



2023 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Life-Long Dogtown Resident Named Grand Marshal of 2023 Hibernian Saint Patrick's Day Parade

(St. Louis) The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) have announced that Julie Colombo, a life-long resident of the Dogtown neighborhood will be the Grand Marshal of their 38th annual AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Miss Colombo, who is currently 100 years old, will be 101 in April.



Miss Colombo, a member of St. James the Greater Parish, has lived in the same home on West Park Ave. since birth. At the age of 22, Miss Colombo began her career in 1945 working for the St. Louis City Motor Vehicle Division. After 15 years with the Motor Vehicle Division, she joined the St. Louis City Criminal Courts Division as Court Clerk. She was the first female to hold that position. Prior to her hiring, all of the clerks had been male. She worked for the Courts Division for over 25 years. Her last position was as an archivist with the St. Louis Archdiocese. She retired in 2002 at the age of 80. During her 40 years with the Archdiocese, Miss Colombo said she served eighteen different cardinals,

archbishops and bishops

When notified of her selection as Grand Marshal by 2023 Parade Chairman Joe Murphy, Ms. Colombo stated she couldn't believe it.

"This is just great," she said. "I feel really honored to be chosen to lead the parade this year because I love St. James, the neighborhood and all of its people," Miss Colombo added.

The Irish gala gets underway at 11:00 am, Friday, March 17, on Saint Patrick's Day.

The annual parade, sponsored by the County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, honors Saint Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland, and highlights the contributions the Irish and Irish-Americans have made to the United States. The parade passes through one of St. Louis' oldest Irish neighborhoods.

The 2023 AOH parade will start south of the Tamm Avenue overpass at Oakland Avenue, travel south on Tamm Avenue past St. James the Greater Catholic Church and end at Manchester. This year's parade will feature over 90 colorful floats and marching units.

Like traditional Saint Patrick's Day parades held in Ireland, many St. Louis Irish will march under their family crests and banners.

This year's parade is once again being dedicated to firefighters, law enforcement, public safety personnel and union members killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001. Among those being recognized as distinguished honorees during this year's parade will be firefighters and law enforcement officers from St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

This year's honorees include: St. Louis City Police Officer Sgt. David Zwilling; St. Louis City Firefighter Ken Weiss; St. Louis County Police Officer Sgt. Stephanie Powers; St. Louis County Firefighter Eng. Andrew Shoop; Labor Leader Mike Louis, former President of the Missouri AFL-CIO; and Civic Leader, the St. Louis Hero Network

The Hibernians are once again working with representatives of Dogtown United, an origination that represents local residents and business owners, to better coordinate efforts to improve operations and efficiency of all events taking place in the historic neighborhood on March 17. Parade and festival organizers have once again adopted a 'no cooler/backpack' rule for both the parade and festival.

More information on the parade and the Ancient Order of Hibernians can be found at:

<http://www.stlhibernians.com>