves on a host of other boards including SOME(So Others Might Eat), Woodstock Theological Center, The Jesuit Volunteer Corps and The Georgetown Center for Liturgy. He also serves on the Development Boards of Gonzaga College High School, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, The Order of Malta and the Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps.

*continued on page 38*

## Francis X. Flaherty



Francis X. Flaherty was born in Washington, DC. His great grandfather Thomas O'Flaherty had come to this area from Co. Kerry Ireland in the 1850's. Flaherty attended St. Teresa's grade school and Oxon Hill High School. During his youth he was active in the Boy Scouts and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He joined the Oxon Hill Volunteer Fire Department when he was 16 years old. A few years later he was appointed to the DCFD, where he worked for 23 years. Flaherty is a member of the Emerald Society and has been involved with the group in DC since it's inception. While working on the Fire Department in 1970's, Flaherty traveled to N.Y.C. with Dennis Murphy to learn what it would take to start an Emerald Society in the Nation's Capitol. When they returned fliers were sent around to see if there was any interest and with in a few weeks they had

*continued on page 38*

St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee
of Washington, D.C.

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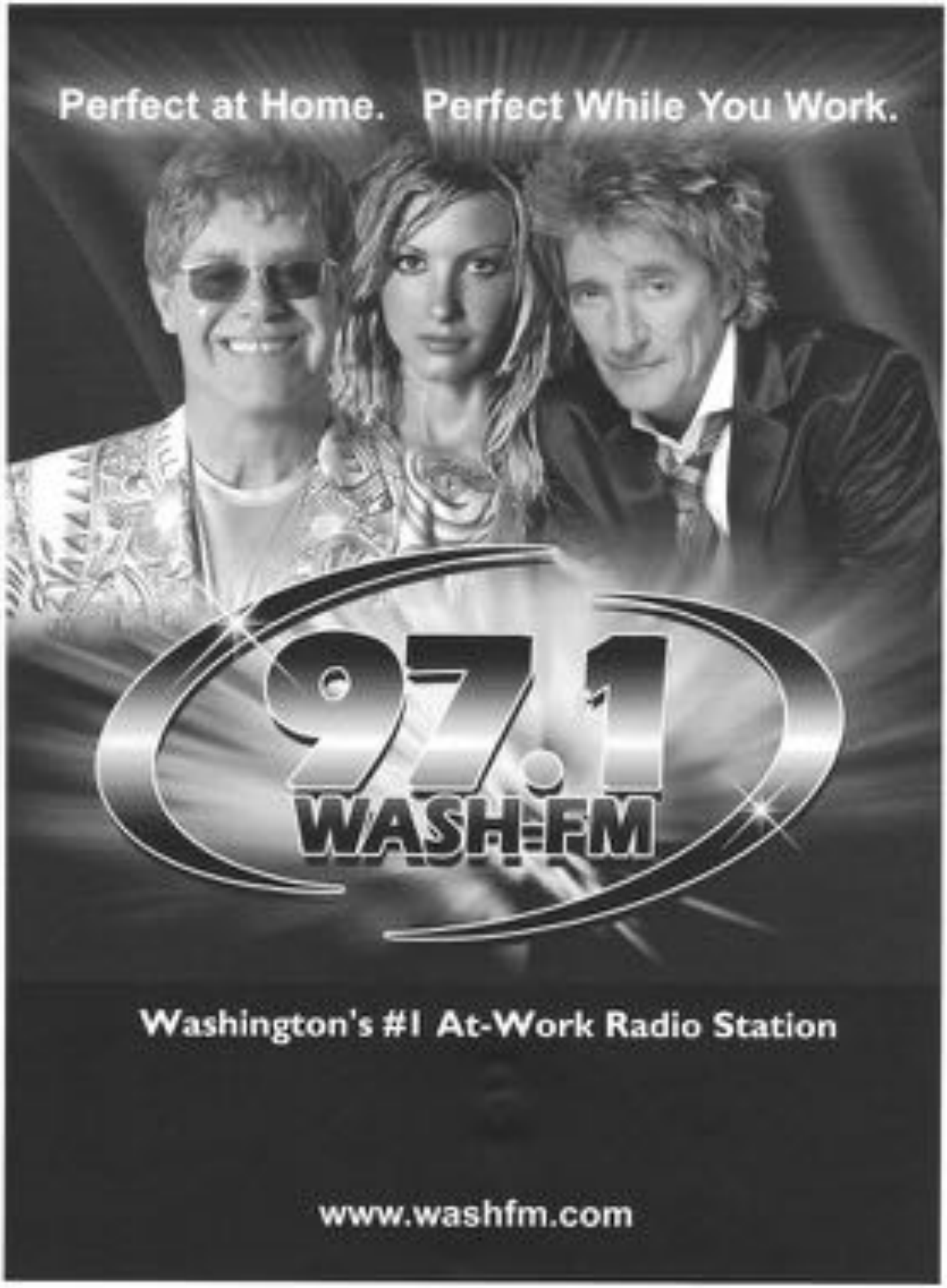
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# For Culkin Irish Dancers, D.C. ST. Patrick's Day Parade is Important Part of a Busy Season



The St. Patrick's Day season is full of performances for students of the Culkin School, such as this 2005 show at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown. *Photo by Shawn Riley.*

While black and white may not seem to be traditional St. Patrick's Day colors for the students of the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance, putting on their black and white school parade uniforms for the 10-block march down Constitution Avenue is a sure sign that the holiday season is in full swing.

The Culkin School currently enrolls nearly 500 students and is an active member of the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore Irish-American communities. The black and white school colors honor the Culkin family's County Sligo heritage.

Founded by Sean Culkin in 1997, the Culkin School has been a D.C. parade participant since 1999, but the school's roots go back even further.

Three of the schools certified instructors – Culkin, Caterina Earle and Bridget Launi – were students of the late Peggy O'Neill, a long-time instructor in the Washington, D.C. area and member of the Irish Cultural Hall of Fame. With the addition of Nicki Suck Elliott, a native of Pittsburgh, the school has built the largest teaching staff in the region.

"One of my goals for the school is to share Irish dance with our community by participating in events like the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade," said Culkin. "It's one of the many things that Peggy taught me – to be involved in the community."

Since its inception, the Culkin School has worked to preserve the unique traditions of Irish dance through classes, performances and competition. Currently, classes are held in Washington, D.C., Rockville, Bethesda, Kensington, Arbutus and Silver Spring for beginners through adults.

"Our mission is to pass on the tradition of Irish Dance, teach the basics of dance and the music it is danced to, and to have fun while we learn," added Nicki Elliott. "We also want prepare our students who wish to compete, so that they can do so to the best of their ability."

That preparation is continuing to pay off. In the last seven years, the Culkin School has held 12 regional championship titles in both solo and team dancing and has qualified dancers for the World Irish Dance Championships 26 times.

This year, four dancers from the Culkin School are on



The Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance has the largest adult Irish dance program in the Washington, D.C. area. From ages 18 to "60-something," adults enjoy learning, performing and competing Irish dance. *Photo by Alex Lopez.*

Dancers from the Culkin School have held the following regional championships titles:

- 2005 Adult Ladies 8 Hard
- 2005 Adult Ladies 4 Hard
- 2004 Boys Under 14
- 2004 Adult Ladies 8 Hard
- 2004 Adult Ladies 4 Hard
- 2004 Adult Mixed 8 Hard
- 2004 Adult Mixed 4 Hard
- 2002 Girls Under 12
- 2000 Ladies Over 30
- 1999 Boys Under 9
- 1999 Under 9 Mixed 4 Hard
- 1999 Adult Mixed 4 Hard

their way to Belfast, Northern Ireland to compete in the 2006 world championships. Kate Bole, 19, of Alexandria, Phillip Stacy, 16, of Silver Spring, Kelly Anne McGovern, 13, of Silver Spring, and Cierra O'Keefe, 12, of Sykesville, will travel to the Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne, which is being held April 9 -16, 2006. Two dancers, Phillip and Cierra, competed in the 2005 World Championships. Kate and Kelly will be competing at the Worlds for the first time, though both dancers have previously qualified for the competition multiple times.

In addition to qualifying four students for the World championships, at the Southern Regional Championships this past December in Dallas, Texas, which included schools from 15 states, 13 Culkin dancers qualified for the North American Irish Dance Championships, which will be held June 28 – July 2 in San Diego, California.

"We're extremely proud of our students and excited that they have this opportunity to compete at such a high level," said Culkin.

Success for the school and its dancers isn't limited to the competition stage. One of the school's dancers, Jenny O'Connell, is currently touring with Riverdance. And, for the first time in 2006, the Culkin School kicked off the St. Patrick's Day season with a full-length 90-minute showcase performance. Reels, Jigs & Hornpipes: A Celebration of Irish Dance debuted on March 3 at Rockville's F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

However, the highlight of the season is likely to be a headline performance at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage on St. Patrick's night, March 17 at 6:00 p.m.

"I've always told our students to dance like they were onstage at the Kennedy Center and one day they might get there," said Culkin. "So, we're thrilled to be returning to the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage to help them celebrate St. Patrick's Day."

The Kennedy Center performance will feature a wide range of traditional and contemporary Irish dances performed by students from the Culkin School and choreo-




*The black and white school colors of the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance honor the Culkin family's County Sligo heritage. Dancers participate each year in the Washington, D.C., Gaithersburg and Baltimore St. Patrick's Day parades. Photo by Bret Jordan.*



School Director and founder Sean Culkin, TCRG, joins dancers onstage at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. The Culkin School caps off its 2006 St. Patrick's Day season with a free performance at the Kennedy Center at 6:00 PM on March 17. Photo by Bert Joshua.

graphed by the school's instructors.

In addition to the Kennedy Center, the school has performed at the White House, the National Theatre (with the Trinity Irish Dance Company), the Irish Embassy Residence, Strathmore and at Wolf Trap National Park, and has also performed with many internationally renowned musicians, including the Chieftains, Cherish the Ladies, Eileen Ivers, Lunasa and Natalie MacMaster.

Culkin students have also been seen at many area festivals, including the Potomac Celtic Festival, the Maryland Renaissance Festival, the Washington Irish Festival and the Baltimore Irish Festival.

While the majority of students at the school are elementary, junior high and high school students, the Culkin School is also home to the largest adult Irish dance program in the region and one of the largest in the country. The school's adult ceili teams have won six regional championship titles in the last two years. Dancers include those new to Irish dance, as well as those who danced as children or teens, and range in age from 18 to "60-something."

"Irish dance requires effort, both physical and mental, teamwork and time. In my experience as a dancer and, now, as a teacher, I find that adults meet the challenge with a special enthusiasm and dedication" said Caterina Earle, who teaches beginning adult students.

For more on the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance, visit the school's website at www.culkinschool.com. The site includes information on classes (including upcoming introductory sessions and summer camps) and performances.

**Join the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance for**

**Reels, Jigs & Hornpipes: A Celebration of Irish Dance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage**

**A free performance**
**Friday, March 17, 2006**
**6:00 PM**

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School of
Traditional
Irish Dance

Sean Culkin, TCRG, Director
Assistants:
Nicki Elliott, TCRG, Caterina Earle, TCRG,
Kate Boyle, Megan Howard,
Megan Mahoney, Jennifer Rittenhouse

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## The Ancient Gaelic Sport of Hurling
by William Doyle

Come March 17, many Americans and others around the world will don green clothes, dine on corned beef and cabbage, and quench their thirst with a pint of Guinness Stout. Such rituals are part of the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration of all things Irish.

But how many of us will thrill to the grace of an athlete as he hurls the sliotháir (ball) into the net for the winning goal? Or cheer battling footballers as they hand-pass and kick their way up the pitch?

The Gaelic sports of hurling and football, whose seasons are now underway, are authentic Ireland. Fast, rough, and exciting, they're great sport, but also something more. Gaelic athletics are a heartfelt Irish passion, and a physical celebration of ancient traditions and culture. While Gaelic football is an old sport, hurling is ancient: Irish mythology is replete with tales of heroes who were expert hurlers. Such myths point to a hurling history some 2,000 years old and explain the sport's prominent place in Irish culture.

One of the earliest, and most famous, references to hurling comes from a 12th century document which tells the story of legendary warrior Cu Chulainn, and clearly mentions the wood Camán, which is Gaelic for hurley, the stick used in the game. Cu Chulainn (originally named Setanta) was one of the greatest Irish mythological heroes, and the nephew of King Conor of Emania. He left home as a young boy, intent on joining the Red Branch Knights in Emain Macha, where his uncle ruled. He arrived at the court to find over 150 youths playing Camán (hurling). Setanta, who had brought his red bronze hurley, outplayed the other youths and gained the attention of his uncle's court. His uncle was so impressed that he invited Setanta to join the Red Branch Knights and sent him off to warrior school. Setanta acquired the name "Cu Chulainn", the Hound of Chulainn, after he famously defeated a vicious wolfhound by hitting his ball through the hound's mouth with his hurley.

References to hurling are also found in the Brehon Laws of 500 B.C. King Cahir's will mentions 50 brass hurleys and 50 brass hurley balls. The game was outlawed by the Statute of Kilkenny in 1367, which were designed to keep the Irish peasantry isolated from their English Norman rulers. (The Statute also banned Anglo-Irish marriages; speaking Irish; and adopting Irish customs, laws, names, or clothing.)

Hurling proved to be too popular with all classes of society, however, and it was not effectively outlawed until the Galway Statutes of 1527. These Statutes forbade the playing of "hokie", a stick and ball game, probably because of the violence and disorder that often accompanied the games. Other games were also forbidden "except alone football with the great ball". Thus, Gaelic Football became the island's most popular sport, and it remains so today.

Despite these prohibitions, by the 18th century, 21-a-side games were being played between Ireland's counties. In 1828, a South East Hurling Championship was played between Ballygarvan, Douglas, Ringaskiddy, Seamount, Tracton and Carrigaline -- as recounted in two ballads ("The Carrigaline Goalers Defeated" and "The Victorious Goalers of Carrigaline and Kilmoney").

In 1879, the Irish Hurling Union was founded at Dublin's Trinity College, based on rules drafted by the Dublin University Hurley Club in 1870. In 1882, Michael Cusack founded the Dublin Hurling Club. Hurling's rules were standardized in the 1880s by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), which led to the development of hurling and hurley (hockey) as separate sports. The first hurling game played under GAA rules occurred in February, 1885 in Kilkenny; the All-Ireland Hurling Finals were first played on April 1, 1887.

During the 19th century, large scale Irish emigration spread the popularity of hurling and Gaelic football across the world, establishing the game in America, Australia and Canada. Related games played in the British Isles include Scottish shinty, Welsh bandy and hockey.

The Maple School of Irish dance was pleased to pay tribute to the ancient sport of hurling by incorporating the history of Cu Chulainn into a choreographed dance drama. They performed the drama at the Southern Region Oireachtas in Dallas, Texas in December 2005.

Information for this article was drawn from Handwerk, B. "Gaelic Football, Hurling are Irish Passions." National Geographic News. March 17, 2003; and Akron Celtic Guards Hurling Club. "A History of Hurling", on-line at http://members.aol.com/akronaoh/guards.htm accessed January, 2006.

# Mark P. Quinn, RIP (1941-2005)



In the Irish music community in Washington, Mark Quinn was an institution.

When I first arrived here from New York in the mid-60s to attend graduate school, I didn't like it here at all. There was no Irish music to be had as far as I could see. I would hitch hike up to the Bronx almost every weekend to hang out with my brother Terry and my old neighborhood buddies. But I slowly got to know the area a little better and then someone told me about Matt Kane's Bit o Ireland Pub on 13th Street. The first time I wandered down there, I met Mark. We hit it off right away, both of us being from New York and having a lot in common. But most of all, I had found the music and it was coming from Mark's big red accordion. I think that's when I decided to stay -- and when Terry came down for a visit, I brought him over to Kane's to meet Mark as well. As Terry said in an article he wrote for the Washingtonian a couple of years ago, Mark "was proof that the Irish and their music were likely to turn up anywhere."

Mark was a rock solid musician who had great "lift" in his playing. He loved to play waltzes and polkas but he had plenty of other tunes as well. He loved getting up on stage to perform. He was a natural entertainer who knew how to work a crowd. And - always had some great scheme planned to bring Irish music to the masses (and make a lot of money in the process.)

Eventually, more Irish pubs opened, and more Irish music could be heard. There were parties, especially around St Patrick's Day, and the ceili scene was starting to take hold. More than likely, you would find Mark at many of these places and events.

Mark, Lou Thompson, Peggy Riordan, Alan Mackel, Terry and I eventually wound up playing together in the Blackthorn and later Garyowen ceili bands.

A few years after that, when Celtic Thunder recorded its first album, we put a set of tunes on it that we learned from Mark and called them "Mark Quinn's Polkas." Mark got a great kick out of that since he had learned the tunes from Billy McComiskey.

I also have to note that Mark liked to change his outward appearance from time to time. He would grow a long scruffy beard and keep it for a while but then the next time you'd see him the beard would be gone as would most of his hair. He would shave everything visible. And then grow it all back.

On the home front, Mark loved his family and frequently spoke fondly about his daughters and how well they did in school and how successful they were becoming on their own. He was very proud of them and he let you know it.

Mark had a mischievous spirit, an infectious sense of humor, and a deep appreciation for the music he loved. It was always a treat when he showed up for a party or a gig, and wasted no time in taking out his box and getting the music off the ground. We don't have him with us anymore. We have only the memory now of the fun we had together, along with the laughs and the great music he brought to us all, and we're thankful at least for that. He was one of a kind and we won't see the likes of Mark Quinn again.

*Anne Winch*

2006
35th Annual Washington, D.C.

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**Irish National Anthem:** Pat Garvey

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**Master of Ceremonies:** Pat Garvey

**Ireland's Ambassador:** Noel Fahey

## DIVISION A

1. **METROPOLITAN POLICE MOTORCYCLES IN "V" FORMATION**
2. **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL J FITZGERALD.** Metropolitan Police Department
3. **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY BANNER. IRISH AMERICAN CLUB.** McAuliffe Family
4. **GRAND MARSHAL. SUSAN O'MALLEY.** Since 1991 President of Washington Sports and Entertainment, where she oversees all business operations of the Washington Wizards. O'Malley is also a strong advocate of community service, tirelessly working in countless fundraising capacities

# PARADE ORDER OF MARCH











5. **COMMANDER OF TROOPS**
5a. **JOINT MILITARY STAFF**
5b. **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND**
5c. **ARMY MARCHING PLATOON**
5d. **MARINE MARCHING PLATOON**
5e. **ARMED FORCES JOINT COLOR GUARD**
5f. **NAVY MARCHING PLATOON**
5g. **AIR FORCE MARCHING PLATOON**
5h. **COAST GUARD MARCHING PLATOON**
5i. **3rd U.S. INFANTRY, "THE OLD GUARD" FIFE AND DRUM CORPS,"** Fort Myer, Virginia
6. **DOUGLAS SMITH. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF/OPERATIONS. DC FIRE DEPARTMENT.** Firefighting equipment from our Nation's Capital celebrating **135** years (Sept 1871) of fire/rescue service
6a. **FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS FROM THE DISTRICT of COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT**
7. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COLOR GUARD, NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION,** Joe Lawler, Regional Director
8. **U.S. PARK POLICE**
9. **JACK EVANS.** City Councilman Ward 2
10. **VINCENT GRAY.** City Councilman Ward 7
11. **MARION BARRY.** City Councilman Ward 8
12. **PHIL MENDELSON.** DC Council Member-at-Large
13. **MAYOR WILLIAM D EUILLE.** Alexandria Virginia
14. **GAEL OF THE YEAR. WALTER DURKAN, Maryland.** Trustee and former President of The Irish American Club
15. **ROSE OF TRALEE WASHINGTON DC.** Kate Riley
16. **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERALD SOCIETY PIPES & DRUMS.** Pipe Major Henry Welsh & Drum Major Kevin Sloan. Instructors Mark O'Donnell and Tom Hayden
17. **EMERALD SOCIETY – FIREFIGHTERS OF WASHINGTON.** "Our 27TH Year marching" President Charlie Hottinger. Banner, colors, precision marching unit
18. **ANTIQUE FIRE APPARATUS. Emerald Society Firefighters of Washington**
19. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, FATHER ROSENSTEEL COUNCIL 2169, Maryland.** DGK Pat Bowles Marchers with banner

20. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT – sponsored by The O'NEILL DEVELOPEMENT CORP** (decorated replica Irish Cottage with white washed walls and authentic Thatch Roof)
21. **CEAD MILE FAILTE. IRISH AMERICAN CLUB BANNER.** Family of John Moore
22. **IRISH AMERICAN CLUB OF WASHINGTON.** President Diane Chaney
23. **ROSCOMMON SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC.** Director Peter J Koenig
24. **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S EMERALD SOCIETY, Maryland.** President Brian Collins and marchers
25. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** – sponsored by **MAPLE SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE** (decorated vehicle with dancers and music). Teachers Bill Maple and Marnie O'Callaghan-Maple
26. **WTOP'S "MAN ABOUT TOWN", Washington, DC.** Bob Madigan
27. **WILLIAM C McGINNIS MIDDLE SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, New Jersey.** Director Carl Bendbeck
28. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** – sponsored by **THE BROOKLAND CLUB AND CAIRDE GAEL CLUB, WASHINGTON, DC** (decorated vehicle with marchers)
29. **High Point High School AFJROTC Color Guard CRIMSON GUARD AND RIFLE TEAM, Maryland. Lt Col Felecia Tavares**

## DIVISION B

1. **METRO TRANSIT POLICE.** Color Guard with police cars, motorcycles and bikes
2. **ED KELLY.** Marshal, Division B
3. **WASHINGTON D.C. REGIONAL POLICE PIPE BAND.** Pipe Major Ken Campbell
4. **POLICE EMERALD SOCIETY, WASHINGTON DC AREA.** President Charles Moore. Our Theme is the "Family Behind the Badge"
5. **FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE HONOR GUARD, Virginia.** Van, Honor Guard and their performing precision motorcycles
6. **RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY, VA 91ST AFJROTC BAND AND PARADE UNIT, Virginia.** Director of Music G Edwin Richards
7. **VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, WW II, MD/DC Chapter.** Group Leader John Bowen
8. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** – sponsored by MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART



# PARADE ORDER OF MARCH











9. **CAPITAL CLUB OF WASHINGTON, DC**
10. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT - sponsored by PROJECT CHILDREN** Director Carol Wheeler
11. **KAPITOL KLOWNS, Maryland.** Leader Rozarina Wood
12. **KENA 500 MINI CORVETTES, SHRINERS, Virginia.** 8 mini-Corvettes, Corvette and one recovery vehicle
13. **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.** (All Divisions AOH/LAOH in order of precedence)
14. **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS-FATHER WILLIAM CORBY DIVISION, Virginia.** Leader Robert Hickey
15. **LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, ALICE HAMILL DIVISION, Virginia**
16. **LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, DAUGHTERS of ERIN, DIVISION 9, Maryland** Secretary Ann Durkin Fisher. Trolley and marchers
17. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **AOHBINEAS an RINCE IRISH DANCERS** (decorated vehicle with dancers and live music). Denise Fumagali, TCRG
18. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHEVY CHASE WASHINGTON, DC COUNCIL 224.** Ben Filipczyk
19. **GREENBELT DOG TRAINING, Maryland.** Leaders Allie W and Adele Lee
20. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **THE McCARTHY CLAN** (decorated vehicle with marchers)
21. **CALVIN COOLIDGE SR HIGH SCHOOL JROTC, Washington, DC.** Major Allen V Banks
22. **CALVIN COOLIDGE SR "COLTS" HIGH SCHOOL BAND, Washington, DC.** Director Mr Benjamin Sands
23. **THE HOGETTES.** Big Mac and Howiette
24. **LOYAL & PATRIOTIC ORDER OF IRISH-AMERICAN REAGANITES, Virginia.** Director Brian Lopina
25. **SuGTV "WASHINGTONIA", Washington, DC.** "Bavarian" folk dancing. Director Charles H Volkman
26. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT – JURY'S and IRISH CHANNEL** - sponsored by Bushmill's Irish Cream and Jameson Irish Whiskey
27. **GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC DRILL TEAM AND COLOR GUARD, Maryland.** MSGT Ray A Beatty
28. **POTOMAC VALLEY IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB, Metro Area.** Director Tom Hartney

29. **FAIRLINGTON DENTAL, Virginia.** London taxi and marchers
30. **BOLLENG AIR FORCE BASE GIRL SCOUT TROOP.** Leader Kelley Fogle
31. **CULKIN SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCE, Maryland.** Director William Sean Culkin, TCRG
31a. **97.1 WASH-FM.** Vehicle and marchers
32. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **GREATER WASHINGTON DC SOAP BOX DERBY**
33. **SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL JROTC AND COLOR GUARD, Virginia.** SFC Sean Keating
34. **GIRL SCOUT DAISY and BROWNIE TROOPS 2636 &3100, 3101 JUNIORS 2355 CADETTES AND 3255 SENIORS, Maryland.** Leader Angela Holloman
35. **12th CAVALRY MEMORIAL UNIT, RIO GRANDE CITY HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC, Texas.** MSGT (Ret) Marco A Pena. Mounted Color Guard, Supply Wagon and Dismounted Troopers

## DIVISION C

1. Honor Guard
2. **FRANCIS X FLAHERTY.** Marshal, Division C
3. **PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY POLICE CHIEF, Maryland. Chief Melvin C High**
4. **PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SHERIFF, Maryland. Sheriff Michael Jackson** with Deputies, Canine Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Explorers and cruiser
5. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **THE ANTHONY C ROGERS FAMILY, Maryland** (decorated vehicle with marchers)
6. **NORTHERN VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS EMERALD SOCIETY PIPE BAND, Virginia.** Drum Major Brian Brendel and Pipe Major Steven Cochran
7. **FALLS CHURCH FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERALD SOCIETY.** Scott Kratz
8. **FORT MYER FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, Virginia. CRASH FIRE RESCUE VEHICLE FOAM 161.** Stationed at the Pentagon Heliport. 2002 E-One Titan 4x4. Sgt George Smith
9. **RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, Virginia Chapter 7**
10. **WASHINGTON DC GAELS.** Banner and marchers. Chairman Jason Fitz-Patrick












# PARADE ORDER OF MARCH



11. **PERSHING RIFLES, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE.** MAJ Valentine M Miller
12. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **THE O'NEILL-JAMES SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING** (decorated vehicle with dancers and music). Director Lauren O'Neill-James, ADCRG
13. **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ARMY ROTC**
14. **IRISH NORTHERN AID COMMITTEE, DC AREA.** Leader Jack O'Brien
15. **IRISH TERRIER PET BRIGADE, Metro DC.** Leader Christine C Ward
16. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** – sponsored by **FADO IRISH PUB**
17. **LINGANORE HIGH SCHOOL POM AND DANCE TEAM, Maryland.** Leader Marisa Zellie
18. **THE BOYLE SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE.** Directors Alannah Boyle and Ellen Boyle Gibbons
19. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **THE CAPITOL ROWING CLUB** (decorated vehicle with marchers)
20. **IRISH SETTER RESCUE, WASHINGTON, DC.** Leader Dee Atwell
21. **WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM (WRAP), Metro Area.** Leader Kurt Erickson
22. **OLD DOMINION HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY, Northern Virginia. A SPAAMFAA Chapter.** Antique fire apparatus. Leader Clyde Clark
23. **1979 MACK LADDER TRUCK, Maryland.** From LaPlata MD. Owner Victor McEntee
24. **1964 B-MODEL MACK, Maryland.** Rockville VFD, driven by Battalion Chief Glenn Butts
25. **1976 SEAGRAVE, Maryland.** From Virginia Beach, VA. Anthony Blazek

25a. **ANTIQUE FIRE APPARATUS**

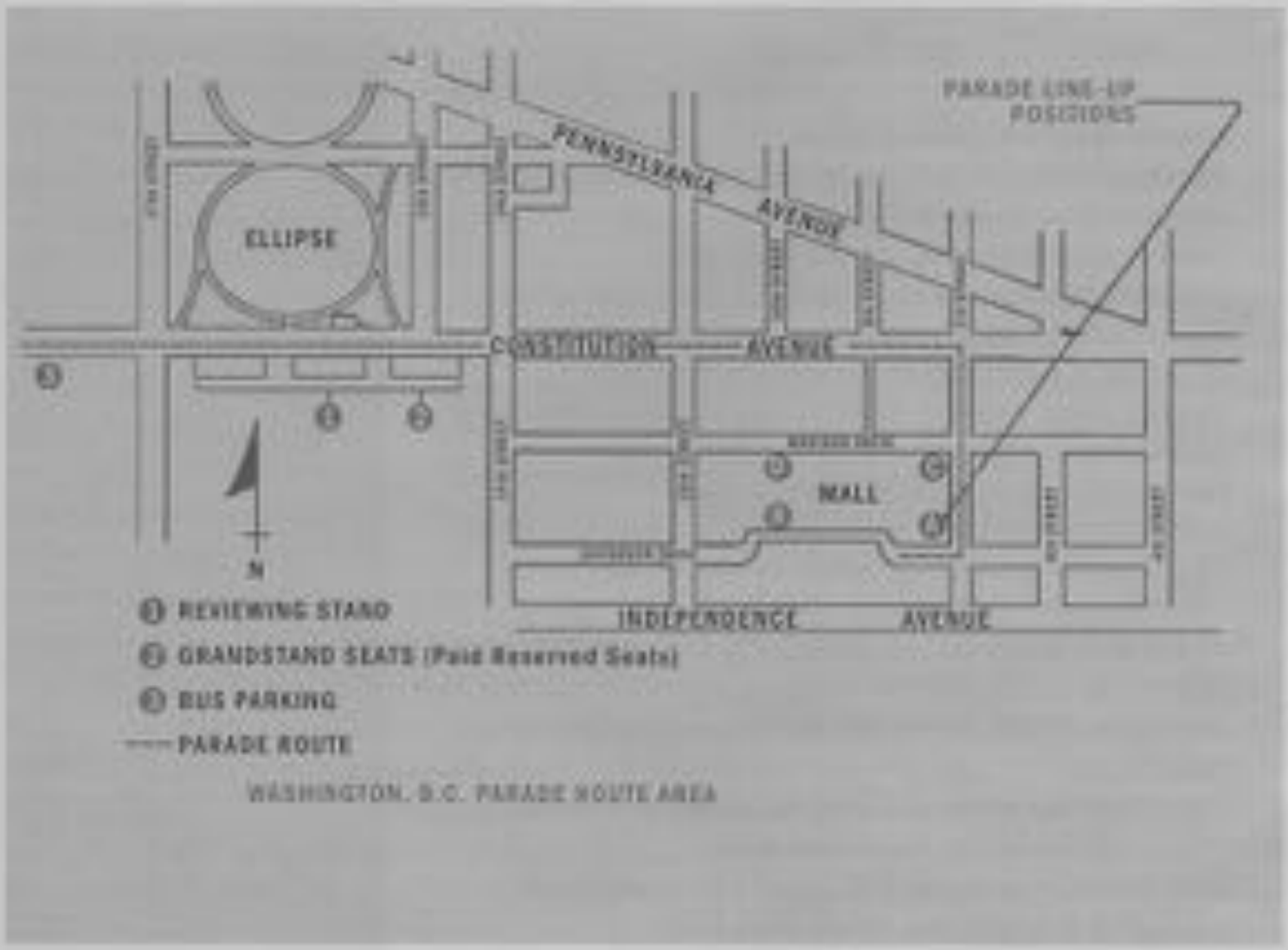
26. **POTOMAC CELTIC FESTIVAL, Virginia.** Leader Jennifer Rader
27. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT - THE DUBLINER RESTAURANT** - sponsored by Washington Wholesalers
28. **STRATH JAMES PIPE BAND, Virginia.** Pipe Major Kevin MacIntosh and Drum Sergeant Chip Barclay
29. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **THE FIGHTING CURRAN BROTHERS** Frank and Dan Curran. 1947 antique fire truck with trailer and Lewie, the Bowie Baysock's mascot
30. **NOKESVILLE HORSE SOCIETY, Virginia.** President Larry Pumphrey

## DIVISION D

1. Honor Guard
2. **DENNIS M LUCEY.** Marshal, Division D
3. **MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS PIPES AND DRUMS, Maryland.** Scott Bruguiere
4. **"LEPRECHAUN", Virginia.** Donald Patrick Ryan
5. **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL "RAIDERS" AFJROTC AND COLOR GUARD**
6. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **FALUN DAFA. TRADITIONAL CHINESE DANCE** (decorated vehicle with Chinese meditation group) Leader Tao Wang
7. **FALUN DAFA MARCHING BAND, New York**
8. **POTOMAC WHEELMEN, ANTIQUE BIKES.** Leader Kurt Miller
9. **THE DUDNEY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE, Washington DC.** Jordan Dudney
10. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT** - sponsored by **KITTY O'SHEA'S IRISH PUB**
11. **POWER PANTHER – USDA MASCOT.** Leaders Patti Phillips and Gregg Walton
12. **JOHN F NICOLL PIPES AND DRUMS, Maryland.** Drum Major Charles Palmore and Pipe Major Kevin Brown
13. **EIRE HEADS, Washington, D.C.** Leader Phil Murphy. Family organization of the extended Murphy-Brady family
14. **THE O'BRIEN'S OF OAK VALE COURT, Virginia**
15. **WASHINGTON SHOWSTOPPERS COMMUNITY BAND.** Band Director Tyrone Frederick
16. **ZipCar.** Coordinator Brian Alpa
17. **WASHINGTON BALTIMORE CONTRA DANCERS.** Leader Jean McAuley
18. **MISS DC NATIONAL TEENAGER 2006. MARISA WEST**
19. **MISS ANNAPOLIS,MARYLAND. ASHLEY WINDLE**
20. **EDMONDSON VILLAGE STEPPERS COMMUNITY MARCHING BAND, Maryland.** Tikia Neblett, Jeff Oliver and Erika Brown
21. **NORTHERN VIRGINIA CORVETTE CLUB.** Leader Joe Daly
22. **ANTIQUE FIRE TRUCK, Ohio.** Spirit of the Lincoln Way – Liberty Truck. Lincoln Highway National Museum and Archives
23. **I. C SMITH, Inc. Virginia. Knights of Columbus of Arlington.** 1962 American LaFrance fire engine, formerly Engine Co. 1, Alexandria, Va. Director Jim Mock



# PARADE ORDER OF MARCH




WASHINGTON, D.C. PARADE ROUTE AREA

# 2005 PARADE TROPHY & AWARDS

Best Band—Irish American Club Award
Sponsor: Irish American Club
Winner: James Hubert Blake High School

Best Local Band—The Father McShane Memorial Award
Sponsor: John McShane
Winner: FW Ballou High School Marching Knights

Best Visiting Band—Police Emerald Society of the Washington, DC Area
Sponsor: Police Emerald Society of the Washington, DC Area
Winner: Terry Parker High School Marching Braves

Best Pipe Band—Joseph A. Donnelly Memorial Award
Sponsor: Megan Donnelly
Winner: Washington D.C. Regional Police Pipe Band

Best Fife & Drum Corp.—The Stephen P. Lynch Memorial Award
Sponsor: American Foundation for Irish Heritage
Winner: The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps

Best Antique Car—Pat & Flo Coby Memorial Award
Sponsor: DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee
Winner: Tom Dunn, 1918 Kid Camaro

Best Antique Fire Apparatus—W. Howard "Howie" McGowan Award
Sponsor: Jim Snyder
Winner: Tim Jones, Stonybrook Mack

Best Novelty—Emerald Society Firefighters of Washington
Sponsor: Emerald Society Firefighters of Washington
Winner: Kona 500 Mini Convertible, Survivors

Best Marching Unit—Patrick E. Lee Memorial Award
Sponsor: Matt Lee
Winner: Eaker's

Best Adult Marching Unit—Vincent Flinn Memorial Award
Sponsor: Bob Malconian
Winner: Police Emerald Society, Washington DC Area

Best Youth Marching Unit—Jack Gallagher Memorial Award
Sponsor: Isabelle Gallagher
Winner: Project Children

Best Musical Award—John O'Beirne Memorial Award
Sponsor: American Foundation for Irish Heritage
Winner: Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band

Best Dance School—The Fahey & Mann Families Award
Sponsor: Tom Mann
Winner: AOIBHNEAS an Rince Irish Dancers

Marshal's Award—Frances J. Tiernan Outstanding Enthusiasm
Sponsor: DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshals
Winner: The McCarthy Clan

Best in Parade—O'Neill-James School of Dance Award
Sponsor: O'Neill James School of Dance
Winner: O'Neill James School of Dance

Most Humorous—The Rafferty Family Award
Sponsor: Shannon Savage
Winner: The Bradyland Club and Gaelic Gael Club

Best Pet Unit—Mary Elizabeth Walshall Memorial Award
Sponsor: The Flying Cows of Ventry
Winner: Greenbelt Dog Training

People's Choice Award—P.G. County Firefighters Emerald Society
Sponsor: P.G. County Firefighters Emerald Society
Winner: Good Counsel Student Volunteers

Best Theme—Jim Monahan Memorial Award
Sponsor: Kathy Monahan Murphy
Winner: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, WWII

Best ROTC Unit—Colonel John J. Murphy Memorial Award
Sponsor: Kathy Monahan Murphy
Winner: Gaithersburg High School NJROTC Drill Team and Color Guard

Best Performing Group—John & Anna Donnelly Memorial Award
Sponsor: American Foundation for Irish Heritage
Winner: The Boyle School of Irish Dance

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SUNDAY JANUARY 15, 2006
THE IRISH CHANNEL
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(202) 216-0036

SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2006
FADO IRISH PUB
808 7th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 789-0066

SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2006
MURPHY'S OF VIRGINIA
711 King St. Alexandria, VA. 22314
(703) 548-0717

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2006
HARP & FIDDLE
4844 Cordell Ave. Bethesda, MD. 20814
(301) 951-0035

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2006
NANNY O'BRIENS
519 Connecticut Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2006
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2006
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SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2006
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2002 Those Who Serve
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2001 Tom Dolan
Olympic Gold Medalist

2000 Rosie Donovan
Film & television actress (Touched by An Angel)

1999 Denis Mulcahy
Founder, Project Children

1998 Hal Roach
Dellar's International Humorist

1997 Thomas R. Donahue
Labor Relations Organizer

1996 Capt. Scott O'Grady, USAF
U.S. Air Force pilot shot down, June 1995

1995 John Hume
Leader, Social Democratic and Labour Party

1994 Mark Russell
Political Satirist

1993 Mary Higgins Clark
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1992 John J. Barry
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1991 U.S. Armed Forces
One member from each service

1990 John "The Diesel" Riggins
Running Back, NFL Washington Redskins

1989 John J. Sweeney
President, Service Employees International

1988 Carmencita Hoberman
Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland

1987 Helen Hayes
First Lady of American Theater

1986 Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Jr.
Speaker of the U.S. House of Reps

1985 Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Special Olympics Program

1984 Cyril Count McCormack
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1983 Frances T. Shea
Rear Admiral USN

1982 Rev. Gilbert V. Hartke OP
Founder, Speech and Drama Dept. Catholic Univ.

1981 Samuel W. Bogley
Lt. Governor of State of Maryland

1980 James P. Gleason
County Executive, Montgomery County, MD

1979 Walter E. McArdle
President, McArdle Printing Co.

1978 Maurice Cullinane
Former Chief, Metropolitan Police Dept.

1977 George Meany
President, AFL-CIO

1976 Patrick J. Hayes
Director, Washington Performing Arts Society

1975 William T. Hannan
Irish community activities

1974 William T. Hannan
Chairman, Bishop's Relief Fund

# PAST PARADE GAELS



2005 Cardinal Theodore McCarrick
2004 Barbara Harrison
2003 Joyce & John Flynn
2002 No Gael Selected
2001 Alice Murphy Johnson
2000 Frank J. Herbert
1999 John Cosgrove
1998 Patrick William Casey
1997 Paul L. Berry
1996 Father Eugene E. Riordan
1995 Father John Adams
1994 Matt Hannon
1993 Carol Wheeler
1992 Bruce Morrison
1991 Howard McClennan
1990 Susan Reilly Levy
1989 Matias "Jack" Fish
1988 Mickey Brennan
1987 Brendan Sheridan
1986 Monsignor R. Joseph Dooley
1985 Jane Callahan Gaile
1984 Dr. Colin Owens
1983 CDR James Ruland
1982 Cornelius J. Cooldey
1981 Charles T. Lucey
1980 Harry & Margaret Schrecengost
1979 Margaret Cooldey
1978 Peggy Hannon O'Neill
1977 Sean Cooldey
1976 No Gael Selected
1975 Charles Carey & John A.K. Donovan

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# Early Irish American Olympic Champions

The first very first Olympic champion in the modern era was crowned in the triple jump, in the 1896 Athens Games to an Irish American Harvard student James Connolly. On 6 April 1896, James Connolly won the triple jump (then two hops and a jump), and thus became the first Olympic champion in 1527 years. He also placed second in the high jump and third in the long jump. A 27-year-old undergraduate student, Connolly dropped out of Harvard University and traveled to Athens by freighter and train, arriving the day before the Olympics began. Connolly later became a well-known journalist and novelist and was offered an honorary doctorate by Harvard, which he turned down.



James Connolly stands tall with his countries flag as the first Irish-American Olympian

Irish-born John Flanagan was already the world record holder for the hammer throw when he immigrated to the United States in 1897. Like so many champion weight throwers during that era, he became a policeman in New York City and represented the US in international sporting events.

At the 1900 Paris Olympics, Flanagan won the hammer throw easily, outdistancing fellow American Truxton Hare by 4.75m. Four years later, at the St. Louis Olympics, in an competition devoid of foreign entries, Flanagan successfully defended his title, although he was given a good test by John DeWitt, and won by less than a metre. A week later, Flanagan picked up a silver medal in the 56-pound (25.4-kg) weight throw. At the 1908 London Games, Flanagan overcame world record holder Matt McGrath with his last attempt to win his third straight hammer throw gold medal. He also competed in the tug-of-war. On 24 July 1909, Flanagan threw the hammer 36.18m to become the oldest world record breaker in the history of athletics. He was 41 years, 196 days old. Flanagan returned to Ireland in 1911 and lived there until his death in 1938.

An Irish-American policeman, Matt McGrath first competed in the Olympic hammer throw event in 1908. At the time, he was the reigning world record holder. But, at the London Games, he was beaten by another Irish-American policeman, two-time defending Olympic champion John Flanagan. However, at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, McGrath overwhelmed his opponents. The shortest of his six throws was 4.45cm longer than anyone else's longest throw. McGrath's Olympic record held up for 24 years. In 1920, McGrath tried to defend his title, but injured his knee and had to withdraw after his second throw. He still managed to finish fifth. In 1924, McGrath returned to the Olympics and earned the silver medal at the age of 45.

Another Irish-American Olympian was Eddie Eagan. Eddie Eagan achieved a unique feat by winning gold medals in both summer and winter sports. In 1920, he won the light-heavyweight boxing championship. Twelve years later, he reappeared at the 1932 Winter Olympics and was a member of the 4 Man Bobsled team of Bill Fiske and won the four-man bobsleigh event.

Irish Americans have contributed to American sports since their arrival in the New World. Their descendants continue the legacy today, not only in the Olympics but in athletic teams, professional and amateur, throughout the United States of America.

# Cabhraionn muintir na hEireann na daoine ata bocht

"The Irish people help those in need"



Pat O'Flaherty and Pat Troy helped support victims of Hurricane Katrina by organizing a fundraiser. photo credit: Kitty Simpson

"Good deeds make good neighbors". Our apologies to Robert Frost. The metropolitan Washington Irish community's bountiful generosity to those in need year after year is legendary. Whether the resources are time, money, or otherwise the Irish are quick to volunteer to help out individuals and families who have suffered setbacks.

The aftermath of Katrina presented a tremendous opportunity to help others. The devastation in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast was pervasive and wide-spread, leaving families adrift in situations of homelessness, joblessness and in crisis. The destruction was indiscriminate, creating a physical and emotional loss to people of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Our country responded. Thousands of individuals volunteered their services, providing healthcare, shelter, food, clothing and jobs to people in need. This was accomplished by individual efforts, by organized groups and churches, and through established organizations such as the American Red Cross, Department of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Catholic Charities, and many, many more.

And so the Irish community responded to the crisis in the Gulf region. A member of the John Barry Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Keith Carney, shared his first-hand experience of the devastation which shattered the town of Pass Christian, Mississippi, a Gulf town located about 75 miles east of New Orleans. Keith was sent on a mission by his parish in Alexandria, St Mary's Church, which had collected funds for their sister parish of St Paul's Catholic Church and School located in Pass Christian. St. Paul's school had been totally destroyed by a 30 foot tidal surge during the storm, and all of the students were relocated to a crowded school nearby. Keith brought donations that would purchase trailers to serve as temporary quarters for the 360 displaced students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Keith spent some time with Father Dennis Carver, the parish pastor, who himself was a life-long resident of this area and who was overwhelmed by the tragedies he had witnessed. Providing Christmas cards and gifts from the fifth graders at St Mary's school to the children of St Paul's, Keith's mission was accomplished. However, upon returning to Washington, DC, he shared the story of Pass Christian with his very sympathetic brother Hibernians.

The story of Danny Flaherty will illustrate the resourcefulness and the creativity of the Irish community as they provided assistance to their compatriot in his hour of need. Danny Flaherty, a former DC resident, owned and operated an Irish pub and restaurant in New Orleans, O'Flaherty's Pub, which was damaged by the flooding. He was forced to close his business when New Orleans was evacuated, moving to Texas. He and his staff were in dire need of financial assistance and he appealed to the Irish pub owners in Washington, DC for help. Fundraisers were offered: Mrs. O'Leary's pub in Gaithersburg, and Kitty O'Shea's pub in Arlington, VA. These pubs raised enough funds to help Danny reconstruct his life and the lives of many of his staff. Kitty O'Shea's pub, open for only a few months before the Katrina disaster, held a lively Guest bartender night in October, 2005. Eamon and Kirsten McCrann, as well as a host of regular patrons, were able to raise $800 in one night. Publican Danny Mc Fadden of Falcarragh, Donegal, promised to add 50% of the final amount to the pot and proceeds were given to the American Red Cross.

In addition to their big hearts and warm welcomes, Irish pubs have always been creative in their efforts at fundraising for worthy causes. So, indeed, the pubs responded wholeheartedly to the crisis in the Gulf region. For example, Mackey's pub in Washington, DC sold raffle tickets dur-

ing football season. A reverse drawing was conducted on Superbowl Sunday so after great suspense, the winner was presented with a wide screen television, and the American Red Cross received $3000.

Nanny O'Briens held a regular Monday night session and spread the word for all their regular musicians to play. The turnout was wonderful, the musicians played for a long night, and they were able to raise $2134 which was donated to the American Red Cross.

The Irish Channel Restaurant in Washington, DC donated half of their sales for two days, and raised $5000 for the American Red Cross.

And the Irish pubs are not finished! At this writing, a plan in the making involves cooperation with the larger community of Falls Church. Ireland's Four Provinces of Falls Church, VA plans to celebrate Mardi Gras on February 20, 2006 with a live band, and will charge a cover (which they never do) to be donated to three charities. Working with the Chamber of Commerce in Falls Church which has established a task force to provide ongoing funding to Katrina victims, Colm Dillon has stepped up to the plate. The Falls Church Chamber of Commerce selected three charities: Homestretch (a Falls Church organization which provides housing to women and families at risk); Crosslink International (provides medical supplies to help rebuild a clinic in New Orleans); and for a Falls Church relief fund established for public schools in St Bernard parish. Sally Cole, Executive Director of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, extends great praise to 4 P's and the Irish community for their efforts. "Colm Dillon is always supportive of his community", Ms Cole states.

These are some of the many efforts made by the Irish community during the aftermath of the Katrina disaster. Their grass roots effort came from the heart and they brought relief to thousands of people who were suffering from the effects of this terrible storm. We expect that efforts will continue as the Irish community can be depended on to come through when it counts.

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renewal rate of season tickets ever by the franchise, higher even than the year following the 1977-78 Championship season. The club sold out a franchise record 30 home games during the 1994-95 campaign. The 2004-05 Wizards season saw the playoff-bound franchise tally 12 sellouts, averaging over 17,000 fans per game. O'Malley attributes her success to hard work and a drive for constant improvement.

Currently, O'Malley oversees all business operations for the Washington Wizards in addition to overseeing operations in the MCI Center, entertainment and new business development, finance, human resources/payroll services, marketing, team operations, and TicketMaster. She sees her job as ensuring that the MCI Center continues to provide outstanding entertainment for the Washington area as often as possible. Under her leadership, the facility has attracted more than 18.7 million fans to witness professional basketball at its finest, as well as spectacular events and concerts. The MCI Center hosts more than 220 sports, entertainment and cultural events each year.

O'Malley loves that she gets paid to do what other people can only do in their spare time. She advises young people who want to get into her line of work to secure an internship in the field while they are in school, and find ways to distinguish themselves during that time.

O'Malley believes that continual learning is an important part of life. She is currently pursing a law degree and expects to graduate next year. For two years, she taught a Sports Business Marketing class for seniors at the Georgetown University Business School. Combining lectures with visits by guest celebrities and seasoned veteran sports marketers, O'Malley taught these students what she knows best: how to run a successful sports franchise. Her efforts were recognized when Georgetown awarded her with the Adjunct Professor of the Year Award in 2002.

In spite of this hectic schedule, O'Malley has found time to share her marketing skills and expertise with a number of community organizations over the years. In 1997, she received the Americanism Award from the Alexandria-Olympic Boys and Girls Club. More recently, she is involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

As an adult, O'Malley has been able to pursue her passion and attain her childhood dreams of a life in sports. Grace O'Malley would be proud.

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Congratulations!
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Gael of the Year
Walter
Durkan

# GAEL OF THE YEAR

continued from page 13

Monaghan teams at both minor and senior levels, before his selection in 1950 to play goalkeeper on the Irish Youth Soccer Team, which faced off against England at Liverpool. The Dublin Sports Arena was host to a 1952 match between Dundalk and Cork United with Walter's team the clear victor over Cork playing before a packed house. He, along with all his teammates, received the "Cup Winner's Medal" for their stunning performance. Later that year Durkan playing for the Irish National Team, which shut out the United States 4-0 in exhibition play. Walter had established himself as a formidable soccer player by 1953 before turning professional at the Glenavon Soccer Club of Northern Ireland. Here he competed with distinction over the next four years, winning numerous awards for outstanding play. Gaelic football and soccer are in his genes. Walter's uncle was Captain of The All Ireland Football Team in 1921 and both Walter and his older brother have played professional football in Europe. While sports injuries curtailed Durkan's professional playing years in 1957, it did not slow his involvement in the sport. He continued amateur play in Washington and New York City leagues until the early 1960's, when he began officiating. One of Durkan's friends and teammate in DC football was the Irish writer, poet and singer Pete St. John. A writer known for many works, not least of which, is "Fields of Athenry", which has become an anthem for the masses in much the same way as the Corrie's "Flower of Scotland" is considered the unofficial National anthem of the Scots.

It was quite a transition shifting from player to official, but Durkan brought an insight few possess. Referees are responsible for maintaining a safe playing environment and enforcing the rules of the games. A referee is expected to maintain calm impartiality. Among children and sometimes adults referees provide adult supervision. Referees are constantly making public decisions that are under critical review by passionate crowds. Any decision generally upsets at least half the spectators.

Durkan began refereeing in Washington in 1964 before turning professional in 1967 with the founding of the North American Soccer League. This gentleman officiated at games involving Pele, Maradona, Cryuff, Beckenbauer and other world class players. Officiating was rewarding, demanding and required extensive travel during his 13 years of refereeing in the league, before retiring in 1980.

The Maryland State Soccer Association is a volunteer organization founded in 1927. As the governing body of amateur soccer in the state of Maryland, the MSSA mission is to promote and foster soccer in the state. The MSSA, its leagues, clubs and teams are members of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA). The USSF is a member of both the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC). The bottom line is that we provide opportunities for adults to continue playing the game they love. There is no reason to quit after your adolescent years. That is why our motto is Still Getting Our Kicks.

Walter E. Durkan was the recipient of the Granny Kraft Trophy in 1996 presented by the Maryland State Soccer Association in recognition of his years of dedicated service in the State of Maryland. The Award is named in honor of Granny Kraft, a former FIFA Referee who is a member of the United States and Maryland Soccer Hall of Fame. Walter has stayed active in the sports community by coaching St. Camillus soccer for 11 years and producing two championship teams. A coach meets the kids, learns their names, shares their joys and stands with them when they loose. Kids will remember the names of their favorite coach years after they stop playing, because they learned so much more then the game.

Walter Durkan is a truly gracious and accomplished gentleman and we proudly honor him this St. Patrick's Day.



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## Ed Kelly (continued)

Ed is the Past President of the Kings Point Club of Washington, Past President of the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Washington, DC chapter, a member of the U.S. delegation to the International Maritime Organization, Chairman and Board member of U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Foundation, Project Arlis: Member of Executive Board, Grad Fac.; Director Catholic Youth Organization, Washington, DC; Lector and Eucharistic minister at St. Matthews Cathedral and Church of the Little Flower, A Knight of Malta and a active member of the AOH, A past member of the D.C. parade committee and Vice President of D.C. Friends of Ireland.

## Dennis Lucey (continued)

While with the Xerox Corp. in the 1970's, Dennis went on two sabbaticals serving one year as Chief Administrator of the Hospital Ship HOPE during it's year-long tour to Brazil and two years as the Peace Corps Director in Liberia, West Africa.

Residing in McLean, VA. Dennis and his wife Pam have two children---Christopher, an associate with the Trammell Crow Company and Megan, the first grade teacher at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Washington, DC.

## Francis X. Flaherty (continued)

over 100 members. Flaherty served at one time as Secretary of the Catholic Police and Fire Society. He also served as President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Christians in Commerce. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus. Since retiring from the Fire Department Flaherty has worked full time operating Flaherty Iron Works of Alexandria. The company is known for their award winning custom ornamental iron work. Flaherty has two children and three grandchildren. He and his wife Mary are members of St. Lawrence Catholic Church and live in Alexandria Virginia.

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Kitty O'Shea's Irish Sports Pub is located at 2403 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201. They have several large televisions where regulars gather to watch English Soccer as well as other sporting events. Thanks to Kitty O'Shea's and all the other Irish Pubs and Restaurants that have generously contributed to the Katrina disaster relief efforts.


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**Wednesday:** Greater Wash. Céilí Club
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For further info: Dick @ 301-294-3568
http://members.aol.com/irishGHCC

**Thursday:** Greater Wash. Céilí Club
Rockville, MD
7:30 pm – beginners 8:15 – experienced
For further info: Paul @ 301-649-6410
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**Saturday:** Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
Fairfax, VA
10:30 am – 12:00 pm – all levels
For further info: Kenora @ 703-490-5207
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.... and our next céilís are:

**Thursday, March 16, 2006**
SWCC Men- céilí
Prost Center, Rockville, MD
8:00 pm – 10:30 pm

**Sunday, March 19, 2006**
Greater Washington Céilí Club
Cherry Hill Conference Center
College Park, MD
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm – workshop at 4:00 pm

**Saturday, April 8, 2006**
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
The Green Acres Center
Fairfax, VA
7:30 pm – 11:00 pm – workshop at 7:00 pm

**Saturday, May 20, 2006**
Blackthorn Céilí Dancers/Ring of Kerry
McCathran Hall,
Washington Grove, MD
6:00 pm – 10:30 pm – workshop at 5:00 pm

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## Susan O'Malley

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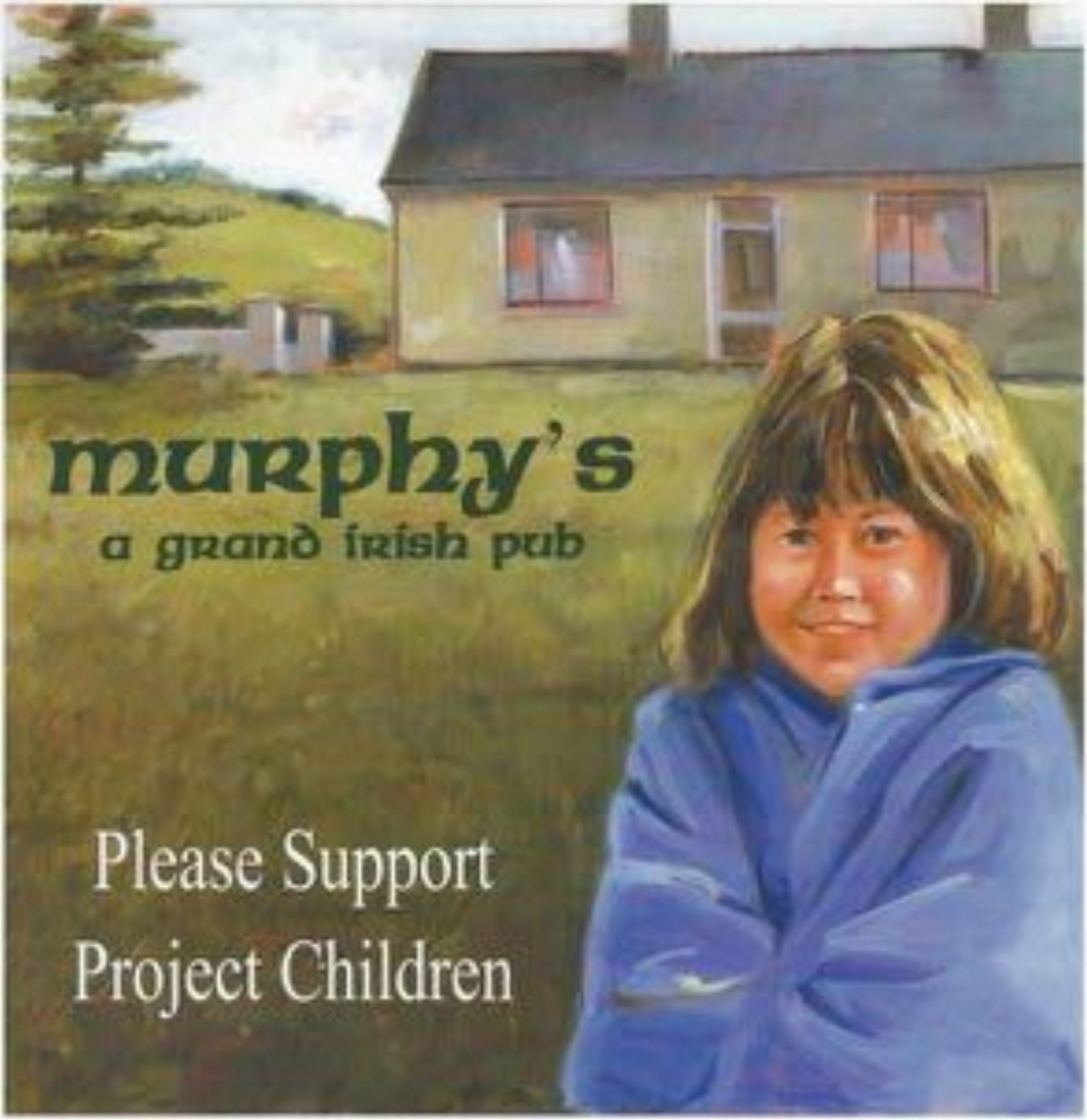


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