

Irishman Of The Year



Robert Hennessy

Biography of Robert (Bob) Hennessy

Robert (Bob) Hennessy was born in Oceanside, NY on October 16, 1959, to Robert D. and Joan (nee Mahoney) Hennessy. He is the eldest of four children, Maureen, Karen and Michael. Bob attended the Oceanside School District's Florence A. Smith School, Oceanside Junior High School and Oceanside High School; graduating in June 1977. Bob began his working career immediately thereafter by gaining employment with a manufacturing firm in Oceanside. Bob pursued other endeavors and dreams, and in December of 1977 he fulfilled one of his longtime dreams and was inducted as a volunteer fireman in Woodland Engine Co. #4 of the Rockville Centre Fire Department.

The Fire Department is a demanding organization for new members as well as seasoned members. Not only do they respond to fire calls, members must attend mandatory training sessions within the Department and mandated Training courses at the Nassau County Fire Academy. Members are also required to perform various Company work details, attend numerous Parades and tournaments and assist in company and Departmental fund raising campaigns. Bob and his fellow firemen are frequently called upon in various emergencies to assist in providing adequate levels of public safety, most recently the huge firestorms on the east end of Long Island.

In the fall of 1981, while attending a pre-exam class in preparation for the New York City Fire Department test, a friend, Dave Laupheimer gave him an application for the New York City Department of Correction. Not immediately interested a close friend and city fire Lieutenant, Jerry Murphy, convinced Bob to take the test.

On Sept. 27, 1982 Bob was appointed to the department and attended the Training Academy on Rikers Island. While assigned to the Academy Bob had the incredible misfortune of meeting Tom Hayes on the route bus. Tom's first kind words were, "you Bob Hennessy, Tom Hayes, how are you, join the Emerald Society." In November 1982 Bob was assigned to the Anna M. Kross Center on Rikers Island and joined the Society. Bob immediately immersed himself in activities of the Society, by running the Annual Christmas Party, the annual picnic at Lido Beach, and forming the annual football pool. Bob soon thereafter became the Emerald delegate for A.M.K.C. In July of 1985 Bob was assigned to the Transportation Division where he is presently assigned and is still the delegate and continues to raise funds for the Emerald Society.

Bob's link with his Irish heritage doesn't stop with the Emerald Society. Shortly after joining the Society he was introduced to his now good friend and mentor Bob Hanley, who convinced him to join the Emerald Pipe Band's Color Guard. Always wanting to help, Bob immediately looked for a way to better promote the band. Bob began selling band tee shirts, sweatshirts, hats, tapes and other promotional items for the band. Bob is presently a Tenor Drummer in the band and in 1994 was honored with the Band Member of the Year Award, for his achievement and contributions to the band.

Bob continues to actively serve his community. In April 1990 he was elected Second Lieutenant of Woodland Engine Company and served as First Lieutenant from April 1991 to April 1993 when he was elected Captain of the Fire Company, a goal he aspired to when he first joined the Department.

Bob presently resides in South Hempstead, and is a former Captain and an active chauffeur with Woodland Engine Co. #4. Bob is always willing to help and service his community, Engine #4, the Rockville Centre Fire Department, The Emerald Society and the Pipe Band with an exuberance and selflessness found in a very few.

Bob is an example to all new members and current members not as actively involved. It is no small wonder that the Emerald Membership saw fit to honor Bob as its 1995 "Irishman Of The Year."

SLAINTE