

60th Annual Parade

March 20, 2011

"Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow!"



2011 Parade President
Kathleen M. Lynch

In the winter months previous to the parade, the snow was piling to record amounts. We thought the 2.6 mile parade route was going to be lined with snow banks instead of spectators. The angels of the previous parades took care of us and the record crowd of over 400,000 were greeted with warm temperatures and sun filled skies. Surprisingly, there was no trace of winter to be found anywhere spring had sprung on Parade Day!

It was a day for families, near and far. Many of us were enjoying the day with our families by our side. I was fortunate to have my entire family march with me. They too enjoyed their moment in the sun. The spectators were so welcoming and happy to see us. The excitement made me realize that I was a lucky person to be there enjoying each moment. I knew at this moment that I could not take each day for granted. There are many more perfect days as this one ahead of me.

Our 60th Anniversary year was a year of celebration. In addition to our many annual events; we had a 60th Gala Celebration, remembering our past Parades and the many who were responsible; and a Colleen Reunion where many of our Colleens had a moment to reflect on their special time.

As our proud Grand Marshal, Gerald D. Healy danced his way through the streets of Holyoke, we were reminded of the hard work, passion and enjoyment that each Parade Committee member past and present put into making this the grandest parade for 60 years. We survived the test of time through the efforts of so many who have gone before us. Gerry continued the celebration by greeting the many marchers as they made their way in front of the Reviewing Stand.

Our National Award winner David McCullough and his lovely wife, Rosalee, walked the entire parade route enjoying every moment. David was amazed by the beautiful buildings and history Holyoke had to offer its many visitors. He was truly a gentleman and embodied the traits of the JFK National Award. He enjoyed his weekend in Holyoke and shared countless stories with us. The parade was the icing on his cake.

Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr, the Citizenship Award winner is a great supporter of the parade and the Parade Committee. A kind and gentle man, he was humbled by the entire experience.

The philanthropy of Ambassador Award Recipient Loretta Brennan Glucksman is internationally recognized in the United States and Ireland. She too embodies the goodness that so many have to offer.

My good friend, Jane Coughlin Chevalier, our Rohan Award winner had a great time with her family. With her father "Pop" and mother Janet proudly watching from above, I was grateful that Jane and her family marched with us so that we could share the moment together.

Colleen mom, Kathryn Dulchinos, the George O'Connell Award recipient, added grace and style as she marched with her newest colleen family. Grand Colleen Meaghan Leahy along with her charming and friendly court consisting of Kathy Glenn, Sarah Ferguson, Kelly Blaney and Colleen Bresnahan made many little girls feel special. Miss Congeniality Melissa Meon's grandfather Danny Curran was riding alongside her in spirit on parade day.

Our Daniel J. Gallivan Award recipient Rita G. Moore, who was also the Agawam Parade Committee President, was overwhelmed in happiness. She enjoyed the parade with her husband by her side.

I was fortunate that I was able to share this experience with all of these fantastic award recipients. To each and every one of you who made our 60 years possible with all of your hard work, here is to another 60 plus years. This was a year I will never forget!



2011 Grand Marshal
Gerald D. Healy



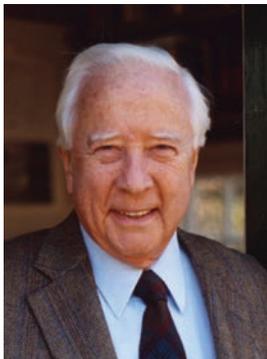
2011 Rohan Award
Jane Coughlin Chevalier



2011 O'Connell Award
Kathryn M. Dulchinos



2011 Gallivan Award
Rita G. Moore



2011 John F. Kennedy Award
David McCullough



2011 Ambassador's Award
Loretta Brennan Glucksman



2011 Citizenship Award
Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.



2011 Grand Colleen
Meaghan Leahy