

# St. Patrick's Day Parade

## GREATER NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

September 30, 2024

Dear Alderman DeCola and Honorable Alder Members,

The Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 1:30 pm in our beloved Elm City. Thanks to the assistance and support of the Board of Alders, the parade committee is allowed the honor to rename the corner of Chapel and Church Street for the day and in some cases, the corner of Elm and Church Street. Per tradition, the street sign is renamed and dedicated in memory of a deceased person who has served and made a positive impact on the Greater New Haven Irish Community.

This year the Parade Committee has lost a number of people who were longstanding committee members and Irish community at large. In April, May and June, we lost William F. McCabe, 1995 Grand Marshal; M. William Hackett, 1993 Grand Marshal; and Honorable Charles D. Gill, 1980 Grand Marshal. I have included a small write-up of each of these exemplary men below. If approved, we would like to add their names to our street naming process for the 2025 parade.

### William F. McCabe

William F. McCabe "Bill" was born in New Haven, CT on November 8, 1943, and raised in Hamden. Bill attended and graduated from Hamden High School where he was captain of one of the top teams in New England in the 1960s. In addition to being a great hockey player in High School, Bill continued his love for hockey by helping to form a very successful amateur team "The New Haven Flyers" in a very competitive league in So. Windsor, CT where the team enjoyed several successful years. Bill also attended Quinnipiac College. Bill was a proud member of the New Haven Irish Societies. In 1989, he was President of the Knights of St. Patrick of which he was recently made a Life Member. In 1995, he had the great honor of being Grand Marshal of the New Haven St. Patrick's Day parade. Bill was also a member of the Elks in CT and a Life Member in Falmouth, MA. He enjoyed skiing and golfing with his wife, which they were fortunate to be able to continue to do for many years.

### M. William Hackett

Born to Irish immigrants, M. William ("Bill") Hackett was especially proud of his Irish heritage. Bill was raised in the Goatville section of New Haven, graduated Wilbur Cross High School in 1956 where he was Hockey team Captain and went on to proudly serve in the U.S. Army. He was a longtime member of the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, serving as Grand Marshall in 1993. He was also a member and past President of the West Haven Irish-American Club, where he and Carol were honored as their Irish Couple of the Year in 1994 and they received that same honor from The City of West Haven in 1996. Bill was a lifetime member of the Branford Elks Lodge 1939, the American Legion Post 196, the Knights of St. Patrick, the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Bill retired from Metro North as a conductor in 2000, after working 38 years on the rails where he made lifelong friends and great memories. Known as a kind soul, always a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face, Bill was a friend to all and never met a stranger. He enjoyed traveling especially to Ireland, Saratoga Springs, NY and Florida.

### Honorable Charles D. Gill

Judge Charles D. Gill was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and grew up in the Newhallville section of New Haven and attended St. Mary's High School. He graduated from Southern Connecticut State University and received his juris doctorate from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. He also served in the United States Army. He married the love of his life,

Joan Reynolds, in 1963. He then embarked upon a life-long career of public service in the law. Fresh out of law school, he was hired to be the first neighborhood legal services lawyer in the country, a Ford Foundation project. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg presided over the grand opening of the office in the Hill section of New Haven, and Time magazine highlighted how he brought the rule of law to protect the neighborhood's families. Charlie was an accomplished trial lawyer, both in private practice and for many years as the Chief Public Defender of the Connecticut Court of Common Pleas and then as Public Defender for Litchfield County. He tried numerous jury trials to verdict and was an especially skilled cross examiner. In 1983, Charlie was appointed a Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court by Governor William A. O'Neill. He served honorably on the bench for 35 years, stepping down at 80 years of age. While on the bench, he became a passionate advocate and nationally renowned expert on children's legal rights. He was a frequent commentator on national television and addressed the United Nations General Assembly on the subject. He was twice honored at The White House by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, for his tireless efforts to protect children and his crusade "to put kids in the Constitution." He received numerous other awards during his career as a judge, but none more special to him than receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. Charlie was also a proud member of the Litchfield Rotary Club, the Knights of St. Patrick, and the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, where he served as the Grand Marshal of the 1980 Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade.

It is therefore requested that the corner of Chapel and Church Street be renamed William F. McCabe St., M. William Hackett Blvd., and the corner of Elm and Church Street be renamed Hon. Charles Gill Ave. on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your time and attention to this request.

Kindest regards,

Fiona Stewart-Jimenez  
2025 Parade Chairman  
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