

2022 Uachtaráin Award Honorees

Joseph & Kathleen Heenan

The Society of The Friendly Sons & Daughters of St. Patrick



Joe & Kathy Heenan have been happily married since 1980 and are the proud parents of four children and grandparents of six grandchildren. Joe, one of nine siblings, is a Havertown native and Kathy, one of eight siblings, is a native of Aldan.

Joe began his career in general construction and contract management with Paul Restall Company Inc, where he transitioned from field to office in 1980. Throughout the 1980s, with the support of his wife Kathy, Joe climbed the ranks of the company, from Vice President to a 50% ownership stake in the company, to President and 100% ownership. In 2015, Joe retired from the Paul Restall Company Inc.

In 2010 Joe and Kathy established and manage a private charitable family foundation that provides assistance grants & scholarships to local charitable endeavors.

Since the 1990s, Joe has served as Director of Operations and Real Estate for Haverford Hotel Partners. The company has built six hotels in the Philadelphia area, and Joe has been a partner in owning and operating five hotels. Joe's expertise in the real estate and facilities aspect of the hospitality industry. He also specializes in contract negotiation and management efficiency. His participation and knowledge in the construction industry is of great value to the ongoing renovation and re-positioning of HHP's hospitality assets.

How Heenan family members became interested in joining the Society in 2008 and assuming leadership positions in the Friendly Sons came about through Joe and his brothers' discovery of some added family history details. Through this amateur sleuthing they discovered that their famous 19th-century relative, Colonel Dennis Heenan, Joe's great, great grandfather was a member of the Friendly Sons. Colonel Heenan was born April 18, 1818 in County Tipperary, Ireland and came to Philadelphia in May 1839. He was at times a liquor dealer, a coal merchant, and a contractor. He served in the US Army rising to the rank of Colonel, Colonel Dennis Heenan formed and organized the One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. The 116th PVI was one of the 5 Regiments making up General Thomas Francis Meagher Irish Brigade. He was wounded at Fredericksburg, losing part of his right hand. He died July 4th, 1872, and is buried in the Cathedral Cemetery, West Philadelphia. His son, Dr. Thomas E. Heenan, who served as U.S. Consul for 25 years in Odessa Russia was also an active member of the Society. Colonel Heenan's son-in-law, General St. Clair Mulholland was also a society member and President of the Friendly Sons. A local note of interest is that Colonel Heenan was the General contractor for the "Promontory Rock Tunnel" along Kelly drive. (I think today that would qualify for Philadelphia's highest distinction of (LEED) certification)

Joe served as President of The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick from 2015 to 2018, during which time the Society not only made history with the addition of women members but exponentially expanded the Society's scholarship and endowment program, supporting education in the US and Ireland. During this time, Kathy volunteered and worked tirelessly behind the scenes supporting Joe's work with the Society. Joe and Kathy's youngest son Ryan, the current president of the Society, carries on the Heenan family tradition of service to the Society and its mission. This father-son duo of serving a term as Society President is only the third time this has happened in the 251 year history of the Society, which was founded in 1771 before the American Revolution.



FRIENDLY SONS & DAUGHTERS
OF SAINT PATRICK
ESTABLISHED 1771