

The Westchester County Board of Legislators  
celebrates

# IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Monday, March 10, 2025 | 7 PM

Welcoming Remarks & Acknowledgements  
Board Chair Vedat Gashi

Irish and American National Anthems Performed by  
Mr. Padraig Allen and The Honorable Dennis Power

## PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS



**DECLAN FARRELL**

PRESENTED BY LEGISLATOR BENJAMIN BOYKIN II



**FRANK O'KEEFE**

PRESENTED BY LEGISLATOR DAVID TUBIOLO

[see back for more]

Live streamed from the Board Chamber [westchestercountyny.legistar.com](http://westchestercountyny.legistar.com)

**Vedat Gashi**  
*Board Chair*  
Legislator, 4th District

**Colin D. Smith**  
Legislator, 1st District

**Erika L. Pierce**  
Legislator, 2nd District

**Margaret A. Cunzio**  
*Minority Leader*  
Legislator, 3rd District

**Benjamin Boykin II**  
Legislator, 5th District

**Nancy E. Barr**  
Legislator, 6th District

**Catherine F. Parker**  
Legislator, 7th District

**Jewel Williams Johnson**  
Legislator, 8th District

**Emiljana Ulaj**  
Legislator, 9th District

**Judah Holstein**  
Legislator, 10th District

**Terry Clements**  
*Majority Whip*  
Legislator, 11th District

**David Imamura**  
Legislator, 12th District

**Tyrae Woodson-Samuels**  
*Majority Leader*  
Legislator, 13th District

**David J. Tubiolo**  
Legislator, 14th District

**James Nolan**  
*Minority Whip*  
Legislator, 15th District

**Shanae V. Williams**  
Legislator, 16th District

**José I. Alvarado**  
*Vice Chair*  
Legislator, 17th District





**Declan Farrell**, originally from Portumna, Co. Galway, is the son of Mary and Willie Joe Farrell. He grew up on a farm with his sister Olive and brothers Martin and Micheal. After working locally in Portumna, Declan emigrated to New York in 1992, where he has lived ever since. In the 1990s, he gained experience in various trades, building lasting relationships and a strong network of friends. In 2003, he co-founded Vintage Restaurant & Bar in White Plains.

Vintage allowed Declan to connect with a diverse community, hosting numerous charitable events for causes like the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Wounded Warriors. He serves as Co-Chair of the White Plains St. Patrick's Day Parade, which he has been involved with since 2004. This event inspired the creation of the "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" celebration at Hudson Grille, which became a popular tradition after its launch in 2022.

Currently, Declan is the proud owner of Dunne's Pub in White Plains, a well-loved venue known for its traditional Irish hospitality and live music. Dunne's has been a staple in the community since 1991, hosting weekly music sessions and the pre-parade St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. Declan takes pride in supporting local initiatives, including Meals on Wheels White Plains and the Ronald McDonald House. Along with his wife Alison and their four children, Declan is honored to be recognized by the Westchester County Board of Legislators during Irish Heritage Month in 2025.

**Frank O'Keefe** has been a resident of Westchester County for 45 years, where he and his wife of 48 years, Mary, raised their three children. Born in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx to Nora (Curran) and James O'Keefe, both from County Kerry, Ireland, Frank is the youngest of six children. From an early age, he embraced his Irish heritage and passed that passion onto his children, all of whom played Gaelic football. His daughter Molly, a 2011 Southern California Rose of Tralee, was also involved in Irish dance.



Frank graduated from St. Leo University in 1974 and joined the Local 1 Paperhandlers Union, working at the New York Post for 23 years. During his time at the Post, he served as Recording Secretary of the Union for 10 years. He then joined the NYC Department of Sanitation, where he worked for 23 years and rose to the rank of District Superintendent. While at DSNY, Frank was an active member of the Emerald Society, serving on its Board and playing drums in the Emerald Society Band, where he also served as Secretary. He retired from DSNY in 2014 and now works as a Tour Guide at Yankee Stadium.

Frank has been deeply involved in the New York Irish community since 1975, when he joined the Kerry Association, an organization supporting members of the County Kerry diaspora and Irish Americans. Over the years, he has held numerous leadership roles within the Association, including President from 2018-2020, following in his father's footsteps who served as President from 1953-1955. Frank is currently Chairman of Kerry Association Property Inc. and serves as a delegate to the United Irish Counties. He is also a long-standing member of the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, having served as President for two terms, and is currently part of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee, a role he's held for the past decade. Additionally, Frank is the Secretary of the Narrowbacks, Thomas Minogue Division, Division 9 of the AOH New York.

Although Frank is proud of his Irish heritage, his family is his true passion. His eldest son, Patrick, lives in Eastchester with his wife Megan and their children, Brynne (13) and James (11). His son Sean lives in New Rochelle with his wife Donielle and their five children: Brendon (18), Kyleigh (15), Declan (11), Timmy (8), and Maeve (3). His daughter Molly lives in Yonkers. Frank's entire family is incredibly proud of his achievements and of him receiving this prestigious award.

