



John Dunphy wears the Northampton St. Patrick's parade grand marshal ribbon from 1996 and holds the ceremonial cane from the event. His son Tom (left) will be the marshal this year. They are in John's Florence home.

NORTHAMPTON - The **Northampton St. Patrick's Association** recently named the recipients of two annual awards.

Tom Dunphy, of Leeds, was named marshal for the city's delegation to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. The marshal's award is considered the association's highest honor, and Dunphy was recognized for his 20 years of service.

"I'd like to describe Tom as a very enthusiastic, very active member over the years," said association president David Shea. "He's a gentleman who probably deserved to have gotten this award years ago."

Dunphy, who has served as the association's president twice, works as a dispatch supervisor with the State Police and volunteers as a youth soccer and basketball coach.

He serves on the Hampshire County Police, Fire and EMS Recognition Committee and is a past exalted ruler of Northampton Elks Lodge 997.

"It's a great honor, following in the tradition of my father," Dunphy said.

His father, John J. Dunphy, also received the award and led the Northampton contingent in the 1996 parade.

Sue Doran, also of Leeds, is the recipient of the annual Brennan Award, which is given to a member who has actively committed his or her time and effort to helping the association.

"She doesn't pick and choose her events," said Shea. "She participates in all events across the board."

"I'm happy to work on all the events and committees, and I never expected to receive an award," Doran said. "I have a great committee that I work with. It's fun. It's not just work to do all these things."

Both award winners will be honored at the Northampton St. Patrick's award evening and corned beef dinner on March 5, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall.

For tickets, contact the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish rectory at 413-584-7310 or e-mail Dave Shea at ceilidoc@aol.com.

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Northampton St. Patrick's Association will honor pair at dinner

CHAD CAIN Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON - It's that season where green doesn't mean conservation-minded, nor gardening, but all things Irish. The Northampton St. Patrick's Association will honor the recipients of two annual awards at a special corned beef dinner this Saturday: Tom Dunphy with the 2011 Northampton Parade Marshal Award and Sue Doran with the 2011 Brennan Award.

Both award winners are Leeds residents long active with the Northampton St. Patrick's Association. They will be feted at the dinner, set for 5 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall. For tickets, contact the parish rectory or Dave Shea at ceilidoc@aol.com.

Meanwhile, plans are also in the works for the 31st annual St. Patrick's Breakfast sponsored jointly by the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce and the Northampton St. Patrick's Association set for Thursday, March 17, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 1 Atwood Drive.

Author, freelance journalist, essayist, and poet, James F. Cahillane of Williamsburg, will be the guest speaker and Bob Flaherty, last year's guest speaker is back by popular demand as the program's master of ceremonies. As St. Patrick's Day parade marshal for the Northampton contingent, Dunphy will be on hand at the breakfast as well. Tickets for the breakfast may be purchased by calling the chamber at 584-1900.

Tom Dunphy follows in dad's footsteps as St. Patrick's parade marshal

Author(s): CHAD CAIN Staff Writer **Date:** March 8, 2011 **Section:** Local News

Leeds residents Tom Dunphy and Sue Doran attend the Northampton St. Patrick's Association awards dinner Saturday. Doran is the recipient of the association's 2011 Brennan Award and Dunphy was named parade marshal for the Northampton contingent of the March 20 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. NORTHAMPTON — Tom Dunphy is proud to follow in his father's footsteps as the city's grand marshal



Tom Dunphy helps his daughter, Reagan, 4, with an art project at the Northampton St. Patrick's Association awards evening at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall Saturday. He has been selected parade marshal for the Northampton contingent of the 2011 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on March 20. His father, John Dunphy, right, was the Northampton marshal in the 1996 parade

for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke, although he's adamant that his speeches won't be nearly as long.

"He just went on talking," the younger Dunphy jokingly said, referring to John J. Dunphy's 1996 acceptance speech at the Northampton St. Patrick's Association's annual awards dinner.

During a recent interview at the Bluebonnet Diner, the self-described "Hamp" native said he was humbled to be selected to lead the city's delegation in the Holyoke parade March 20.

The parade marshal award is the highest honor given by the association, and is a virtual who's who of the city's Irish. As the 32nd marshal, Dunphy knows he's joining an elite group of leaders.

"Looking at the rest of the marshals on that list, it's an honor to be put with them," he said.

He officially became marshal Saturday night at the association's award and corned beef dinner celebration. Also honored was Sue Doran, who received the Brennan Award for her commitment to the organization





Leeds residents Tom Dunphy and Sue Doran attend the Northampton St. Patrick's Association awards dinner Saturday. Doran is the recipient of the association's 2011 Brennan Award and Dunphy was named parade marshal for the Northampton contingent of the March 20 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade.

Dunphy, a dispatch supervisor for the Massachusetts State Police who grew up in Northampton and lives in Leeds, was selected marshal for his long history of involvement in youth sports in Northampton, for his participation in numerous community associations and for his longtime support of Irish culture.

"He's always been an enthusiastic participant and very creative as to what he offers these committees," said Dave Shea, the association's interim president. "There aren't many people more Irish than Tom Dunphy."

Shea nominated Dunphy for the honor, and the past marshals selected him unanimously for his contributions to the organization and to the community.

"The fact that 240 people are coming to our dinner is a testament to him," said Shea.

Dunphy's foray into civic involvement - and leadership - began unexpectedly more than two decades ago when the then-exalted ruler of Northampton Elks Lodge 997 recruited several younger members of the community into the organization with one goal in mind.

"He sat us all down and asked which one of us wanted to be the exalted ruler," Dunphy recalls. "I raised my hand. That was my first kick-off into community events."

He was 22 at the time. In that one-year term, he ran the Northampton lodge, one of the more active lodges in the city and Hampshire County. That work included many youth activities and organizing an annual Irish night dinner. Since then, he's become a member of the Leeds Civic Association, the Three County Fair Association and serves on the Hampshire County Police, Fire and EMS Recognition Committee.

Marshals are known for their longtime support of Irish culture, and Dunphy is no different. He is a longtime member of the St. Patrick's Association and has twice served as its president. He's also a member of the Sons of Erin, a Cape Cod organization that promotes Irish culture.

It's his love of basketball, however, where Dunphy has arguably made the most impact on the community and its youth.

Dunphy loves basketball so much that he coached numerous teams over an 18-year span, despite being one of the few coaches with no children.

After a decade coaching suburban travel league basketball, he spent four years coaching freshman boys at Northampton High School and another four years at the junior high girls level. He also was an active and longtime member of the Basketball Athletic Club, a fundraising organization in support of youth basketball in Northampton.

Ironically, after his first child, Reagan, was born four years ago, Dunphy pulled in the reins on his coaching and other community involvement.

"She became my world," he said.

He's starting to think that's about to change again. Not only is he back to coaching basketball and soccer at the pre-kindergarten level, but his selection as marshal might be a sign that "I can feel myself getting pulled back in."

Chad Cain can be reached at ccain@gazettenet.com.

'Hamp marshal ready to march

Saturday, March 12, 2011

By BRIAN STEELE

bsteele@repub.com

NORTHAMPTON - "Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's day, but some of us are Irish every day."

So said Tom Dunphy, this year's marshal for the Northampton contingent to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. He won the honor for more than 20 years of service to the Northampton St. Patrick's Association.

This will be the 31st anniversary of the association's involvement in the parade.

"(The Irish) have assimilated and become part of the fabric of our country," said association president Dave Shea. "I think they're very proud of that.

"The parade is an expression of our culture, our society, our identity," he said.

So, of course, St. Patrick himself will be there. This year, it will be association member Bill Metzger, who took over the role when Bill Ouimette retired last year after more than two decades.

Also marching are Northampton Mayor Mary Clare Higgins and the city council, Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (whose float will be pulled by a tractor), the Northampton High School band and, among others, the ubiquitous Civil War re-enactment group 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, Company C.

"The kids in Holyoke go crazy for them," said Sue Doran, one of the liaisons between the Northampton association and Holyoke.

And Dunphy will lead the way, even though he said he gets nervous in front of large groups.

The contingent is sponsored by Ahearn Funeral Home in Northampton, and owner Michael T. Ahearn is another liaison between the two cities. He is a two-time past president of the association and has been active in it for 25 years, he said.

Ahearn said that this year, unfortunately, the contingent will not have a float, but he declined to explain why. Regardless, he said he is excited.

"It's a smaller contingent than Chicopee or Springfield, but it's a fun contingent," he said. "It's a quality contingent.

"When you're marching down the streets of Holyoke and there are 300,000 people cheering you on, not even knowing who you are, it's a lot of fun," said Ahearn.

A good day for the Irish at St. Patrick's breakfast in Northampton

By [SUZANNE WILSON](#)

Staff Writer



GORDON DANIELS

At Thursday's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, master of ceremonies Robert Flaherty addresses the crowd. The photograph was taken looking into a mirror.

NORTHAMPTON -When she stepped up to the microphone yesterday before the large crowd that had gathered for the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast, Clare Higgins looked out at the audience and remarked that this year's gathering would be her last as Northampton's mayor.

Then Higgins, who recently announced that after nearly 12 years in office, she is not running again, paused just briefly.

"But it's tough getting up this early," she said. "So it's OK with me."

And that, in keeping with the spirit of the day, was about as serious and sentimental as things got during the festivities at the Clarion Inn as speakers entertained the crowd with political stories laced with Irish humor.

Higgins, noting her own ancestry, said she would be leaving office as the city's longest-serving Irish mayor. She had enjoyed "every minute" of her time in office, she said, before correcting herself. "Almost every minute."

She said she would likely return to attend City Council meetings in her new role as private citizen. Politicians never leave for good, she said: "They just come back for the three-minute comment period."



GORDON DANIELS

The St. Patrick's breakfast Thursday was Mayor Clare Higgins' final one as mayor. The Rev. John Connors, of St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Church, left, is seated next to her. He offered the invocation.

Higgins did not divulge her future plans, but admitted to disappointment that an option open to retired politicians of the past seems closed to her.

"You guys are killing patronage," she said, drawing a laugh. With her prospects of landing a nice job as a gatekeeper at the landfill apparently dimming, Higgins said she might be relegated to staking out a position on a downtown sidewalk and "playing some instrument badly." Or perhaps she might go back to school to do some research into a puzzling question like this one: Why is the St. Patrick's Day breakfast sponsored by a bar and a funeral home? "What's the deal with that?" she asked.

Higgins told one story that suggested she's not leaving office with delusions of grandeur. Seems a constituent's young child recognized her from local access TV, pronouncing: "That's the lady from the boring channel!"

As master of ceremonies, Gazette columnist Bob Flaherty kept things moving, taking his own humorous shots at local stories, politics and personages.

With Higgins retiring, he noted that perennial challenger Roy Martin has already booked a room for his victory party next November. He touched on the recent difficulties of former Northampton District Court Judge W. Michael Ryan, arrested, but later cleared of charges of disorderly conduct and

assaulting a police officer. Though exonerated, Flaherty noted that Ryan "never leaves his house without a film crew," referring to a widely publicized police videotape of the incident. Flaherty made mention of several dignitaries in the crowd, including Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan who has embarked on what Flaherty called "an ambitious agenda." Already there are whisperings, he said, that Sullivan is over-reaching his authority "with constant talk of re-opening the Kennedy investigation."



GORDON DANIELS

James F. Cahillane was guest speaker at the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast Thursday.

Speaking of Kennedy, the late president's picture is one of those on the cover of a new book by James Francis Cahillane, the guest speaker at yesterday's breakfast.

Cahillane, who grew up in Northampton and now lives in Williamsburg, was one of six children of former Northampton Mayor "Big Jim" Cahillane who served from 1954-1959.

"On History's Front Steps" is the Cahillane family story, one that tracks in many ways with the city and the country's history. His father, after coming over from Ireland in 1930, settled in Northampton. He worked hard, ran a gas station, built up a car business, and married and raised a family. He entered local politics, was elected mayor in 1953 and was befriended by a young John F. Kennedy, another politician of Irish lineage, who was building alliances to serve his own political ambitions.

Though James Cahillane worked for many years in the family auto business his father started, his interest in writing also has deep roots. He published his first poem in 1952, at age 19, and earned a

college degree many years later, in 1989, through the University Without Walls program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Cahillane told the crowd that he had wondered what his late father would have to say about the Northampton mayoral race that's now shaping up.

"His answer from the ether came quickly," Cahillane said. "Narkewicz? Versus Bardsley? We Irish don't have a beagle in that fight."

ID: Thomas Dunphy

By [THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE](#)

Staff Writer

Friday, March 18, 2011

This is a big weekend for Thomas Dunphy of Northampton. He's served two stints as president of the city's St. Patrick's Association, and this Sunday he'll be marching in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade as Northampton marshal.



Dunphy, who works as a dispatch supervisor for the Massachusetts State Police, has also devoted a lot of time to youth sports. He's coached fifth-, sixth- and ninth-grade boys basketball; seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball; Little League and Farm League baseball; and youth flag football. Currently, he's coaching his 4-year-old daughter in pre-K soccer and basketball.

Full name: Thomas James Dunphy

People know you as: Dunphs

Date and place of birth: March 27, 1966, Northampton

Address: Leeds

Job: 911 dispatch supervisor, Massachusetts State Police (18 years)

Who lives under the same roof as you? My wife, Karen, and my daughter, Reagan

Children: Reagan Jean Dunphy, 4

Education: Northampton High School, 1984; Westfield State College, 1988

Hobbies: Yard work, golf tournaments with friends and quahogging on the Cape

Book you'd recommend to a friend: "Hometown" by Tracy Kidder ... it's all about Hamp

Favorite movie: "Jaws"

Favorite television shows: "Criminal Minds," "NCIS"

Favorite singers: Grand Master Flash and The Furious Five, Jimmy Buffett, James Taylor

Five items you can't live without: My wife, my daughter, good friends, microwave popcorn and ice-cold beer

Last thing you purchased just for fun: A John Deere lawn mower

What's at the top of your bucket list? Run the "Amazing Race" with my wife. She would do all the driving

Life-changing experience: The birth of my daughter

Strangest job you ever held: Out of high school, I worked at Chartpak during the summer. I am a firm believer that everyone should work in a factory sometime during their life

A little-known fact about you: I hate driving on three-lane highways

Dumbest thing you ever did: Putting a box of instant potatoes down the garbage disposal. It clogged the drain and it erupted like a volcano all over the kitchen

One product, trend or fashion you'd like to see return: Respect for elders and authority

What really sets you off? Noho, Floho ... where did all that come from?

If you could spend the day with a celebrity, who would it be? Ronald Reagan - the greatest president of my lifetime

Best advice you ever got: Don't expect someone else to do something; do it yourself

Favorite place to get a bite: Joe's or Roberto's - best chance of seeing someone from Hamp

Favorite team/athlete: Boston Celtics/Larry Bird - the NBA will never be the same

One thing you would change about yourself: Definitely could lose a few pounds

Pick for the Final Four? Texas. I know Coach Barnes

Whom do you most admire? My parents. They raised five kids, taught us life lessons and were a success with my daughter - she's been 18 since day one

Parting shot: In the words of the late Bill O'Connor: "Live every day like it's your last, because one of these days, you're going to be right!"

- Compiled by Zoe Klatz

Two Northampton students receive St. Patrick's scholarships

By [THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE](#)

Staff Writer



NORTHAMPTON - Two Northampton High School students will be honored at the St. Patrick's Day breakfast Thursday as recipients of the Northampton St. Patrick's Association annual \$1,000 college scholarships.

Jackson Scott Findlay, 17, of Florence will be awarded the Joan Tobin Citizenship Award and Johanna M. Fleming, 18, of Northampton will receive the William F. O'Connor Shanachie Award.

The St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, sponsored by the Northampton Chamber of Commerce and the St. Patrick's Association is set for Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Northampton.

The Joan Tobin Citizenship Award is granted to a graduating senior at Northampton High School or Smith Vocational High School who has shown considerable effort throughout high school, and has demonstrated exceptional characteristics of citizenship through participation in school, community or church activities, according to a statement from the association.

The William F. O'Connor Shanachie, named in honor of the longtime master of ceremonies for the annual St. Patrick's breakfast, is given to a student who has worked to is or her fullest potential and has a good sense of humor and storytelling abilities. Shanachie is an Irish term for a traditional storyteller.

Findlay, the son of Jeffrey and Linda Findlay, said he was both "surprised" and "proud" to be awarded the scholarship. He has worked on several local political campaigns, been involved in many community activities, such as the Northampton Police Department's Police Explorers programs, and also plays lacrosse and soccer.

He plans to attend Holyoke Community College for its hospitality management program next year.

Fleming, who is the daughter of John and Sheila Fleming, said she was "honored" to receive the William F. O'Connor Shanachie Award.

She too has been involved in local politics, serving as co-chair of the Mayor's Youth Commission. A key factor in her selection, however, was the humorous essay she wrote to accompany her application, in which she related a story about an embarrassing childhood experience.

She is also actively involved in several school sports, including soccer, swimming and lacrosse. She serves as captain of the swimming and lacrosse teams. She said that she has not yet decided which college she will attend next year, though her top choices are Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa., and Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. She has not yet decided on a field of study.

