



## **TOM BEIRNE**

### **HONOREE 2019 – ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE**

Key Leader & Organizer for Eastchester’s & NYC’s St. Patrick’s Day Parades,  
Active in Boy Scouts, Supporter of Irish Contributions to American History & Life

Tom Beirne, a resident of Chester Heights in the City of Mount Vernon, is an Honoree for the Eastchester Irish-American Social Club’s (EIASC) 15th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

As an EIASC member, Beirne has been part of the Parade Committee organizing the Eastchester St. Patrick’s Day Parade since its inception and now serves as the Line of March Chairman, coordinating the placement of vehicles and marching units. Beirne has worked on the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, in Manhattan, for more than four decades and has served on their Board of Directors as Vice-Chairman.

Beirne, an Eagle Scout, donates his time to the Boy Scouts as Assistant Scoutmaster, Advancement Chairman for Boy Scout Troop 353 in Eastchester and an Instructor at the annual University of Scouting. He has been an officer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and is currently New York State AOH Chairman for Catholic Action.

A proud Irish American, Beirne traces his Irish heritage through his emigrant parents; Frank Beirne (deceased) from County Leitrim and his mother Mary (nee Cody) Beirne from Killkenny. He is married to Virginia and they have three children: Sean, Margaret and Audrey. Beirne holds a bachelor’s in civil engineering from Manhattan College. He is well respected in the construction industry with more than 30 years experience supervising large complex projects. For almost 10 years he has been employed by JT Magen & Company, Inc. as a Project Superintendent.

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The Archdioceses of NY requested Beirne's expertise in organization for the Papal Mass in Madison Square Garden during Pope Francis's visit in September 2015. He has worked on behalf of many charitable causes, chairing benefits, dances and large events. He was Chairman of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AOH in America in May 2011, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising on Saturday April 23, 2016 in NYC, and a Month's Mind Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral for Martin McGuinness, Former Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland in 2017.

Beirne's dedication and leadership has been recognized through the years including: Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2016 Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, Irish Echo Newspaper - Community Champion in 2016, AOH Division 5, Bronx Spirit of 1916 Award in 2017 among others. In addition to his service to the above organizations, Beirne is also active in the Knights of Columbus in Tuckahoe, Irish Institute, County Leitrim Society, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Immaculate Conception Parish, and his children's schools and activities.

He initiated and organized two solo runs by world renowned endurance runner Tom McGrath. The first run supported a memorial at the US Naval Academy for Commodore John Barry, an Irish-born naval officer known as "the Father of the American Navy" and the subsequent run helped raise money for wheelchairs through the American Wheelchair Mission.

Beirne chaired the committee that undertook an extensive process to have John Curry, the youngest visionary of the miraculous apparitions in Knock on August 21, 1879, exhumed. Curry died in New York in 1943 and was buried in an unmarked grave on Long Island. Cardinal Dolan celebrated a requiem Mass for John Curry, with hundreds of pilgrims from Knock in Mayo, Ireland, relatives of John Curry, and Fr. Richard Gibbons Rector of Knock present for the reburial in the historic cemetery adjacent to the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, lower Manhattan, in 2016.

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