



44th Annual Bergen County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal

Brian Clancy



August 2025

Born and raised in New Milford, New Jersey, Brian Clancy is proud to represent a lifetime of service, cultural commitment, and Irish heritage.

The son of John and Maureen Clancy, his roots are firmly grounded in both Irish and American traditions. His father, the late John Clancy, served for over 20 years with the FDNY, while his

mother, Maureen, worked as an administrative assistant in their hometown of New Milford. He is one of four siblings: Sheila Clancy, John Clancy, and Eileen (Clancy) O'Rourke.

Brian is the proud grandson of four Irish immigrants who came to New York City in the 1930s aboard White Star Line ships. His paternal grandparents, Patrick Clancy of Quilty, Co. Clare, and Nellie Clancy of Ennis, Co. Clare, as well as his maternal grandparents, Michael McCarthy of Buttevant, Co. Cork, and Babel McCarthy of Knocknagoshil, Co. Kerry, instilled in him a deep appreciation for Irish culture and tradition. Brian's grandparents were very proud and devout Catholics, and his parents continued their strong Catholic roots with him and his siblings.

A graduate of St. Joseph's School in Oradell and New Milford High School (Class of 1996), he continued his education at Iona College, earning a degree in Criminal Justice in 2000. While at Iona, he was an active member of both the Iona College Pipe Band and the Gaelic Society. He later earned his Master's in Public Administration from Marist College in 2005.

Brian's career in law enforcement began in 2000 with the NYPD, but he quickly returned to serve his hometown community, joining the New Milford Police Department in 2001. He rose through the ranks, becoming Sergeant in 2012, Lieutenant in 2015, and Chief of Police in 2019. In June 2023, Brian graduated from the FBI National Academy, Session 286, an achievement in Law enforcement attained by only 1% of police officers in their careers globally.

A lifelong musician and proud piper, Brian began learning the bagpipes at age 16 with the Clan Na Vale Pipe Band, where he played from 1994 to 2002. He continued piping with the Iona College Pipe Band during his college years and joined the Bergen Irish Pipe Band in 2004, after meeting longtime Bergen County parade figure Jimmy Higgins. In 2010, he became Pipe Major and has led the band to numerous competition victories in both Grade 4 and Grade 3, performing in Scotland, Chicago, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. He has proudly marched in nearly every local St. Patrick's Day parade since 1995 — including the Bergenfield parade without a single miss.

Deeply committed to the preservation and celebration of Irish culture, Brian regularly attends Irish music sessions and concerts across the tri-state area.

In October 2025, he married his wife, Erin, an accomplished Irish dancer and certified teacher at the Harney Pender Keady Academy in Stamford, Connecticut. Erin also serves as a judge at Irish dance competitions (feiseanna) around the world.

Brian Clancy represents a modern embodiment of Irish-American tradition — combining service, music, and culture with pride and purpose.

The Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County invites the public to join in honoring our Grand Marshal, Brian Clancy, at the 2026 parade on Sunday, March 15, 2026, and our Grand Marshal Installation Brunch on Saturday, February 7, 2026, as we celebrate his contributions to the Irish-American community and public service in Bergen County.