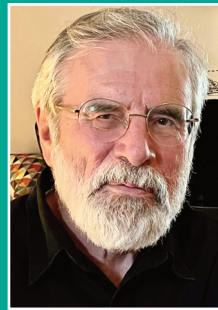


IrishEcho LABOR AWARDS

2024

September 6, 2024
The Edison Ballroom, New York, NY

Guest Speaker
Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller



Greetings from Ireland
Gerry Adams



LiUNA!
Feel the Power



Mazzola Mardon, P.C.
LAWYERS FOR LABOR FOR OVER 50 YEARS





Irish Labor Awards Mark Fourteen Years

By Ray O'Hanlon

The 14th Annual Irish Echo Labor Awards are set for the Edison Ballroom in Manhattan on Friday evening, September 6.

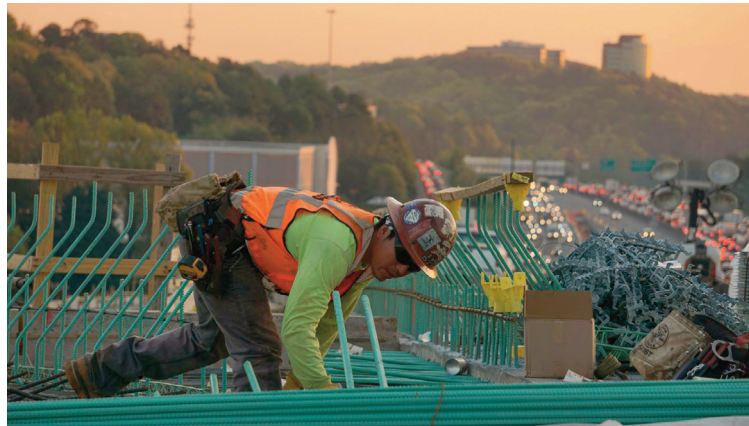
The gathering will honor eleven labor leaders for their varied, but in every case distinguished, service to the cause of labor in America. The keynote speaker for the evening will be New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

It's fair to say that, over the years, the contribution of the Irish in America to the cause of labor has been nothing less than immense.

Indeed, it could be argued that the American labor movement would not exist at all in its current form without the efforts of standout Irish men and women, champions of labor all, down those years.

Our celebration in the Edison Ballroom will salute a new generation of Irish American labor leaders who are flying the flag for today's labor movement across the United States.

Battling for the cause of labor has never been an easy road, no matter where in the world it has been waged.



Here in the United States the cause of labor has, it's fair to say, never had a day off. And that includes Labor Day.

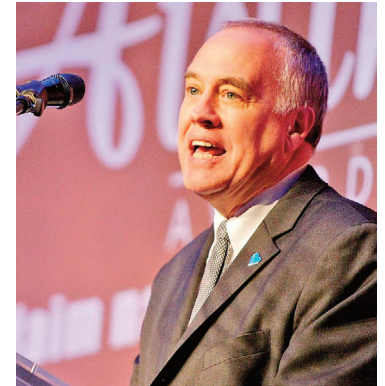
There are forces afoot, and they have been stomping around since day one of the republic, that view labor as simply that, and nothing more.

The human beings who stand in the ranks of labor, and its representative movement, are seen by some as mere details in a world where profit is paramount. Now there is nothing wrong with profit per se. But how it is

achieved, and at what cost to the workers who generate it, has been never less than a primary concern of the labor movement, and the leaders of the labor movement.

The aforementioned new generation of leaders are faced with an array of challenges the likes of which have not been seen before. Technology in all its varied forms presents extraordinary opportunities, but also significant challenges.

When it comes to persons or



New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

machines the labor movement, by its very nature, will prioritize persons, men and women.

But not everyone with the means of shaping our world will necessarily see things in the same way.

So labor has to constantly learn and adapt in a world that is changing at not just a rapid but an accelerating pace.

The leaders we will be honoring on September 6 embody that ability to adapt and learn, and we wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Backing Ireland while helping their fellow-workers

By Gerry Adams

At these the 14th annual Irish labor awards, I want to commend Echo for its steadfast commitment to public service journalism, and in particular its support for the values and ideals of the Labor Movement in the United States.

The strength and success Labor Movement is good for workers, for their families and for the Irish American community.

This annual event celebrates the extraordinary hard work and diligence of American trade unionists.

I want to thank the Labor Leaders who are supporting this year's celebration. Without their visionary participation the importance of the trade union movement would not be fully appreciated.

Well done to all of those who are to be honoured this evening.

Best wishes also to my good friend New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli who will address this year's celebration.

Tom has been an unwavering supporter of the cause of Ireland for



SOLIDARITY: Gerry Adams addressing the Irish Labor Awards in New York, 2019

decades. He understands the importance of U.S. endorsement for the Irish Peace Process and for the Good Friday Agreement.

Tom has invested millions from the pension funds of New York State public workers in the North of Ireland in order

to cement the peace with jobs.

Thank you Tom for that commitment and for that trust. All of you being honoured this evening are a credit to your unions, to your families, to Irish America and to America.

Some of the great unions of America are represented at this year's gala: The Carpenters, the Masons, the Transport Workers Union, the Sandhogs, the Laborers, the Longshoremen, the Teachers and of course the associations of firefighters and police.

All have played a key role in maintaining bonds of solidarity with the Irish people and with the cause of Ireland.

In particular, many of the unions have contributed to Áras Uí Chonghaile – the James Connolly Centre – in Belfast.

Connolly was a trade union leader in Ireland – in the United States – and an advocate for Irish independence and freedom.

His execution by the British in 1916 robbed Ireland and the USA of one of the giants of the Labor Movement.

Connolly understood the importance of workers standing together, united against injustice and oppression.

He famously wrote: 'The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland; the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour.'

This is especially important in the context of the partition of Ireland by the British, the growing demand that for the full delivery of the Good Friday Agreement and the increasing support for a United Ireland.

I applaud all those being recognised but want to give a particular shoutout to two honorees: Mary Claire Breslin, the only women honoree tonight who has been a teacher and a union activist in New Rochelle for 32 years; And our sole Boston representative Richard MacKinnon Jr. President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts.

Like all of our honorees, they are true heroes committed to helping their fellow-workers.

Thank you all for your solidarity and support.

William C. Sproule
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



Eastern Atlantic States

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The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters is part of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and is made up of over 42,000 highly skilled men and women from 25 Local Unions living and working in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.

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RICHARD MacKinnon Jr.

City and State: Dennis, MA.

Current Company and Position: President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts; Firefighter/Paramedic Whitman Fire Department.

Family: Long time girlfriend Erin Kate Lynch; Daughters Rosemary Margaret MacKinnon and Lillie Beth MacKinnon.

First Job: My very first job was a dishwasher at St. Joseph's Manor in Dorchester. It was a Catholic nursing home in Dorchester, MA. I was 13 years old. The schedule was one week on and one week off. Monday to Friday was 5-9 pm and on Saturday and Sunday we worked breakfast, lunch, and dinner with breaks in between.

I liked working and having my own money. It was also a good group of people to work with, some were my age and a lot were older. The cooks were a diverse crew as well. Tim was a WWII Veteran that was also a cook during his time in the military.

Another woman Barbara, was a mother from our neighborhood and her children all worked part time there too. Then there was Al, a very large scary man that didn't say much but when he did was profound. He was Jamaican and very strict and stern but always fair. He was the head cook. I remember him having a big white Cadillac with Gucci interior. I thought that car was great! Sr. James Francis was the Boss, with a capital "B"! She ran everything and was good at it. I loved interacting with the elderly residents and listening to their stories. I eventually moved up to become waiter which I am proud to say was the first male on the wait staff. I worked there for several years.

What it taught me: My first job taught me how fortunate I was to be working at a young age. 13 was an unusual age and was a little young than the normal staff at the nursing home. My father knew Sr. James Francis well so she made special accommodations so I could be hired. I was grateful to have the job and it was a great experience early on in life. The job taught me to listen and be empathic toward others. It also taught me to respect elders and that so much can be learned from them. Having a job that young also taught me the responsibility of work. There were events and things I could not do because of work. Since that first job I have had many others but I have never not had a job or multiple jobs since then. I am now 51 years old and doing what I was meant to do. I love the profession I am part of and the first job as a dishwasher help create the foundation and structure to be successful.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: is to take care of yourself first. That doesn't mean be selfish. It means take care of yourself spiritually, mentally, physically, and whatever else is needed to take you the best person you can be. If you aren't well, then you will not be able to take care or serve anyone else. Take time for yourself, schedule it in to your daily calendar if you need to. I learned the hard way having a heart attack at age 50. I was lucky and caught things early and thanks to that I am currently in the best shape of my life.

I would work literally from the time I got up to the time I went to bed. My union job would take up most of my time or I would allow it to, and I was still working shifts



on the firehouse which I love. I look at things differently now and take the time to pray, mediate and workout and if I am better I can better.

I would also tell someone starting out to stay real and not take things or yourself seriously. Be empathic, you never know what someone is dealing with or going through. I try living by the four agreements: Be impeccable with your word, Don't take anything personally, Don't make assumptions, and Always do your best.

Never be afraid to change or make decisions. You will make wrong ones but go with your gut and make them. You will never please all people but do what you think is right and respect everyone until they give you a reason not to.

Who is your hero and why? My hero is absolutely my dad. I admire so much about him and strive to be like him. He is where I learned my spirituality, my work ethic, and a lot of who I am. He set a great example of what it means to have faith in God, faith in people, and how to be just a nice guy. Growing up he always worked 2 or 3 jobs to support our family of my mom and 3 siblings. He would go from one job to the other often with no sleep. He worked as a Boston Firefighter which meant working nights and days, and then work at funeral home and wash windows. He never complained, just worked, and at the same time making time for us. My strong faith is directly from him. He taught us to put God first and everything else will come. God, family, work was what he lived by. I remember him telling me he offers everything up to Mary the Blessed Mother and she always takes care of him. He prays the rosary every day and takes part in regular adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Through his example it caused me to strengthen my faith and relationship with God. I have a

greater appreciation for what I learned when I was younger, like the importance of prayer in my life and surrendering to God. I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be firefighter. When we were kids my mother would bring us into the firehouse to see him when he would double and triple shifts knowing that would be the only way for us to see him for the couple days. I remember the "big thing" was when I turned 13 years old he would allow me to spend the night at the firehouse and go on the runs. It was a natural fit for me, I loved every second of it. The men we worked with in the firehouse were family and still are to this day. Then when I got on the job I couldn't stand on the side and watch things that I knew were wrong go by. That is why I got involved in the union and haven't looked back since. The union is about taking care of people and I thank God every day I get to do it.

Rich MacKinnon Jr. is a third-generation firefighter, serving 24 years as a Firefighter/Paramedic in the town of Whitman. He was elected President of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) on October 22, 2016.

MacKinnon has served in an elected capacity within Whitman Firefighters Local 1769 since 2001. In 2001, he was elected to the Bargaining Committee, and as an At-Large Member. In 2009, he was chosen to serve on the Whitman Fire Department Ambulance Committee on Rules and Regulations. From 2010 – 2016, he served as Union President.

In 2011, Rich was elected to the PFFM Executive Board as the District 1 Vice President, servicing 32 locals within the organization's 12,000 membership. While on the PFFM Executive Board, he has served on several other boards. In 2011, he was appointed by Governor Patrick to be one of two PFFM representatives on the state Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) where he represented labor on arbitration panels to settle contracts. He also serves on the PFFM's EMS Committee as the sitting E-Board Member and is Co-Chairman of the PFFM Constitution and By Laws Committee. In 2013, MacKinnon was named Chairman of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts Funeral Committee which assists locals in the handling of line of duty deaths, active member deaths, and retiree deaths across the state.

In 2011, Rich was appointed to the IAFF Standing Committee on EMS representing the Third District of the IAFF which includes Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In 2012 and 2013 he was selected to serve as the IAFF Principal Member on the NFPA Technical Committee on EMS and the NFPA EMS 450 Standard Committee. He continues to be active in the IAFF on a variety of committees.

In 2021, he was appointed to a five-year term on the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) and serves as a commissioner. He currently also services on the Massachusetts Fire Services Commission, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO Executive Board, the Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial Board, the Governor Maura Healy Labor Advisory Council, the Advisory Board of Mascon Medical, and the Board of Directors for On-Site Academy.



Congratulations to all the 2024 Irish Echo Labor Awards Ambassadors

IrishEcho LABOR AWARDS

2024

Congratulations to
Eamonn Carey, Director of Jurisdiction and Agreements, NYC District Council of Carpenters
Stephen McCann, Business Representative, NYC District Council of Carpenters
Thomas Costello, Retired Union Organizer and Business Representative, UBC
 And all of tonight's honorees



**Carpenter Contractor Alliance
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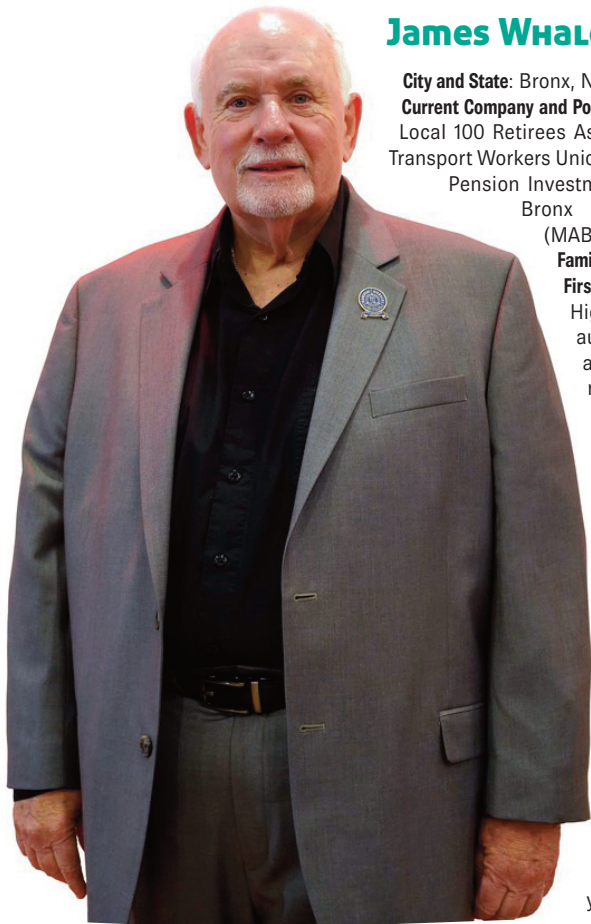
Paul Capurso

David Caraballoso

John DeLollis

John O'Hare

David Meberg



James Whalen

City and State: Bronx, NY.

Current Company and Position: Director, Transport Workers Union Local 100 Retirees Association; International Vice President, Transport Workers Union of America; Trustee and Member of the Pension Investment Committee of MTA-Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority (MABSTOA) Pension Fund.

Family: wife Ester.

First Job: After graduating DeWitt Clinton High School, I worked at a gas station and auto repair shop. I started out pumping gas and doing road service. I wanted to be a mechanic. A wonderful man and senior mechanic at the station, Ed Lowe, helped me every day and taught me everything he knew about the job. This helped me enormously in securing my career with the MTA-MABSTOA as a bus maintainer.

What it taught me: My experiences in my first job convinced me that one should always help your co-workers, and always be willing to pass along your knowledge and experience to those coming onto the job. I found out that I liked helping others on the job, and it formed the basis of my career as a union officer fighting for the rights of my brothers and sisters in transit.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Go to work every day. Give the employer a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Respect your supervisors and your co-workers, and the respect will be

returned to you two-fold. Always support your union. Attend union meetings and be willing to get involved. Finally, always pass your knowledge and expertise along. When you see one of your co-workers doing a job the way you showed them, it will be a satisfying reward.

Who is your hero and why? Definitely my dad, James Whalen, Sr. He was a wonderful father, loving husband and courteous gentleman to all. He worked hard as a truck driver to provide for the family, and he came home every night after work to have dinner with us and my mother. He raised me and my two brothers as respectful young men that we carried with us throughout our lives.

James Whalen is International Vice President of the Transport Workers Union of America, and Director of the TWU Local 100 Retirees Association. He has also served as a Trustee and Member of the Pension Investment Committee for the MTA-MABSTOA Pension Trust for the past 25 years. During that time, he has helped transform the fund from one with heavy unfunded liabilities to a trust that will be 100 percent funded in the next two years. James was first elected to a union position in 1986 as Maintenance Vice Chair at the Kingsbridge Depot in Manhattan. He was elected to numerous other union positions and also served as a full-time organizer for TWU Local 100.

He was elected to the TWU International Executive Board in 1997, to the Executive Council in 2001 and as Vice President in 2005, a position he still holds.

He is a life-long resident of the Bronx, NY where he shares his home with his wife Ester, who was born on Easter in the beautiful town of Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland. He traces his strong Irish roots to Armagh in Northern Ireland.

He is a member of the MABSTOA Emerald Society and was honored by that organization in 2002 as Irishman of the Year. He was also recognized for his contributions to TWU's Irish-American traditions at the TWU Local 100's annual Quill-Connolly Celebration in March 2019.

Thomas Costello

City and State: Freehold, NJ.

Current Company and Position: Retired Union Organizer and Business Representative for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. Currently, a part time Teaching Fellow at the UBC Training Center.

Family: Married to Terri Costello and have four grown children.

First Job: My first job was working in the family restaurant and pub on the west side of Manhattan as a dishwasher and bartender and doing odd construction jobs on the weekends with my father.

What it taught me: The fast paced environment of the family restaurant business was a spring board for my future career endeavors as it honed valuable skills such as communication, teamwork and understanding the value of fair treatment in the workplace. These skills were invaluable in fostering collaboration and building strong relationships in the construction industry.

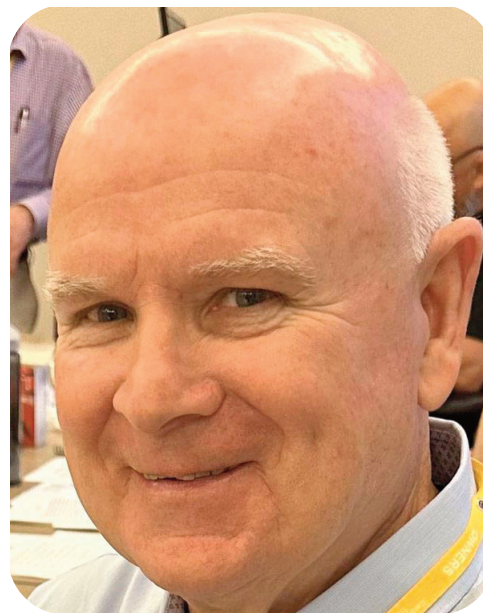
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Build strong relationships by communicating, actively listening and learning from different perspectives. Having a strong work ethic and demonstrating your dedication and inspiring other workers is a key to your future success. The construction industry has a wealth of knowledge that is passed down from prior generations. By listening to more experienced workers, you will learn valuable information that will help you develop your skills and problem solving techniques.

Who is your hero and why? My parents are my heroes. My parents emigrated from Ireland (counties Galway and Fermanagh) leaving everything they knew to build a new life for themselves and our family. They worked so hard to give my brother and I a good life and future. Both of

my parents were active union members (32 BJ of the SEIU for my mother and the Carpenters Union for my father). The sacrifices that they made to provide for us instilled a fire in me to work hard and to be able to give more to my family.

Born and raised between the bustling streets of New York and the vibrant landscapes of Ireland, Tom Costello has always possessed a spirit of adventure and a deep connection to his roots. He honed his academic skills starting at St. Mary's College in Galway and further developed his athletic prowess on the hurling pitch. He claimed two coveted Connacht championship medals which not only showcased his talent and dedication to the sport but also developed his teamwork and leadership skills. Driven by a desire to explore new horizons, he returned to the US. Tom received his bachelor's degree from Fordham University and master's degree from Cornell University in Labor Studies. He also continued participating in athletics - proudly adding two NY championship medals to his collection, playing for the Rangers and Sligo Gaelic Football Clubs.

During the same time over 45 years ago, Tom joined the Carpenters Union. He quickly rose through the ranks applying his work ethic, technical abilities and leadership skills to excel in various construction projects in Boston, Philadelphia and New York. His journey through the industry saw him progress from Carpenter to Foreman to General Foreman to Job Site Superintendent, and ultimately, Project Manager. After his field achievements, Tom actively contributed to the Union as a teacher in the NYCDC Labor Technical College, an Organizer and Business Representative. Even in retirement, Tom is a part time Teaching Fellow for the UBC in Las Vegas. He



spends a significant amount of time mentoring younger union members by sharing his knowledge and fostering a strong union culture.

Perhaps his crowning achievement lies in his book, *The Shovel Hits The Dirt*, a testament to his unique perspective and vision for union organizing. By capturing a history of the labor movement, providing insights on organizing along with real world case studies, Tom has created a valuable resource for future generations of union leaders.

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE IRISH ECHO



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

DAVE BOLGER

**AND ALL OF THIS
YEAR'S HONOREES**

DAVE BOLGER

**BUSINESS MANAGER
MASON TENDERS DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Stephen McCann

City and State: Wantagh, NY.

Current Company and Position: My current position is a business representative for the NYC District Council of Carpenters, representing the members of the Local 1556.

Family: I have been married to my wife, Dana, for 22 years and I have three children; Riley, Colin, and Ella.

First Job: My first job in construction was ripping roofs off houses at the age 16 for a family friend. The valuable lessons I learned from this job sparked my interest in construction and I have continued to work in the construction industry for the last 33 years.

What it taught me: This job taught me the value of working for a quality contractor and how the relationship between employees and employers is so important. I also learned effective time management skills as I was working while balancing my academic and familial commitments.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The best advice I could give to someone who is just starting out is to always bring the right tools to the job. Not just the tools in your hand, but the tools in your head like having a positive attitude and a good work ethic.

Who is your hero and why? My hero is my father who was an electrician for his entire life. He came over from Ireland when he was 22 years old, joined the army, and provided for his family. The persistence, honesty, and work ethic that he always showed me are all skills that have translated into my life and helped me to be the man that I am today.

Stephen was born as the third out of four sons to two Irish immigrants from Dublin. He was born in Queens and raised in Bellmore, Long Island. He started out his endeavors in construction 33 years ago and has dedicated 25 of those years to working for the Dockbuilders Local 1556 Union. During his time at the Union, he has held a position as a journeyman, shop steward, foreman, and finally worked his way up to his current position as a business agent for the union.

In his role as a business agent, he represents the members of Local 1556 in all union matters. Stephen also holds the elected position of executive delegate for his local union. During his time in the industry, Stephen has proudly worked on several large projects, such as the rebuilding and recovery of the World Trade Center and Freedom Tower. In his personal life, Stephen enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, and biking.

Mary Claire Breslin

City and State: Bronxville, NY.

Current Company and Position: President of the New Rochelle Federation of United School Employees, Local 280; 6th grade English Language Arts Teacher at Albert Leonard Middle School in the City School District of New Rochelle.

Family: Domestic partner for 26 years: Lee A. Miller; Parents: William (deceased May 2022) and Carol Breslin; Brothers: Jim, Billy, and Danny.

First Job: Front desk clerk at a locally run hotel.

What it taught me: This job helped me to develop communication skills, patience, and a thick skin. I had to think on feet and multi-task frequently.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Be curious, ask questions, stay true to you convictions, and get involved in the union!

Who is your hero and why? My parents are my heroes because of their strong work ethic and commitment to our family. My selfless mother, a teacher and loving caregiver, taught me to think of and do for others and to always give with a warm hand. My feisty father, a longtime public school teacher and proud member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, taught me to stand with the union and fight the good fight. My parents instilled that all work has value, and all workers, regardless of position or title, deserve respect.



She was inspired by unionism at the age of 11 when she walked the picket line with her father and his co-workers, who were demanding better wages and a fair contract.

Mary Claire grew up in New York's Southern Tier. She graduated from LeMoyne College with a bachelor's degree in English and political science, and earned her master's degree at SUNY Cortland. While she loves living and working in Westchester County, she is an upstate woman at heart.

When she isn't in the classroom educating tomorrow's leaders, Mary Claire can be found at the union office working alongside the dedicated New Rochelle FUSE leadership team. It is her the greatest privilege to advocate for union members, uphold the contract, and fight against unfair labor practices. This is the work that must be done to keep the union strong all day long!

Mary Claire Breslin is a public school teacher of 32 years and proudly serves as the President of the New Rochelle Federation of United School Employees, a union of over 1,400 teachers and staff-related professionals.



Eamonn Carey

City and State: Westwood, NJ.

Current Company and Position: Director of Jurisdiction and Agreements New York City District Council of Carpenters. I also serve as the Recording Secretary for Local 157.

Family: Wife Virginia; Daughters Caitlin and Hannah.

First Job: Farmhand from aged 10 until 18 when I left Ireland.

What it taught me: Value of hard work. You haven't lived until you have swam in the uterus of a Holstein cow at 2 am on a cold January morning.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Listen, ask questions and read a lot. Work on the details the rest will take care of itself.

Who is your hero and why? I grew up surrounded by some very impressive

people. All of my grandparents had been active in the struggle for independence. My parents were very community oriented and were active in promoting athletics and youth development in the county. My sisters have all worked and volunteered in their communities. I admire and respect people who do for others without needing awards or acclaim, so this is a little uncomfortable.

Eamonn grew up in Listowel Co. Kerry. He and his sisters were encouraged by their parents to participate in every aspect of life in a small town. He first came to New York and New Jersey in 1993 and shortly thereafter joined the Carpenters Union as an apprentice. Through the years Eamonn has worked in almost every facet of the construction industry and grown from apprentice to leadership.

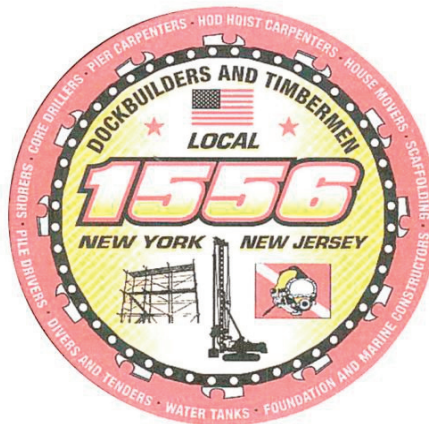
In 2005 Eamonn married his wife Virginia and they have two wonderful daughters who are their pride and joy. He has been active in the Carpenters Union from the beginning of his career and in 2011 he joined the staff at the New York City District Council of Carpenters as a Business Agent. In 2019 he was elected as Recording Secretary for Local 157. In 2023 he was appointed as the Director of Jurisdiction and Agreements at the District Council of Carpenters. Eamonn is an avid Munster and Ireland rugby fan. But his passion is his family.

DOCKBUILDERS TIMBERMEN

Local Union No. 1556

of Greater New York, New Jersey and Vicinity

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PATRICK CASEY

City and State: Blauvelt, NY.

Current Company and Position: Police Officer, Orangetown Police Department; President, Orangetown Police Department PBA; Public Information Officer, Rockland County PBA.

Family: Kalyann Burns - expecting first child in December 2024.

First Job: Intern/Clerk US Drug Enforcement Administration.

What it taught me: While I had odd jobs as a child, my first real job was for the DEA. I learned the importance of attention to detail, networking, and being passionate about what you do.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Be a yes person. Dedicate your time to what you are doing. If it be union work or police work, there is no greater teacher than experience and time. The more you are exposed to the more experience you will gain and as you get more time on the job you can look back and see how far you have come. Take that extra shift, do that undesirable detail, volunteer to help out and you will gain more experience.

Who is your hero and why? My father and mother. My father was a police officer for more than 20 years who balanced work and family but always put the family first. My mother was always there for not just her children but all her family and friends. Together they showed me and my sisters the importance of respect, family, and never giving up.

Pat was raised in Orangetown, NY by James and Jane Ann Casey along with his two sisters Sinead and Meghan. Pat graduated from Tappan Zee High School in 2007 where he got his



competitive edge as a captain of the Varsity Basketball team and earned many honors and awards to include 1st Team All county. Pat graduated from Manhattan College in 2011 earning a BA in Government and Sociology. During his tenure at Manhattan, he began to forge a path of leadership and community involvement outside the realm of sports serving as the President and VP within the Student Government.

Pat also served as President for two years on the Manhattan College Gaelic Society where he was instrumental in the return of Gaelic football back at Manhattan College. Pat also revived the College

Republicans on campus and was active in the National College Republicans and campaigns. Simultaneously, Pat was selected for a prestigious paid internship with the U.S Drug Enforcement Administration marking the beginning of a promising career in law enforcement.

In 2014, Pat found himself lucky enough to be offered a position as Police Officer in his hometown with the Orangetown (NY) Police Department, the same Department his father served in for 20 years. Early in Pat's career he showed a great interest in the Orangetown PBA. He started out by attending meetings and helping with anything and eventually was given more responsibility with fundraisers, golf outings, and other events. Pat would be elected early on to the Bargaining and Grievance Committee and then eventually to President of the Orangetown PBA in November of 2021a title he still currently holds.

Pat has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars through the OPD PBA for members in need and countless charities the PBA supports. Pat has navigated the PBA through the Department's merge with a smaller department, formation of new positions, and settled a contract that was very well received by the entire membership. Pat is proud of his work to bring members of his PBA together, problem solve, and expanded the PBA's influence and network by working with other PBAs and associations. However, Pat is most proud of his work with the PBA's 9/11 Memorial every September 11th and the PBA Toy Drive every December that brings joy to multiple families in need.

Pat is also very active in the Rockland County PBA (RCPBA) where he has held

the position so Political Advisor and currently as the Public Information Officer under longtime friend and mentor RCPBA President Larry Ayers, a past Irish Echo Labor Ambassador recipient. Pat's active role in this PBA has brought him to attend and be proactive in the Police Conference of New York and the National Organizations of Police Organizations. Pat has worked to fix pension issues for his fellow officer and himself, to include a two year "battle" to get numerous officers the pension benefit they were entitled too by actively working to get bills past at the State and Local level.

Pat is a member of the AOH Division 3, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and grew up playing Gaelic Football for the Rockland GAA, a club founded by his maternal Grandfather, an Irish immigrant from County Leitrim. Pat also has a love for Irish culture, history, and Irish music.

Pat considers himself lucky to have many loyal and devoted friends, especially those he has made through the PBA. There are too many to list, but Pat always says, he has learned so much from all the "PBA guys." Aside from his love of PBA work, Pat loves being a cop a title he takes much pride in. His father, grandfather, and numerous uncles and close friends are active or retired law enforcement. Pat loves to help people and do the job. He is a very proactive cop who has been recognized many times for excellent and meritorious work on the street. Pat lives in Orangetown with the love of his life Kalyann Burns, a fellow Law Enforcement Member and Marine Corps Veteran, and their German Shepard Stella, and they are excited to welcome their first child to the family in December of 2024.

RICHARD FITZSIMMONS

City and State: Bronx NY.

Current Company and Position: Business Manager Local 147 LiUNA NYC Sandhogs.

Family: Cindy, Richard Jr., Joseph & Ryan.

First Job: Laborer for Local 147 in the construction of Van Courtland Park Water Tunnel.

What it taught me: To be on time and to try your best when given opportunity.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Arrive early and work to the best of your ability.

Who is your hero and why? My Father. He was always by my side. He provided a good home for me, and my family and he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of working people.

Richard T. Fitzsimmons, born in the Bronx in 1960. Both his parents were from the Bronx, and both their parents immigrated to America from Ireland, County Cavan, Mullahoran, and Roscommon around 1915. His grandparents came directly to the Bronx

from Ireland and settled in the Willis Avenue near the Saint Anne's Parish. Richard spent his early childhood growing up in the Bronx where he was raised in a good Irish Catholic Family. In 1966 his father found a house on Ashford Avenue while working on a pipe jacking job under the NY State Thruway. They moved to Dobbs Ferry and Richard was enrolled in Dobbs Ferry Schools, where he met his wife Cindy during high school. They dated and went to the prom together, and then went on to get married in 1985. It wasn't long after that they had their first child Richard Jr. in 1987, then Joseph in 1988, and finally their son Ryan in 1992.

Richard credits his wife Cindy for keeping him on the right road and helping him raise his family while providing a loving home. Richard worked as a sandhog up until the time when the city had a fiscal crisis in the 70s. He left to become an apprentice with the IBEW Local 3 where he completed his apprenticeship and worked as a Journeyman for the electrical union for approximately 10 years. When worked

resumed with the sandhogs he came back to his home local where he worked in the field until becoming Business Manager in his father's footsteps in 1995.

Although he left the IBEW he remains a member in good standing, as well as being a member of the Knights of Columbus. He credits his time with Local 3 IBEW for ensuring he received an associate's degree in labor studies and helping him prepare to become a Union Officer. Richard is thankful that upon his return to the Sandhogs he was able to work alongside his father Richard E. Fitzsimmons who helped him become a true Labor Leader in every sense of the word.

Richard now has the good fortune to work with his brother Chris as the treasurer and all 3 of his sons who currently work as laborers in the Field. The Laborers International Union has provided for 3 generations of the Fitzsimmons Family, and they never forget the importance of belonging to such a great organization. He holds his Catholic Faith, his Irish Heritage, and his Union

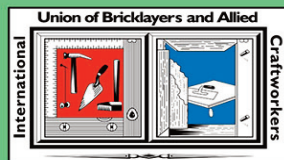


Membership near and dear to his heart. He is proud to be an American and to live in a country where you can immigrate, find opportunity, and work your way up to the American Dream.

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PATRICK BURKE

City and State: New York, NY.

Current Company and Position: Consolidated Edison Company of New York, VP Bronx and Westchester Electric Operations.

Family: Three sons: Connor, Stephen and Nevan.

First Job: As an entrepreneur, I was my own first boss. At the time I didn't know that was the name for it but I did my own marketing and business development. If I could get a customer within walking distance of my house I was babysitting, cutting lawns, raking leaves and shoveling snow.

What it taught me: The customer is (almost) always right!

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Help yourself by helping others. Whether you're volunteering in your community or struggling to get through an early job with a boss you don't see eye-to-eye with, spend time figuring out what the other party needs from you and then do it really, really well. At a minimum, that approach usually leads to a good reference, when the time comes, and it can help develop strong skills in other areas that you'll find great value in for the rest of your life...like interpersonal communications, critical thinking and managing disappointment.

Who is your hero and why? I don't have one hero - but I have one category of hero.

Though the term really only garnered attention due to COVID, my heroes are the essential workers in our communities. Before, during and since the pandemic, our essential workers strive tirelessly to ensure the communities they attend have the resources and services needed for everyday subsistence. Whether paid or volunteer, whether formally considered first responders or not, utility employees, police, fire and healthcare workers are among those who are indispensable. A hero is defined as someone who, in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage or strength. Are our essential workers not genuine heroes?

Born and raised in a suburb of Albany, NY, Patrick was the eldest of two boys in his family. He attended St. Pius X Elementary and ran cross country while attending high school at LaSalle Institute.

The proud father of three boys himself, Patrick is currently vice president of Bronx and Westchester Electric Operations for Con Edison, the energy company serving the 9 million people of New York City and Westchester. In this role, he has responsibility for the safe, reliable operation and maintenance of the company's electric distribution systems in Westchester County and Bronx.

After interning at Indian Point and



graduating from college, Patrick joined the company in 1987 and spent two decades rising through the ranks at Con Edison. He gained experience as an emergency supervisor, shift manager, senior system operator and section manager serving in various departments and locales prior to assuming roles at Orange and Rockland Utilities. During his 10 years at Orange and Rockland Utilities Patrick was director of Control Center and Substation Operations

and general manager of Electric Operations. He then returned to Con Edison to serve as general manager in Manhattan Electric Operations before being promoted to vice president of Brooklyn and Queens Electric Operations.

Throughout his years of service within Con Edison Patrick's dedication to community growth extends to his family. He, along with his boys, has volunteered at both the World Science Festival at NYU and the City of Science Festival at Lehman College in support of the World Science Foundation's aim to educate upper elementary and middle school students and their families in STEM. Patrick continues to volunteer at community events facilitated by Con Edison's Power of Giving Volunteer Program.

In 2021, Patrick assumed the role of executive sponsor of one of the company's employee resource groups, The Emerald Society of Consolidated Edison. During his tenure he has been instrumental in fostering a culture of innovation and creativity within the group. His role in the Con Ed Emerald Society is not just a position he holds, but a reflection of his passion for community and his belief in the power of collective effort.

Patrick holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Manhattan College and a Master of Business Administration from Pace University.



DAVID BOLGER

City and State: New York, NY.

Current Company and Position: Business Manager, Mason Tenders' District Council of Greater New York and Long Island.

Family: Married to Julianne Brown; Children: John Bolger, Martin Bolger and Samantha Bolger.

First Job: Seasonal Worker/Grounds Keeper at Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

What it taught me: What it takes to keep a physically demanding job that starts early in the morning. How to work safely and best protect myself from the elements, mostly the hot sun. Working with blacks, Latinos and eastern Europeans, I learned that hard physical labor affects everyone the same, and that the respect and reward for those who perform such labor should

be the same for all, regardless of what they look like.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Respect the experience of those who have been around longer than you, it's worth more than anything you'll find in a book. Ask questions, you'll be surprised how many people are happy to help.

Who is your hero and why? As the father of our nation, George Washington stepped down as President after his second term, establishing the precedent that the Presidency is not a lifetime appointment. The peaceful transfer of power is what made America great and unique in the world, and it so easily could not have come about had he not set the standard.

In July 2023 David Bolger became the business manager of the 17,000 member Mason Tenders District Council of Greater New York and Long Island. The road he traveled to reach his current position within the Laborer's International Union of North America began nearly 40 years ago, when Dave joined Laborers Local 13 and began his career as a Laborer. Dave Bolger represents a new generation of labor leader, dedicated to organizing, social justice and improving the lives of the members of the union.

Born on Long Island into a bi-lingual family, Dave's father's job took the family to different parts of the United States and the world. In 1970 the family returned to Queens, New York, which has been Dave's home ever since. Bolger entered the

construction industry in 1985, following a series of jobs outside the industry. Most of those jobs were union jobs, and exposed Dave to the important role that unions played in protecting workers, and promoting worker's rights and respect on the job. Working as a general laborer, Dave soon began his rise through the ranks of the local union, from shop steward, to business agent, to acting business manager, to elected officer.

In 1998 during the period that the Mason Tenders District Council and its affiliated unions were reconfigured, Dave was appointed acting business manager of House Wreckers Local 95, steering the local through bankruptcy, until it was finally merged with the newly chartered Local 79. Recognized by the leadership for the role he played in successfully leading Local 95, Dave was hired as a field representative of the Mason Tenders District Council.

For the next 25 years, Bolger became an in-house advocate for thousands of members. His efforts resulted in the Trust Funds collecting millions of dollars on behalf of thousands of members. Members came to Dave to help them receive the benefits they had earned. Dave's ability to communicate with the membership in both English and Spanish, served him well as he developed a relationship with the members based on mutual respect and trust.

Time and time again, Dave was called upon to serve in different roles, all in the name of protecting the union and the

members' right. Whether it was serving as acting business manager, an election judge, or a deputy trustee, Dave remained true to his lifelong professional commitment of serving the members of his union.

Perhaps his greatest challenge came in the immediate aftermath of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Dave was tasked with supervising and running the Laborers' command center during in the massive clean-up. From September 13, 2001 until the official clean up ended on May 30, 2002, Dave headed the command center, where lead and fit tests were administered on a daily basis, all necessary personal equipment was distributed to members, and given the magnitude of the job and emotional issues the members faced, counseling and mental health support was provided to all who asked for help.

In addition to leading the Mason Tenders District Council Bolger serves as a member of the Mason Tenders District Council Political Action Committee, as well as a trustee of the New York State Laborers' PAC, and the New York State Laborers' Health & Safety Fund, as well as the NYS Organizing Fund. He serves as a trustee of the Mason Tenders' District Council Trust Funds, the MTDC Scholarship Fund, the Mason Tenders' Training Fund and the Laborers' Eastern Region Organizing Fund, LEROF. Additionally, Dave is an executive board member of the Building & Construction Trades Council of Greater New York.

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LIUNA Local 147 Business Manager



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BRENT BOOKER
General President

MICHAEL F. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer



William Hartigan

City and State: Red Bank, NJ.

Current Company and Position: ILA local 1804-1 business agent; ITF representative for the ILA.

Family: Kathryn Hartigan (wife); Elise, Juliet and Lydia (children).

First Job: Fence Company.

What it taught me: Taught me to work hard and make the most of it.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Embrace it. If it's a physical job use it as a way to gain strength. Look forward to that sense of accomplishment. Always build good relationships in any job. Work hard with a good attitude and everything else will fall into place.

Who is your hero and why? My father. He worked his way up from nothing and enjoyed providing for his family. He was very unselfish and never put anyone out of their way. He was loved and respected by the people he knew and worked with. He was a wealth of knowledge and had a heart of gold

William (Billy) Hartigan embarked on his ILA journey in 1998 as a member of ILA local 1804-1 in the port of NY/NJ. Billy began his career at the ILA health clinic in Manhattan, NY, later transitioning to Maher Terminals in Port Elizabeth, NJ, where he served as a facility maintenance mechanic and TIR inspector. Over nearly two decades, he contributed significantly, eventually becoming Master Foremen/Part-time Shop Steward for the local Union. In 2019, Billy was unanimously elected as the business agent of Local 1804-1, concurrently representing the ILA as the ITF representative. Notably, he played a pivotal role in organizing rallies and industrial actions during the ILA's jurisdictional dispute with wind developer Orsted. In addition to his work with the ILA, Billy has actively participated in joint campaigns with the ITF and the IDC.

Billy helped spearhead a study on 5G and artificial intelligence to get a better understanding of the threat of automation on workers. He currently resides in Red Bank, NJ, where he shares his life with his wife, Kathryn and their three beautiful daughters.

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THOMAS COSTELLO

RETIRED UNION ORGANIZER AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS. CURRENTLY, A PART TIME TEACHING FELLOW AT THE UBC TRAINING CENTER

WILLIAM HARTIGAN

ILA LOCAL 1804-1 BUSINESS AGENT; ITF REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ILA

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Executive Director



FRANK MARCHESE, JR.
Executive Director & Administrator



By Peter McDermott

pmcdermott@irishecho.com

"I have been lucky to have been surrounded by inspiring, loving people like Brendan Archbold (RIP), a friend I will miss forever."

Maybe it was reading that sentence that led me to write about the full-time union representative involved in the Dunnes Stores strike that began in July 1984 and played out until the Irish government banned in 1987 the sale of South African goods.

The line is from Mary Manning, one of the leaders of the famous action, in her terrific first-person account entitled "Striking Back," written with journalist Sinead O'Brien, and published in 2017.

Brendan, who died in 2014, was my grandmother's nephew. So, seeking more information, I interviewed my uncle Paul Mulhern, his first cousin and a lifelong friend. But then late in 2022, I found information about Paul's father, my grandfather, while idly looking through the Irish Newspaper Archives in a public library in Independence, Mo. It was about a strike in 1937, and a picket-line incident that led to Grandad going to prison.

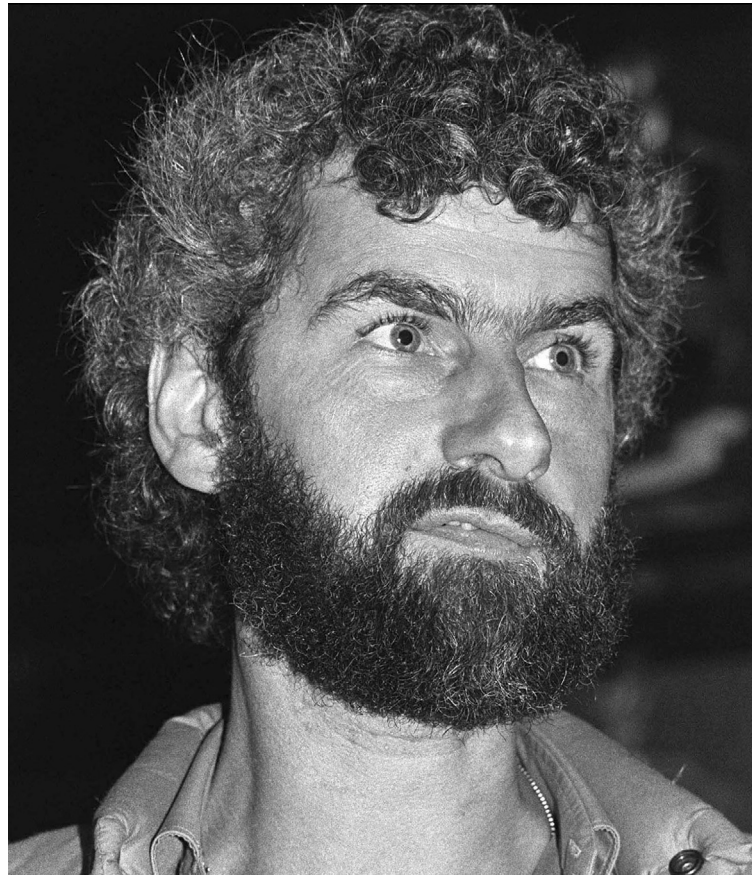
All this ended up as one longish story in last year's supplement, but I ran out of space when it came to Brendan, and didn't cover perhaps some of what needed to be said, including passing on some of what's reported about him in "Striking Back."

In it, Manning says, "Brendan Archbold was the antithesis of this [Dunnes] management which lacked any form of compassion. He was a complete rarity in the male-dominated world of the 1980s in that he genuinely treated everybody equally. Whether you were male, female, young or old, he was a man who always had time not only to listen, but to act quickly to rectify a situation. Anyone who worked the more menial jobs in Dunnes benefited from his unwavering perseverance for their rights and for that reason he had the complete trust of every one of us on the picket line."

One situation was the outright hostility the strikers faced from their fellow workers not on strike; often it came in the form of racial slurs and racially-charged language. Manning remembers that if it hadn't been for Brendan's "steady presence on the picket line it would already have descended into a fist fight between 'us' and 'them' on several occasions."

Mary Manning says she got to know four "great men" in her life and all were connected to the Dunnes Stores episode: Tommy Davis, the lone male among the 10 strikers; Nimrod Sejake, a South African activist living in exile in Dublin, who was 63 when the strike began; Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and Brendan.

At the time of his death, the trade unionist's exceptional intelligence, his dry wit, his modesty, his great sense of fun, the fact that he was a loving husband and



Brendan Archbold in 1984. PHOTO BY DEREK SPIERS

Recalling a labor hero

father got prominently mentioned.

I knew all that already, of course.

What Paul, my uncle, said got missed was just how humble and difficult Brendan's upbringing was. Some of that was due to the disruption of war. George Archbold, his father, worked as ground crew, or an "aircraft man," in the RAF. Granny's two brothers also served during World War II and Grandad, Paul's father, joined the RAF police. The absences took their toll in most families, but in the Archbolds' case made for a very unhappy marriage. George likely preferred the military life away from Dublin and it didn't help that the money he dutifully sent home was too easily squandered by his wife Bertha, Granny's sister.

Much later in the saga, George took out an ad in the newspapers saying he wasn't responsible for his wife's debts.

The children, however — Brendan, his

older brother Michael and their two sisters — "were happy as siblings; they were very supportive of one another," Paul remembered.

The Murrays, my grandmother and her five siblings, were also close. When they married, my Murray great-grandparents were listed as domestic servants; he was a native of County Meath, while she was from Dublin. My grandmother was about 1 and her older sister 5, when the family moved north where my great-grandfather got a job as a groom in stables close to East Belfast. They were there for about 13 or 14 years when serious ethnic conflict broke out. That was in 1922.

The Murrays, now with six children, moved back south to Dublin. In my early childhood in the 1960s, all six were there again, their immigrant adventures and war experiences behind them. I remember they spoke gently with soft Belfast accents,

almost, it seemed at times, in a whisper. And some of them had bronchial issues. That was certainly the case with the unmarried sister, the family's designated child-minder. Her parents christened her Mildred; the fourth generation, mine, called her Millie.

"Bertha and Mildred were thick as thieves," Paul said of a pair I remembered fondly as gentle souls, not being aware of such an alliance.

As a teen, Paul would go across the city to Finglas to spend time with Michael, who was four years his senior, and Brendan, who was three years younger. When Tommy, a friend of Brendan's from school in Finglas who was born on the same day in 1947, joined them, they had teams to play football. The yard in Merville Dairies, where the Archbolds were the gatekeepers, was their venue. Later with the introduction of battery-powered milk trucks, they rode around on them as if in the dodgems in Bray.

Paul joined An Slua Muiri, now known as the Naval Reserve, in 1960. He was two years underage at 16. He attended the annual two-week camp, got paid for it and also received a generous annual gratuity. Seeing how much fun he was having, Brendan and Tommy joined up in the mid-1960s.

Meantime, long before he was required to do any state exam, Brendan had fallen through the cracks of the education system and never returned.

From his early teens on, he worked in a variety of jobs in Dublin and beyond. His adult breakthrough came with a position in a well-known security company, which he got in part because he had acquired a driver's license.

My mother was very proud of the fact that she taught Brendan how to drive (other people may have given him lessons, too, but not in her version), because that led to the job and his involvement in a subsequent industrial action. There was a sit-in and he was carried out by gardai.

"That's when he was talent-spotted by the trade union movement," Paul said.

Out of the Slua Muiri episode Brendan's best friend Tommy became a professional-level sailor; Tom Lawlor achieved most fame, though, as a top press photographer, joining the Irish Times staff in the early 1970s. Tommy and Paul are friends to this day.

The Murrays' third generation thrived in careers such as nursing and firefighting and a few did very well in the business world. But Brendan was the star as an admired leader in the labor movement. His cousin and friend Paul wonders just how far he might have gone if he'd gotten an education early and been given a chance to go on to university. His two sons, though, have pursued their degrees and professional training and are doing very well.

"Brendan would be very proud of them," Paul said.

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American Brexit Committee

1919 CHESTNUT ST, SUITE 1724, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Since 1998 the armed conflict in Ireland has ceased. But the British policy of division by partition remains. Since 2010 five Prime Ministers have threatened that peace by ignoring the obligations and undermining the principles of the GFA. The real purpose of Britain leaving the EU was: (1) to escape the EU Court of Justice; (2) to ignore Article II of the EU Constitution to protect life; and (3) to block EU rules for preventing and prosecuting British money laundering. Such activity supports illegal arms, drug, and human trafficking, and renders ineffective U. S. sanctions imposed on nations like Iran and Russian oligarchs.

American political leaders have expressed bi-partisan support for the GFA as well as disappointment with British actions to wit, the obstruction of the Irish unity poll; the adoption of the N. I. Legacy Law to bury crimes of British police and security services; and the frequent unilateral suspension of political institutions. Prime Minister Starmer wishes to repeal the Legacy Act and Foreign Secretary David Lammy has chastised Conservatives for their endless 'rows' with America over Ireland. The unilateral action of Ireland's partition and the aftermath of battalioned despotism and the disastrous folly and economic harm of Brexit certainly suggests the time for half-measures like perfecting partition are well and truly over.

The 2021 New US-UK Atlantic Charter depicts concepts of democracy, rule of law, transparency, and respect for human rights to which both nations are committed. The GFA was the first step in the Irish peace process. The mendacity of the British Conservatives has denied, delayed, or dismissed any real further progress. Britain needs a recovery from Brexit if it is to restore the prosperity it once enjoyed when an EU member. That recovery depends, in part, on ending the expensive subvention that props up the 6 Irish county region created by partition and on negotiating a new US-UK trade deal. It is increasingly clear that both the US, the EU and many nations would welcome and support the real progress of reunification.

We urge all Americans to join in this appeal.

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Service Hub

WGMA administers payroll services for labor. We coordinate and process grievances, training, and other labor related activities.



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Our Daily Industry Update Report provides information on news, events, and forums impacting navigational, environmental, and safety concerns in the maritime industry.



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Congratulations to the 2024 Honorees!

- *Richard MacKinnon Jr.*
- *Eamonn Carey*
- *Stephen McCann*
- *David Bolger*
- *James Whalen*
- *Thomas Costello*
- *Mary Claire Breslin*
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14th Annual Irish Echo Labor Awards



Honoring 2024 Labor Ambassadors

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Eamonn Carey: Director of Jurisdiction and Agreements New York City District Council of Carpenters. I also serve as the Recording Secretary for Local 157.

James Whalen: Director, Transport Workers Union Local 100 Retirees Association; International Vice President, Transport Workers Union of America; Trustee and Member of the Pension Investment Committee of MTA Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority (MABSTOA) Pension Fund.

Mary Claire Breslin: President of the New Rochelle Federation of United School Employees, Local 280; 6th grade English Language Arts Teacher at Albert Leonard Middle School in the City School District of New Rochelle.

Patrick Casey: Police Officer, Orangetown Police Department; President, Orangetown Police Department PBA; Public Information Officer, Rockland County PBA.

Richard MacKinnon Jr: President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts; Firefighter/Paramedic Whitman Fire Department.

Richard Fitzsimmons: Business Manager Local 147 LiUNA NYC Sandhogs.

Stephen McCann: Business representative for the NYC District Council of Carpenters, representing the members of the Local 1556.

Thomas Costello: Retired Union Organizer and Business Representative for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. Currently, a part time Teaching Fellow at the UBC Training Center.

William Hartigan: ILA local 1804-1 business agent; ITF representative for the ILA.

Patrick Burke: Vice President of Bronx Westchester Electric Operations, Con Edison.

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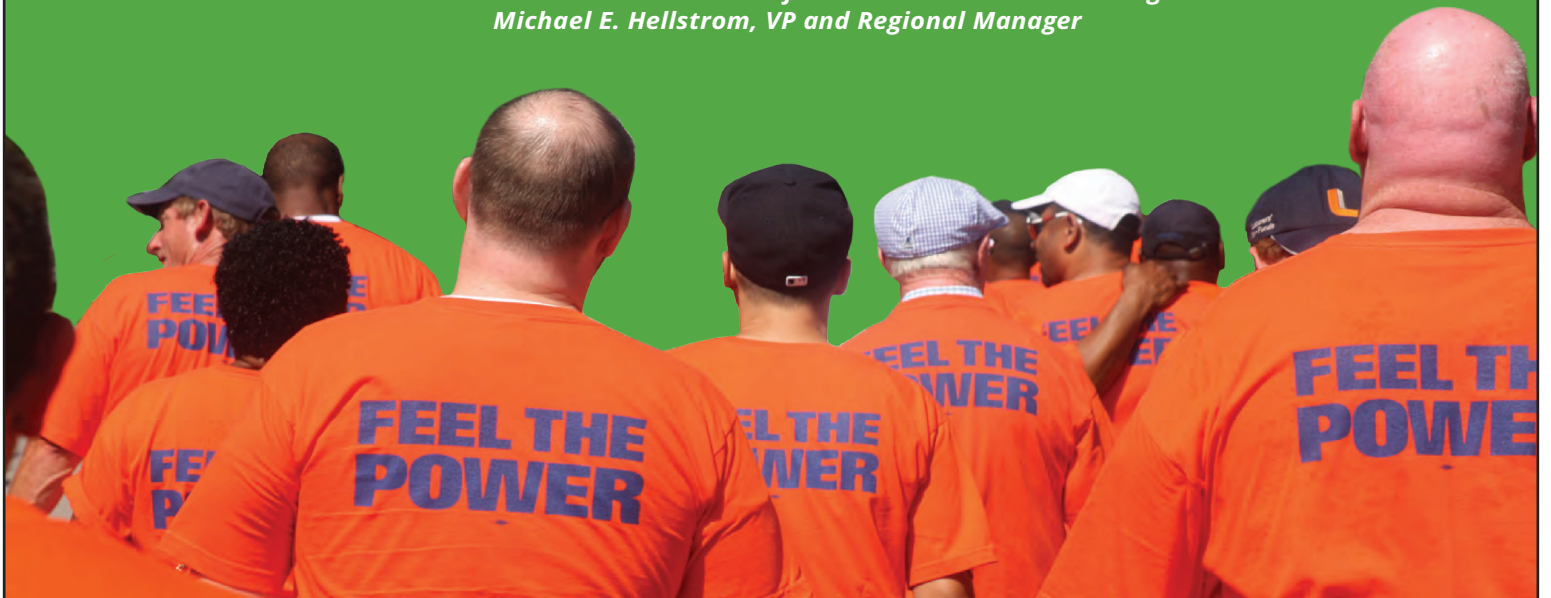
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The Laborers' International Union of North America — Eastern Region salutes the 2024 Irish Echo Awards honorees

Proud to salute our
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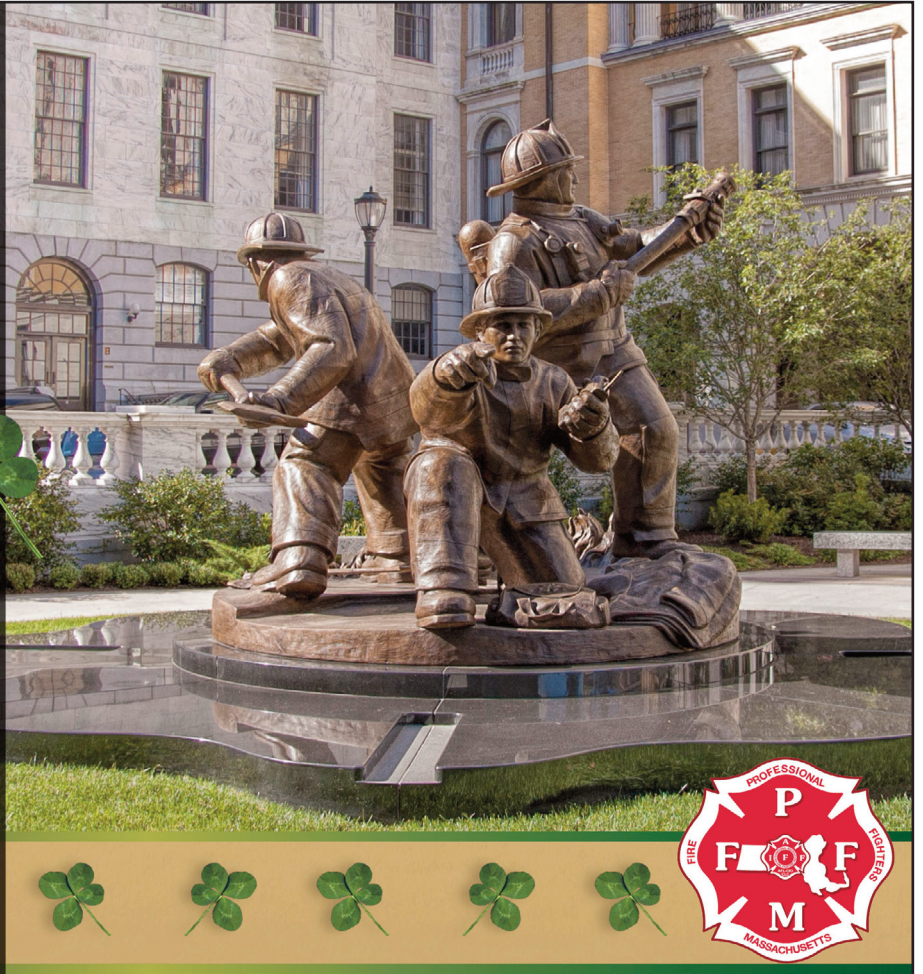


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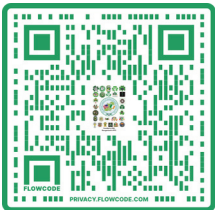


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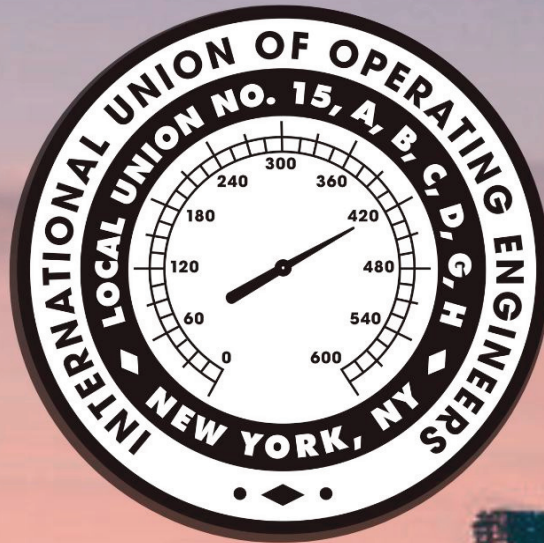
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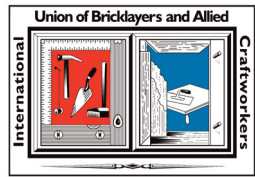
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