

2016 st. patrick's day parade



GRAND MARSHALS: Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole and Daniel O'Toole

You won't find a more genuine Irish couple than Kathleen and Dan O'Toole. Massachusetts natives, both served in the Boston Police Department where Dan retired in 1988 after 22 years with the force. Kathleen later took on a succession of ranking jobs in Massachusetts law enforcement including superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, Secretary of Public Safety, and then as Police Commissioner. She also served in 1998-1999 on the Patten Commission, an international panel on policing in Northern Ireland, and ran a consulting firm specializing in US-Irish affairs. From 2006-2012, Kathleen and Dan moved to Ireland so she could serve as Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, a body responsible for bringing reform, best practice and accountability to Ireland's 17,000 member police force. She and Dan moved to Seattle in 2013 when she was confirmed as Seattle's Police Chief. Kathleen's grandparents were born in Athlone, Co. Westmeath and Dan's grandparents were from Cong, Co. Mayo. They have one daughter, Meghan. We are delighted and proud to have Kathleen and Dan O'Toole as our 2016 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshals.

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL: Casey McNerthney

Casey McNerthney is a great-grandson of Lily (Kempson) and Matt McAlerney, and is the Honorary Grand Marshal of Seattle's 2016 St. Patrick's Day Parade. He is representing all the descendants of Lily Kempson McAlerney the last surviving 1916 combatant who died in Seattle in 1996, aged 99. Some of Lily and Matt's other descendants will also be marching in the parade along with him. Casey was fortunate to get to know Lily well, as did many of her other great-grandchildren, and he loved hearing stories about her life in Ireland and her escape to Seattle after the 1916 Rising collapsed. He only wishes he had asked more questions. Casey is an Executive Producer at KIRO 7 television in Seattle and previously was a reporter at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

VISITING FROM IRELAND

GALWAY MAYOR FRANK FAHY

Frank Fahy was first elected a member of the Galway City Council in 2011 and was elected Mayor in 2015. He lives in an area of Galway called Menlo Village, a Gaelic speaking area where his family has lived since 1640. Gaelic is his first language and he promotes the speaking of Irish whenever he can and especially on civic occasions. Another important focus of his term as Mayor is the fostering of Galway's relationships with its sister cities and especially with Seattle which has been a sister city to Galway since 1986. Mayor Fahy visited Seattle in March 2013 as Deputy Mayor and in September 2014 hosted a Seattle delegation in Galway that included the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums Pipeband as well as Seattle Mayor Ed Murray. On this Seattle visit he is accompanied by his wife Gerardine and Galway City Executive Joe O'Neill and his wife Kay. We're delighted that the group from Galway is joining us in Seattle to help us properly celebrate Galway's Sister City relationship with Seattle and St. Patrick's Day. We extend to them a warm C ad M ile F ilte (One Hundred Thousand Welcomes) from the Emerald Isle to the Emerald City.

