



## ST. PATRICK'S PARADE COMMITTEE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Cody Keenan, Former Director of Speechwriting for the White House, and Keith Carney, President of FedNet and Founder of the Hill Irish Network, to Lead Washington's St. Patrick's Parade on March 12, representing the 2017 theme of "Irish in Public Service".*

Washington, D.C. (February 13, 2017) – The 46th annual St. Patrick's Parade of Washington, D.C., is scheduled for Sunday, March 12, 2017, starting at 12:00 p.m. and concluding at 2:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Irish in Public Service." The parade route is easily accessible via the Smithsonian, Federal Triangle or Archives-Navy Memorial metro stops and will run along Constitution Avenue NW, from 7th to 17th Streets. The parade will feature traditional pipe bands, Irish dancers, military processions, marching bands, ornate floats, and more.

The Parade Committee is proud to announce that Cody Keenan, the former Director of Speechwriting for the White House, has been selected as Grand Marshal for the 2017 parade. Keenan, a proud Irish-American, he possesses great passion for public service. Keenan started his career as a public servant with an internship in Senator Edward Kennedy's office, working his way up from the mail room to the legislative staff. He went on to Harvard University to earn a master's degree in public policy and acquired work as a speechwriter for the Obama presidential campaign in 2007 and ended up working at the White House and served as Speechwriting Director from 2013 – 2017. In Keenan's 2015 Commencement Address to New York University's Graduate School of Public Service's graduating class he said "You made the right choice. Public service is important. It matters... You have chosen a calling that is fundamentally hopeful—because it's full of people who actually believe we can make a difference in this world."

The Gael of the Year, selected for his outstanding service to the local Irish community, is Keith Carney. Carney founded the Hill Irish Network, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that encourages networking and engagement of current and former congressional staff of Irish descent. Carney has been an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) for over 30 years and worked to preserve several local Irish-American monuments. He is also the Founder and President of FedNet, a broadcast news organization on Capitol Hill that provides coverage of the Senate and House Floor Debates, Hearings and Press Conferences.

The 2017 Division Marshals are Ralph Day, Susan Hoffman, and John McShane. Day is a veteran of the United States Navy, former president of the DC AOH, and an active participant of the parade. Hoffman serves on the board for the Washington Ireland Program and is a public service attorney with Crowell & Moring where she leads their pro-bono work and foundation. McShane has been a dedicated volunteer with the parade committee for over 25 years, leading the photography efforts and is a retired federal worker who spent time with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Association and the Park Service.

The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Washington, D.C., invites people of all ages to come out and enjoy the parade. For more information, to see pictures from last year's parade, and to purchase grandstand tickets visit our website at [www.dcstpatparade.com](http://www.dcstpatparade.com) or call 202-670-0317. And follow the parade on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/dcstpatparade](http://www.facebook.com/dcstpatparade).