

PRESS RELEASE

Written By Hilary Beirne, Parade Secretary

Wednesday, December 05, 2007

GRAND MARSHAL FOR THE 2008 NYC St PATRICK'S PARADE

New York, NY - Wednesday, December 05, 2007

The New York City St Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce the Grand Marshal of the 247th Parade will be the County Louth born, and ESPN TV sport personality Tommy Smyth.

Tommy has been a fixture of the Irish American community in New York for past forty four years. No one is more qualified and well liked than Tommy to receive the most prestigious honor the Irish American community can bestow on anyone in the United States. He is probably the most remarkable and recognized Irish American living in the United States and will bring great honor and prestige to the Parade in his role as the 2008 Grand Marshal.

We look forward to marching up the grandest of Avenues, Fifth Avenue with him leading the way on Monday, March 17th in 2008.

When contacted about his selection, Tommy Smyth was deeply honored and delighted to have been chosen the Grand Marshal and is looking forward to leading the World's Oldest, Largest and Greatest Parade.

Tommy brother and sisters; Colm, Theresa, Sheila, Brendan, Harry, Marian and Patsy who live in County Louth, were trilled when informed of the selection. They are now looking forward to traveling to the U.S. to watch their brother lead the Irish American Community of New York City and the 250,000 marchers up Fifth Avenue in front of the estimated two million spectators on March 17th in 2008.

Notes to editors:

For further information about Tommy Smyth, please see attached Biography (Word File) Photograph included with Press release. (JPEG File)

For more information e-mail Hilary Beirne at
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<http://NYC-St-Patrick-Day-Parade.Org>

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Biography

Tommy Smyth has lived in New York City for the past 44 years and is an internationally respected TV sports personality in over 200 countries.

Tommy was born in 1945 in Knockbridge, County Louth, Ireland and emigrated to the United States at the age of seventeen in 1963. Tommy is married to Cork born radio host and nurse Treasa Goodwin and together they have a loving family in Anthony and Lisa.

As one of the television broadcaster for the New York City's, St. Patrick's Day Parade on WNBC every year Tommy delights in pointing out his beloved County to millions of viewers.

County Louth Society of New York honored him as Gale of the Year in 2006 when they celebrated their 100th anniversary, an honor that capped the many awards he has received over the years.

Tommy's love of GAA football started at a young age when he was the youngest person ever elected to the St. Brides football committee in Knockbridge, Co Louth, Ireland. He developed a love for soccer at matches in Oriel Park in Dundalk with his father Patrick and Brother Harry. "This is where I learned the hang of a soccer match and how to talk about it, and it certainly has stood to me all these years."

Tommy played for Louth in Gaelic Park, New York for over 4 decades and served as President of the New York Louth football club for ten years. He also played soccer with the Shamrocks Club in the German American Soccer League.

In the 1960's, Tommy Smyth hosted the popular radio show "Ireland Calls" in New York a show that is still on the air and now hosted by his wife Treasa on WVOX. 1460am. In the 70's, he became the "Voice of Gaelic Park" the starting point of his broadcasting career.

Smyth was the voice of the Metro Stars of Major League Soccer (in the United States) from the team's inception in 1996 to the early 2000s.

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In 1994 Tommy Smyth emerged as a major figure in the television sports broadcasting world with his weekly telecast of The Brazilian championship on ESPN International. Since then, he has been a major part of ESPN's World Cup coverage and when ESPN International began to broadcast the European Soccer Champions league (UEFA Champions League) they again looked to Tommy for his soccer expertise. Smyth is one of the hosts of the show ESPN Soccernet Press Pass which is one of the top rated TV shows in Australia. Its format is a roundtable debate where Tommy has grilled many of the worlds leading soccer figures: Beckham, Keane, Shevchenko, Figo, Ferguson, Wenger and Erickson. Other greats he has interviewed over the years include the Aga Khan, Jack Lynch, Rudy Guiliani, Albert Reynolds just to mention a few.

Tommy Smyth outstanding broadcasting skills have been recognized by the television industry when he was presented the prestigious "Telly Award" in 2005 and 2007 making him the first Irishman and soccer announcer to receive this award. Tommy has received 5 "Emmy" nominations for his work on ESPN and on WNBC TV4 Saint Patrick's Day parade coverage. He not only provides in-studio analysis for most major soccer events from around the world, he also commentates on Gaelic Games, horse racing and harness racing for ESPN.

Today, Tommy Smyth is a much-sought after M.C. for many prestigious events in the New York area.

Tommy's home is an "open door" to people from all over Ireland needing a place to sleep or a job. His supporting hand of friendship to fellow countrymen and women is legendary.

He is a member of the Parish of Our Lady of Hope Middle Village and proud member of the Martin Kearns, Division Four of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in New York County.

Tommy Smyth brothers and sisters still reside in County Louth, Ireland and they are Colm, Theresa, Sheila and Brendan, Harry and Moira (RIP), and Marian and Patsy.

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