

59th Annual Parade

March 21, 2010



2010 Parade President
James M. Leahy

An estimated 450,000 people (our largest crowd yet!) lined the streets of Holyoke to enjoy the unseasonably warm weather, thousands of marchers, floats, bands and esteemed award winners. It certainly was a parade to remember!

Our Grand Marshal, Holyoke City Council President, Joseph McGiverin and his family kicked off the 59th Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. Marching down the 2.6 mile parade route, Joe received thousands of cheers - a tribute fitting for the man who has done so much for Holyoke.

The "terrible towel" was waving proudly by Pittsburgh Steelers fans as JFK Award recipient, Ambassador to Ireland and Steelers owner, Dan Rooney, greeted fans and admirers down the parade route.

The "other Leahy" of the 2010 Parade, John Lahey, President of Quinnipiac University was a perfect recipient for the Ambassador Award. Mr. Lahey has been instrumental in educating the public about Ireland's Great Famine, which should make all of us appreciate the riches we have in this great country.

Holyoke's own scribe and perennial Colleen, Barbara Bernard, the Citizenship Award recipient, didn't stop smiling and waving from the time she left the lot until she reached the reviewing stand!

Colleens will always have a special place in my heart as my mother was the Grand Colleen in 1965. The 2010 Grand Colleen, Rosalyn Chesky, is the embodiment of a Colleen: beautiful, poised and intelligent. All the little girls, my daughters included admired her as she rode upon her float which she shared with her lovely court, Laura McDonough, Brigid Callahan, Kate Caligaris and Heather Duquette.

The awards given to my fellow Parade Committee Members were long overdue. "Rx" Jack O'Neill, Jacki Reardon and Marion Tierney work tirelessly all year, and I was so happy to see them and their families march and get the recognition they deserved.

I could never have imagined the pride I felt working down the streets of Holyoke with my wife Eileen and children Brendan, Caroline and Paige as I celebrated my heritage, faith, family and civic pride. I was honored and privileged to represent the hardworking and dedicated individuals who comprise the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Holyoke. They truly are the music makers and dreamers of dreams. The Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee out did themselves in 2010 and I thank each and every one of them for helping to make my year as president such a rewarding and memorable experience.

Cead Mile Failte!

James M. Leahy



2010 Grand Marshal
Joseph M. McGiverin



2010 Rohan Award
John T. O'Neill



2010 O'Connell Award
Marion F. Tierney



2010 Gullivan Award
Jacqueline L. Reardon



2010 John F. Kennedy Award
Daniel M. Rooney



2010 Ambassador's Award
Dr. John Lahey



2010 Citizenship Award
Barbara C. Bernard



2010 Grand Colleen
Rosalyn C. Chesky