

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE
New York City**



**PRESS CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCING
THE GRAND MARSHAL
FOR
THE 248TH PARADE**

Tuesday October 21st, 2008

**The Manhattan Club
800 Seventh Ave (at 52nd Street), New York, NY**

**“The St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.
Web Site: [http:// NYCStPatricksParade.Org](http://NYCStPatricksParade.Org)**

AGENDA

- Welcome -

John Dunleavy, Parade Chairman

- Comments -

Dr John Lahey, Parade Vice-Chairman

Niall Burgess, Consul General of Ireland

John O'Connor – President of the Board of Directors

- Introduction of Grand Marshal -

John Dunleavy

- Grand Marshal's Address -

Michael J. Gibbons

- Questions from the Media -

- Conclusion of Press Conference -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information

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GRAND MARSHAL OF 2009 NEW YORK CITY'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

NEW YORK, NY - Tuesday, October 21, 2008

The New York City St Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce the Grand Marshal of the 248th Parade will be Michael J. Gibbons, President of the Ireland-U.S. Council, the former Executive Vice President and General Manager of *Estée Lauder* and a member of the *Lt. Patrick J. Walsh Division 29 A.O.H.*

Mr. Gibbons will lead the marchers up Fifth Avenue on Tuesday, March 17th, 2009 for the 248th Parade. The Parade is the world's oldest and largest civic parade and celebrates the faith of Ireland, *Irish heritage and culture.*

John Dunleavy, Chairman of the Parade, said "We are truly delighted that Mike Gibbons has been unanimously selected as the 2009 Grand Marshal. He is a man who is beloved in New York's Irish-American community. He is an outstanding American who has devoted a huge amount of his considerable energy and charisma to building enduring and durable ties between Ireland and America. We know that his selection will be a widely popular one."

The Parade marched for the first time on March 17, 1762 - fourteen Years before the Declaration of Independence. It is regarded as the most popular parade in New York City, and *honors Saint Patrick the patron Saint of the Archdiocese of New York and Ireland.* The New York Parade consists only of marchers and each year hosts some 250,000 marchers, along with many great marching bands, bagpipers in marching formations, high-school and college bands from throughout the United States and from all over the world. The occasion is televised live nationwide for four hours by host station *WNBC Channel Four* to millions of households. The broadcast of the Parade was available for the first time in 2008 via the internet through the Parade's web site and was broadcasted via satellite on *The Travel Channel.*



Biography

Michael J. Gibbons was raised in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx. Mike's father hailed from County Mayo in Ireland and his mother was born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada of Scotch-Irish descent. Mike graduated from St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York and served in the U.S. Navy.

In 1967, he joined *Estée Lauder, Inc.*, the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of quality cosmetics products. Michael served as Vice President of Clinique and General Manager of Aramis. He retired as an Executive Vice President and General Manager of *Estée Lauder* in 2007.

Mr. Gibbons is currently the President of *The Ireland-U.S. Council* – a organization dedicated to promoting business bonds and commercial connections between Ireland and America. During his six years at the helm, the Council's roster of programs and activities has been expanded and its stature has grown on both sides of the Atlantic. The Council operates a variety of scholarship and internship programs, stages seminars and hosts frequent events in Ireland and in the United States.

He is currently a Director of *Flax Trust America*, a Member of the *Mayo Society* of New York and a Director of *The Irish Institute*. He is also a Member of The Taoiseach's *Economic Advisory Board* in the United States. Mr. Gibbons is a former Chairman of the *International Center* in New York, a private, not-for-profit organization that welcomes and assists immigrants and refugees to America. He is a past-Director of the *American Ireland Fund*, the *Eugene O'Neill Theater Foundation* and the former co-chairman of the *Knights of St. Patrick*.

Mike and his wife, Cynthia, have four children and four grandchildren. They reside in Palm Beach, FL and in Carmel, New York.

2008 SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Francis P. Beirne College Scholarship

- 1st Place - Kelly Browns New York Law**
- 2nd Place - Meaghan Shalvey Fairfield University**
- 3rd Place - Bridget Emsworth St Thomas Aquinas College**

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Margaret O'Rourke High School Scholarship

- 1st Place - Maueen McNulty Academy of Holy Angels**
- 2nd Place - Julianne Freeman John S Burke Catholic High School**
- 3rd Place - Kristin McLoughlin Smithtown High School West**

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

— Press Conference—

—Manhattan Club—

800 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY

Wednesday, January. 14, 2009

—Installation of Grand Marshal and Aides—

— *New York Athletic Club* —

180 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019

Sunday, February, 22nd, 2009

— Grand Marshall Reception —

— Antun's Catering —

9643 Springfield Blvd, Queens Village, NY 11429-1327

Sunday, March 15, 2009

— Parade Cocktail Reception —

— The Manhattan Club —

800 Seventh Ave (at 52nd Street), New York, NY

Tuesday, March 17th 2009

— New York City's —

— St. Patrick's Day Parade —

Fifth Avenue, Manhattan

(Only affiliated or approved organizations are allowed to march)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FUND RAISING EVENTS

Web Site: [http:// NYCStPatricksParade.Org](http://NYCStPatricksParade.Org)