



“Irishman Of The Year”

Captain Brian J. Sharkey



Brian J. Sharkey, the son of John and Helen Sharkey was born and raised in the Irish Riviera of Rockaway Beach, New York. Brian has one sister Jackie who is married to his favorite brother in law Rob and is Godfather to their lovely daughter Samantha-Nicole. As a young lad Brian, attended Saint Camillus Grammar School, Mgr. McClancy High School, St. John's University and later in further pursuit of academic excellence John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The Sharkey family roots hail from Drouquim, County Tyrone, Ireland.

On February 14, 1983 Brian was appointed to the Correction Department at the tender age of 21 and upon his graduation was assigned to the Correctional Institution for Men (now EMTC) on Rikers Island. Brian's classmate and friend Kevin E Quinn was sent to the Bronx House of Detention. At CIFM Brian, would enter in a car pool with the Union Delegate who happened to be from the Rockaways a younger and debonair looking Billy Fraser. Who knew that years later that young Correction Officer Sharkey would someday be working for the older, still debonair looking but much wiser Commissioner William J. Fraser. After a year at CIFM and due to the post reductions Brian was transferred to the Anna M. Kross Center. On March 1, 1987 he was then transferred to the elite Transportation Division, with further stops at the Criminal Justice Bureau, Bronx Court Division and Queens Court Division.

In June of 1991 Brian took the promotional test to Correction Captain and placed #80 on the list. Due to the condition of the City and then Mayor David Dinkins total disregard for the Correction Department the list was not used. With the election of Mayor Rudy Giuliani, whom had a commitment to the Correction Department brought a new management team, enhancement of funding, new innovative tools and the Department began its celebrated renaissance. In December 1995, the list was certified for use. On June 14, 1996 Brian was finally promoted to the Captain and his first assignment would be his old home CIFM. In late August of 1996 Brian was sent to the recently reopened Brooklyn Correctional Facility until January 1997 when is closed once again. With a short stay at GMDC Brian returned to CIFM. In late 1999 Brian was transferred to the Transportation Division and would stay the until early 2000 when his old car pool partner requested his services at the Office of the Chief of Department. Brian would also follow him to the Office of the Commissioner and in June of 2002 looking for a slower pace, Brian requested his present assignment at the Health Management Division.

Proud of his Irish roots, Brian joined the Emerald Society upon entering the department. From June 1986 to January 2000 he served the Executive Board as Recording Secretary, second Vice President, first Vice President and President. During his tenure on the Board, Brian served on and or chaired practically every Committee and Society event. Brian also found the time and joined the Pipe Band and is still serving in the Drum rank.

In the early 1990's Society president Tommy Hayes appointed Brian to act as the representative and delegate to the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies where Brian would meet his mentor and good friend Lou Walker of NCPD Emerald Society. The Grand Council is an Umbrella group of Emerald Societies from the Civil Service community. Brian would serve as its Corresponding Secretary, 1st Vice president and from 1996 through 1999, President. Brian's tenure as President would see an increase in participation in events, a popular website and the reestablishment of a strong political action committee. Brian was one of the early voices against the Saint Patrick's Parade Committee moves to remove its Democratic ways to a basically two man dictatorship. Recent events have brought Brian's concerns to the forefront.

In 1995 Brian was asked to attend a meeting on behalf of the Emerald Society in Philadelphia with other Law Enforcement Emerald Societies from around the Country. From that meeting the National Conference of Law Enforcement Emerald Societies was formed. The organization was formed to give Law enforcement personnel of Irish descent a voice in the nation's capital and to fill a void in which it reminds the public of not only the sacrifice of the Irish but all members of the Law Enforcement Community regardless of Race, Color or Creed. The pipe Band Memorial March sponsored by National Conference is now one of the main highlights in June of the many observations at the National Law Enforcement Memorial Week in Washington D.C. Brian still serves as the society's National Delegate and will be traveling with the President in November to the fall business meeting in St. Louis.

For his tireless work on Emerald and Irish Causes, Brian has been honored by the NYS Courts as their 1998 Irishman of the year, NYC Housing Authority 1998 Irishman of the Year and on March 17, 1998 he served as the Grand Council Aide to Grand Marshall Albert Reynolds at the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. In addition, his own Society has bestowed the 2000 President James Mulvey Award and probably one of the greatest honors up until tonight Brian was the Correction Department's Honorary Grand Marshall this past March 17th.

Brian would like to extend thanks to his Mom, Dad, Jackie, Rob and Samantha for love and support. In addition, he would also like to thank some of his closest friends, Billy Fraser, Kevin Quinn, Brian Riordan, Roger Slattery, Joe Supple, Lou Walker, Tommy Hayes for their support and loyalty. Also a special thank you for those in attendance here tonight. Finally, thank you to the Emerald Society for honoring him as the 2002 Irishman of the Year.