



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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Pat Collins, General Assignment Reporter for NBC News4, and Pete Strickland, Head Coach for Men's Ireland National Basketball Team, to Lead Washington's St. Patrick's Parade on March 11, representing the 2018 theme of "Showcasing DC Irish Culture".*

Washington, D.C. (February 20, 2018) – The 48th annual St. Patrick's Parade of Washington, D.C., is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, 2018, starting at 12:00 p.m.. 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.

This year's theme, "Showcasing DC Irish Culture", was chosen to celebrate local Irish-American leaders who have been instrumental in the promotion Irish culture throughout the DMV area and become leaders in showcasing Washington's unique Irish heritage beyond the city.

The Parade Committee is proud to announce that Pat Collins, General Assignment Reporter for NBC News4, has been selected as Grand Marshal for the 2018 parade. His Irish roots trace to County Limerick, Pat grew up in DC on H St. NE, and began working in television in 1973. He has reported for NBC4 in Washington, DC for more than 30 years. He has covered six Olympics, three super bowls, and all kinds of stories of celebrations and sadness.. He has won 10 Emmy's for his work in television and is known for his snow stick. On St. Patrick's Day when he was a little boy, his father, Dr. Collins, would dress Pat up as a leprechaun and take him around to visit all his patients.

The Gael of the Year, selected for his outstanding service to the local Irish community, is Pete Strickland. Pete began his association with Ireland as a basketball playing ambassador in his early 20's. It was then that Pete arrived in Cork to play professionally with the Neptune Basketball Club. But Pete did more than just play basketball there in the Southern Capitol. Soon Pete was named the coach of the Neptune team and shortly thereafter helped organize the first non-military American team to participate in an Ireland based basketball tournament. Most recently, at the conclusion of Pete's 25 year NCAA Division I coaching career, Pete was named the Irish Men's National Team Basketball Coach.

The 2018 Division Marshals are David McKenzie, John McCarthy, and Jesse and Terence Winch. David has volunteered for the parade for over 30 years, is a retired DC Metro Transit Police officer, and a founding member of the DC Police Emerald Society. Jesse and Terence are brothers, founding members of the award-winning band, Celtic Thunder, marched in the first St. Patrick's parade, and play Irish music regularly in the DC area. John is an active member of the Irish Network DC, the Ireland Funds Young Leaders, and currently serves as the national vice-president of Irish American Democrats PAC.

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).

The 2018 St. Patrick's Parade of Washington, D.C. is held in partnership with the National Park Service and sponsored by Guinness, The Dupont Circle Hotel, Aer Lingus, MIX 107.3 & WMAL 105.9 FM, and dozens of generous donors across the D.C. area.