Parade Grand Marshal: Attorney General Bob Ferguson

Bob Ferguson, Washington State’s 18th Attorney General, will be Grand Marshal of Seattle’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17. A fourth-generation Washingtonian, Bob is a graduate of the University of Washington and New York University law school. He is one quarter Irish through his O’Brien grandmother. However, the name Ferguson is widespread in Ireland especially in the northern province of Ulster. The name itself is of Old Gaelic origin, a form of "Fergus" or "Fearghus". Harry Ferguson, a Co. Down native, is credited with developing the Ferguson Tractor and was the first person in Ireland to build and fly his own airplane, but Bob doesn’t know if there’s any connection. Bob and his wife, Colleen, are the parents of 9-year-old twins, Jack and Katie, all of whom will proudly march with him on March 17.

Parade Honorary Grand Marshal: Bruce Cosacchi

A longtime member of the Irish Heritage Club and a former Board Member, Bruce Cosacchi is the Honorary Grand Marshal of Seattle’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Bruce has participated in Seattle’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade since 1974. For over 20 years he has played the Irish and US National Anthems on his trumpet before the start of the parade and in recent years has been joined by his grandson, Conor, for a trumpet duo. Bruce had a 25 year career as an FBI Special Agent in various locations ending in Seattle. Proud of his Irish heritage, he is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, a former drum major of the “Band of the Fighting Irish”, and a Past President of the local Notre Dame Club. Bruce’s mother was from Bawnboy, Co. Cavan, a place Bruce and Birgit visits frequently. Congrats to a wonderful Irishman!

Visitor from Ireland: Attorney General Séamus Woulfe

Ireland’s Attorney General, Séamus Woulfe SC, was appointed on the 14th of June 2017. He is the legal adviser to the Irish Government and is therefore the chief law officer of the Irish State. Attorney General Woulfe was educated at Belvedere College before obtaining a BA (Mod) (Legal Science) from Trinity College, Dublin in 1984. He then obtained an LLM Degree from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia in 1986 and the BL degree from the Honourable Society of King’s Inns in 1987. He began practicing at the Irish bar in October 1987 and was called to the Inner Bar as senior counsel in March 2005. He has acted as Legal Assessor to the Fitness to Practice Committees of the Irish Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. This is Attorney General Woulfe’s first ever visit to Seattle and he is accompanied by his wife Sheena Hickey. We wish them a warm Céad Míle Fáilte to Seattle.