

Richard F. Smith, Jr.
2012 Grand Marshall

This year's Grand Marshall **Richard F. Smith, Jr.** was one of the Founding Fathers of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County NJ and its past president. Rich is a member of the Irish American Association of Northwest New Jersey. These two groups jointly organize and orchestrate the parade, and have raised thousands of dollars to fund the parade and has contributes to local charities.

Rich worked with Jimmy Dangler and the Sons in the effort that moved the parade from Wharton to Morristown in 1991. He has been working on the parade ever since. Through the years he sat as a member and then chaired both the Parade Committee and the Finance Committee. In all these years, he has never seen the parade as a spectator. Rich is enthusiastic about his opportunity to enjoy the entire event as Grand Marshall with his family on the reviewing stand on the Morristown Green.

Rich was born in the largely Irish Vailsburg section of Newark, New Jersey to Richard F. Smith, Sr. and Mary Doris. Rich remembers Irish culture as a major focus in his upbringing, but his maternal grandmother Juliet Collins Doris told tales and sang songs that he would much later discover had come straight from Ireland. He knew that much of his family had come from Ireland. Grandmother Julie and her husband Ed arrived before Ellis Island opened. 34 first cousins with family names like Collins, Scully, Lynch and Hannon contributed to the Irish community.

His Grandfather Tom Smith, a Newark Policeman, a chef, a boxer and a professional football player married Mary Chedister. Tom claimed Irish roots and his face offered sufficient proof. He hailed from Virginia, the youngest of 16 children. Researching the Smith name is a future challenge.

In 1978 Rich and Mary Ann Dempsey, a lifelong Morristown resident were married. Their daughter Katie, 29, is a graduate of Tufts, SMFA, and Northeastern. Kate lives in Boston where she teaches deaf children and freelances as an ASL interpreter. Son, Richard 3rd, 23, is a Hofstra grad. Rich 3rd works at Smith Surveying and has followed his dad into active membership in the Friendly Sons.

Rich is a professional land surveyor and has had his office in Morristown for over 30 years. He has been active in his profession throughout his career. He served as president of the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors, (NJSPLS) and has chaired many of its committees. Rich was named a fellow of the organization and in 1986 Surveyor of the Year. Rich is a Fellow of NJSPLS. Last year Governor Christie appointed Rich to serve on the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Smith Surveying performs property and development surveys of all types and specializes in the resolution of boundary conflicts. Rich has been appointed Boundary Commissioner by the Superior Court on many occasions. Rich is a Hanover Park graduate. He keeps in touch with many of his classmates. Rich attended Stevens Institute in Hoboken and Fairliegh Dickenson in Florham Park where he focused on mathematics. Mr. Smith taught land surveying as an adjunct at Morris County College, Rutgers University and New Jersey Institute of Technology within Essex County College. He is coauthor of Madson on New Jersey Real Property Law, Road

Access Law: Successfully Handling Disputes, Boundary Law in New Jersey, New Jersey Boundary Disputes, Legal Descriptions and Surveying and numerous articles published in the NJSPLS magazine. Richard has lectured for NJSPLS, NJ Land Title Institute, Lorman Education, National Business Institute in continuing education programs for Surveyors, Attorneys and Title Professionals.

Playing guitar and harmonica are Rich's favorite pastimes. Sailing is a passion. Rich, with his friends and family has sailed New England, the Chesapeake, the West Indies and Little Egg Harbor for the last 25 years. Rich has captained bareboat charters for more that 15 years. Rich also enjoys playing lousy golf with his friends. Always active in the community, Rich chaired the Recreation Committee in Morris Township for many years and held several positions in the Morristown Area American Little League, including President for 3 years.

Pete Ecklund, a member of both the IAANJ the Friendly Sons called Rich on the morning of his birthday to ask if Rich was willing to serve as Grand Marshal of the 2012 Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Morristown. Rich said "It was a grand birthday. I have been involved in Irish culture and the Parade because I enjoy it. I am humbled to be selected for this honor." "It will be a grand day for a parade this March 10, 2011.