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# 95th Anniversary Virtual Celebration

If it's October – that can only mean one thing.....okay if you count Halloween two things, it means the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band celebrates another anniversary. This year marks our 95<sup>th</sup> Year!

Given the challenges of the global pandemic over these past eighteen months, there were times when we were not sure another year would come about. But through God's Grace, perseverance, dedicated front line workers, some common sense and a little bit of Irish luck we are still here.

Like most of you, we value even more deeply the opportunity to come together as family and friends to celebrate all of life's special moments. As Rovers we are doubly blessed in that we are often invited into the hearths and homes of others to share in their most cherished moments. While it has be a cautious road traveled to ensure everyone stays healthy, we found a way to be part of those time-honored traditions. In a way, going back to the roots of the Irish culture, or the Way of the Gael, bringing Irish music and laughter to backyards, and driveways, and block parties and patios and all manner of outdoor spaces. It was truly wonderful to get back to those celebrations – whether a baptism, graduation, wedding, retirement, or memorial – and be part of something grand again.

However, after lengthy discussions, with some of our most ardent supporters and friends, it was the recommendation of the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to postpone any large indoor gathering for 2021 and focus on a virtual fundraiser. We love and appreciate all our friends, families, and sponsors and while nothing would please us more than to be celebrating all things Irish at our annual dinner dance in person – the safe and prudent action was to hold a virtual fundraiser to ensure everyone's safety.

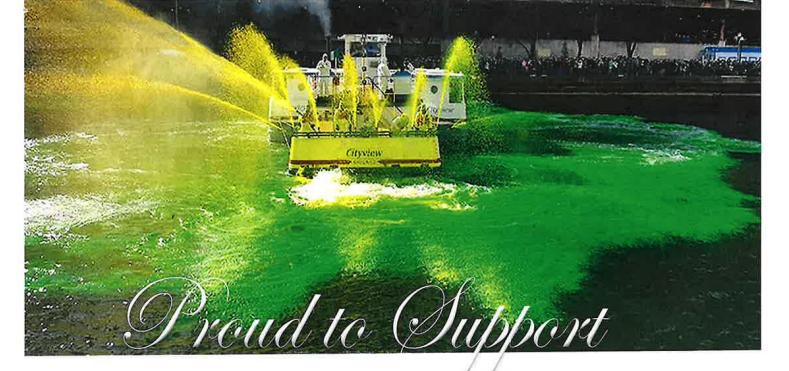
As such we have created a 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Celebration filled with music, laughter and storytelling for your enjoyment. All the members of the Shannon Rovers wish to *thank you* directly for your continued support, especially during these trying times. For it is only with your support through sponsorship ads and direct donations that we are able to carry on the traditions of the Irish. Please enjoy the virtual program and concert. We look forward to celebrating with you in person in 2022.

<del>Since</del>rely,

Patrick Leyden

Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band

95th Anniversary Virtual Celebration Chairman



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March 12, 2022



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**January 27, 2022** 

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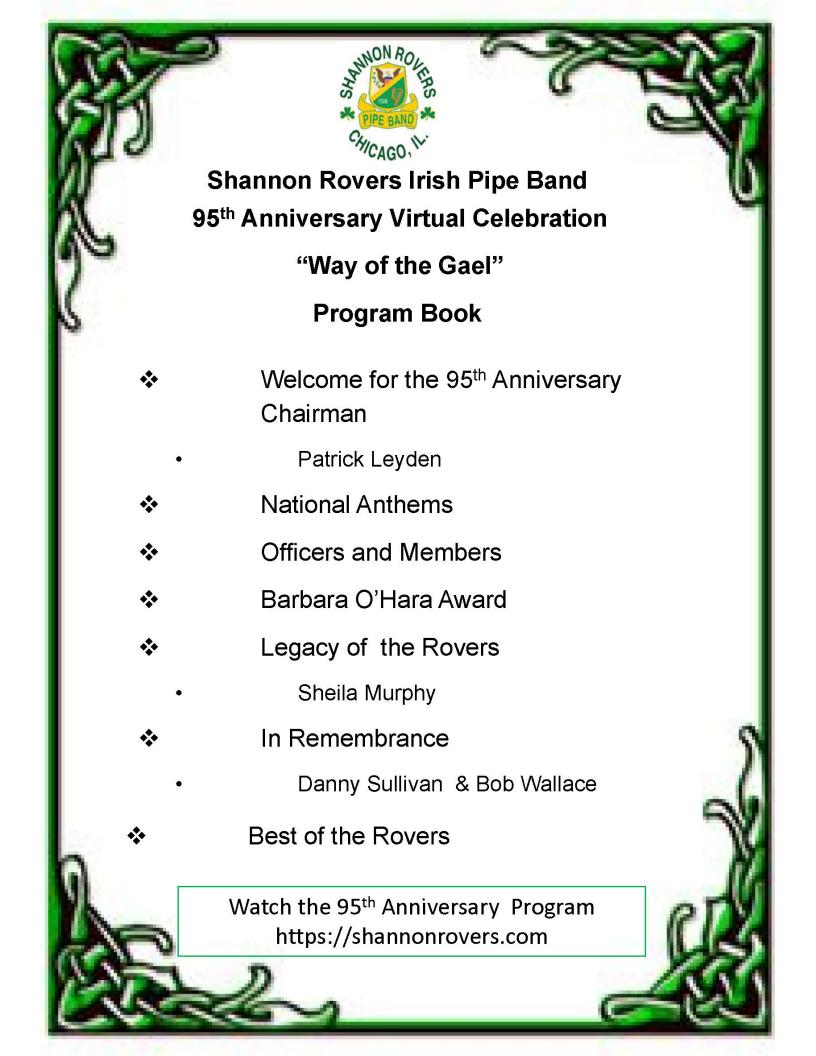
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Alexis LeFevour,
and Marty McAndrew

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Salutes
The Shannon Rovers

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Tim LeFevour



Sláinte! Anthony Pesha & Luke Pesha





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The Shannon Rovers

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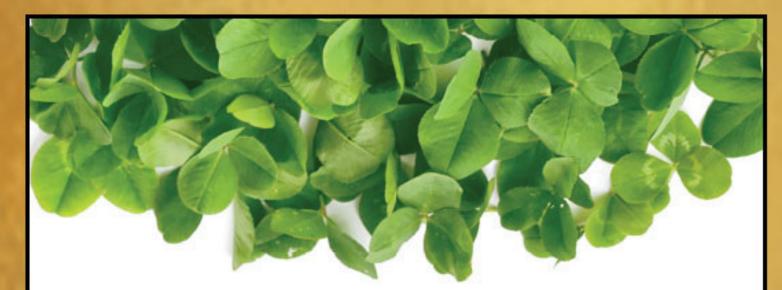


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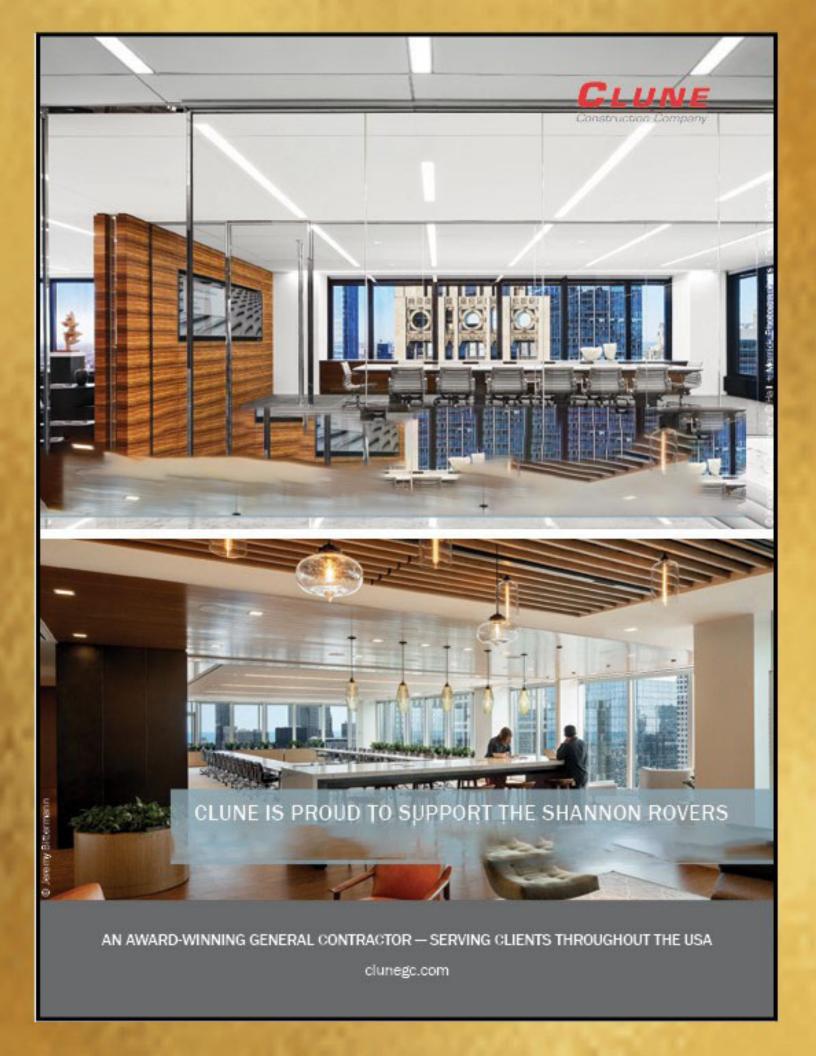
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# **UP TODAY AT**

# Sláinte!

to 95 years of the Shannon Rovers!

from our family to yours, Meghan Rose  $\mathcal{E}$ Aliyah Schuring



Best Wishes
to
time & alexis
le fevour
and
the shappon rovers



# National Anthems

### AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM "The Star Spangled Banner"

O say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight. O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air. Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there; O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



IRISH NATIONAL ANTHEM
"A Soldier's Song"

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song,
With cheering rousing chorus,
As round our blazing fires we throng,
The starry heavens o'er us;
Impatient for the coming fight,
And as we wait the morning's light,
Here in the silence of the night,
We'll chant a soldier's song.

#### Chorus:

Soldiers are we, whose lives are pledged to Ireland Some have come from a land beyond the wave, Sworn to be free, no more ancient sire land, Shall shelter the despot or the slave. Tonight we man the "bearna baoil" In Erin's cause, come woe or weal, 'Mid cannons' roar and rifles' peal, We'll chant a soldier's song.

In valley green, on towering crag,
Our fathers fought before us,
And conquered 'neath the same old flag
That's proudly floating o'er us.
We're children of a fighting race,
That never yet has known disgrace,
And as we march, the foe to face,
We'll chant a soldier's song.

#### Chorus

Sons of the Gael! Men of the Pale!
The long watched day is breaking;
The serried ranks of Inisfail
Shall set the Tyrant quaking.
Our camp fires now are burning low;
See in the east a silv'ry glow,
Our yonder waits the Saxon foe,
So chant a soldier's song.

#### Chorus



In Recognition of Your Outstanding Contributions & Devoted Service

The Barbara D'Hara Inspiration Award

honors

# Matt Carey

You have been a True Inspiration to the Members of the Shannon Rovers Family, The People of Chicago, and Irish Community

Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band
95th Anniversary
October 2021

### The Barbara O'Hara Inspiration Award

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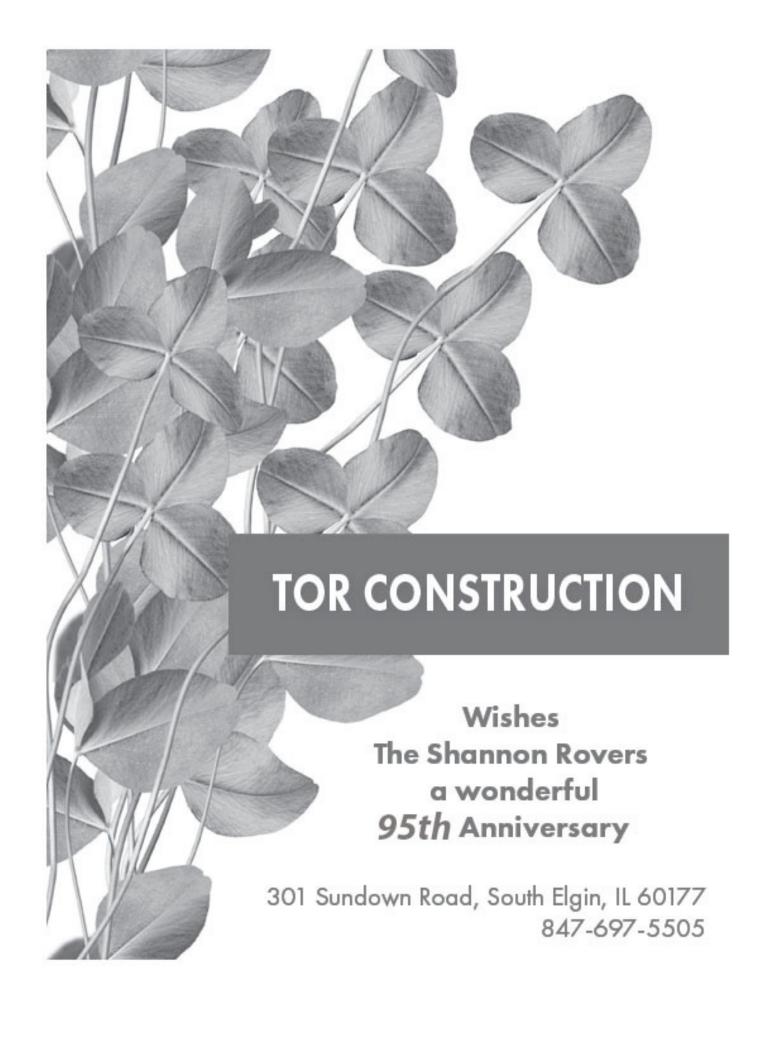
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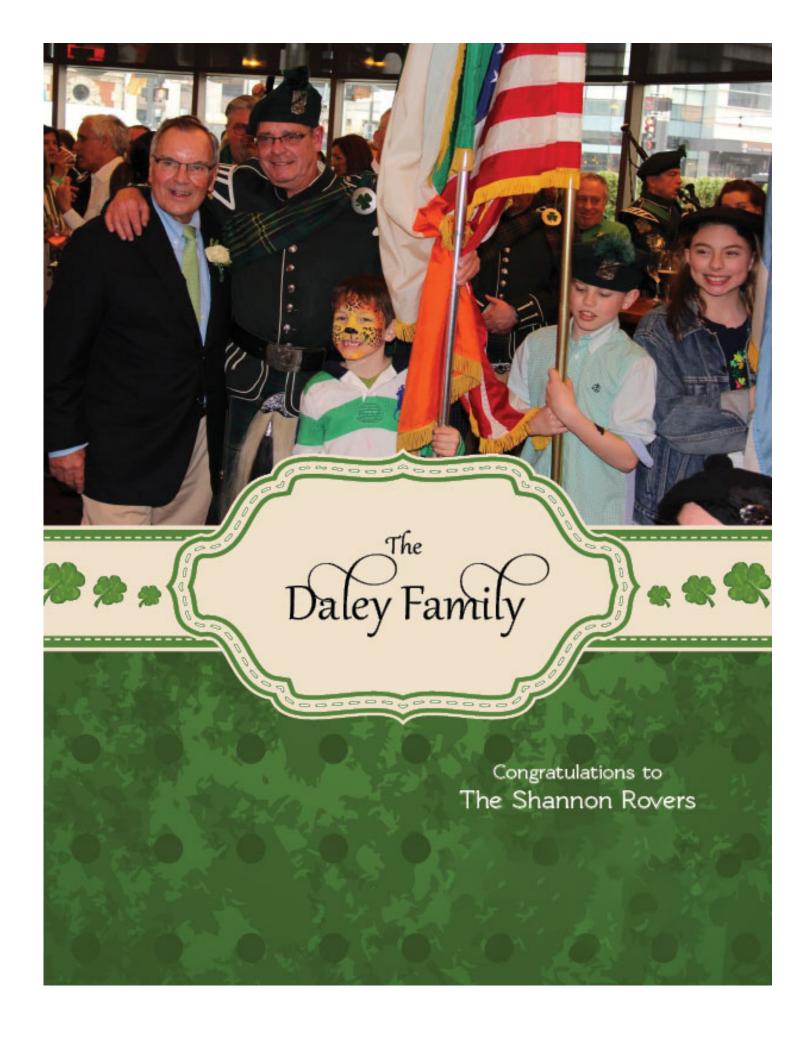
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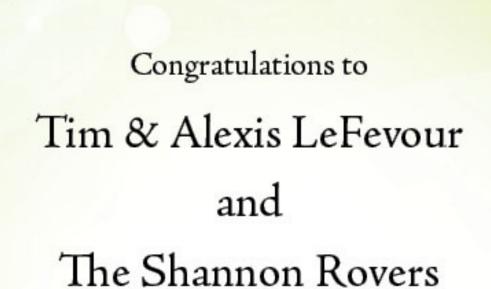
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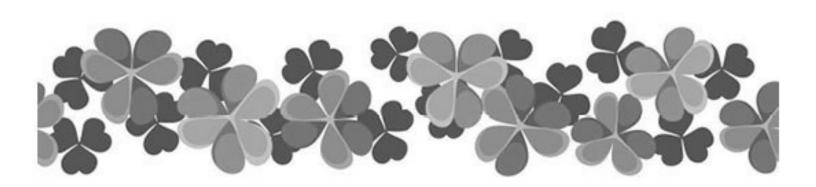
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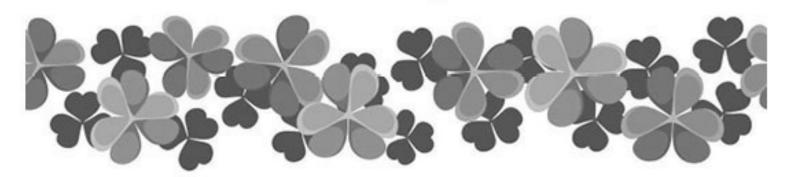
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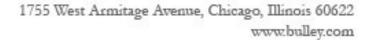


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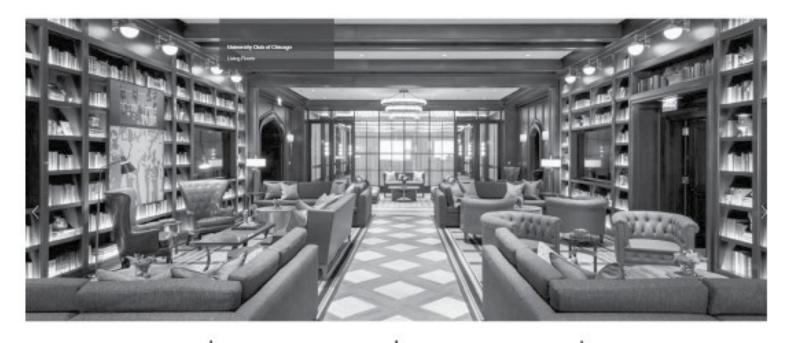
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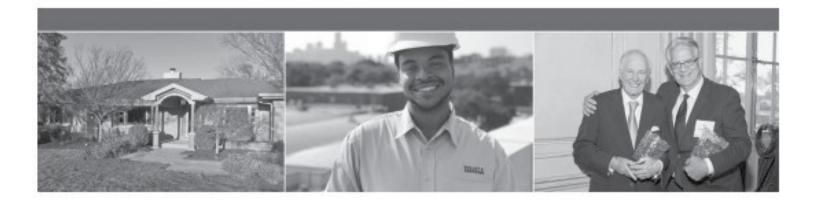


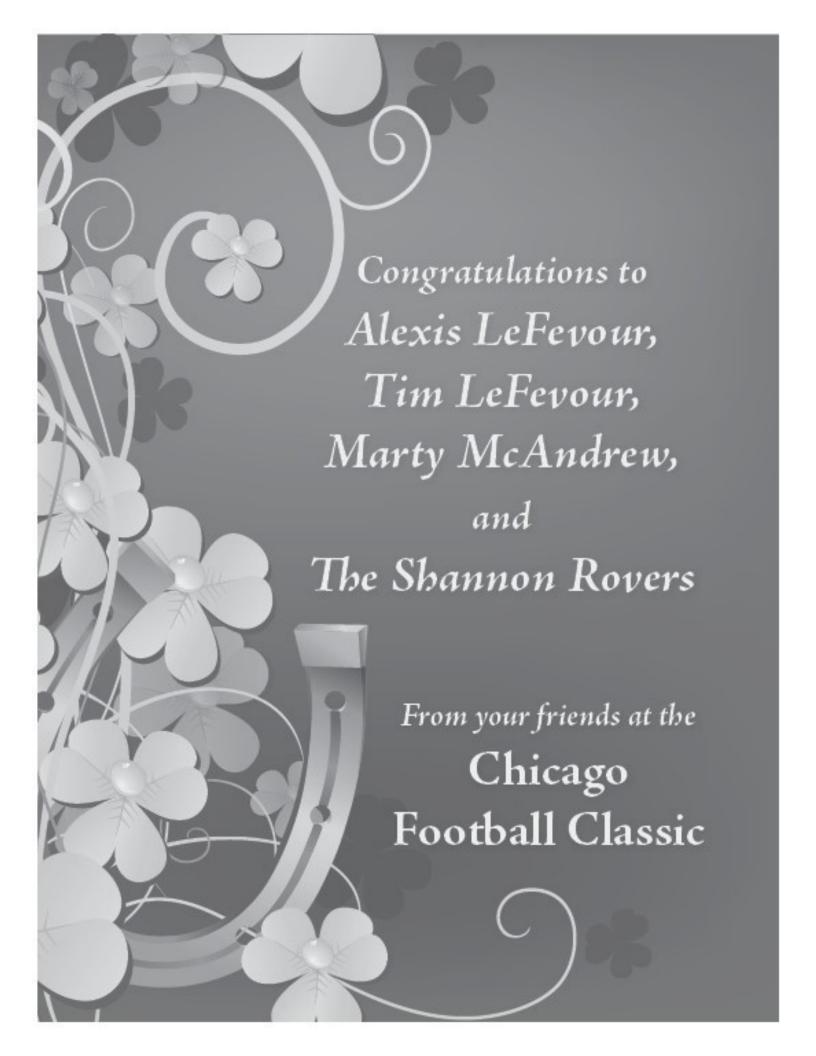


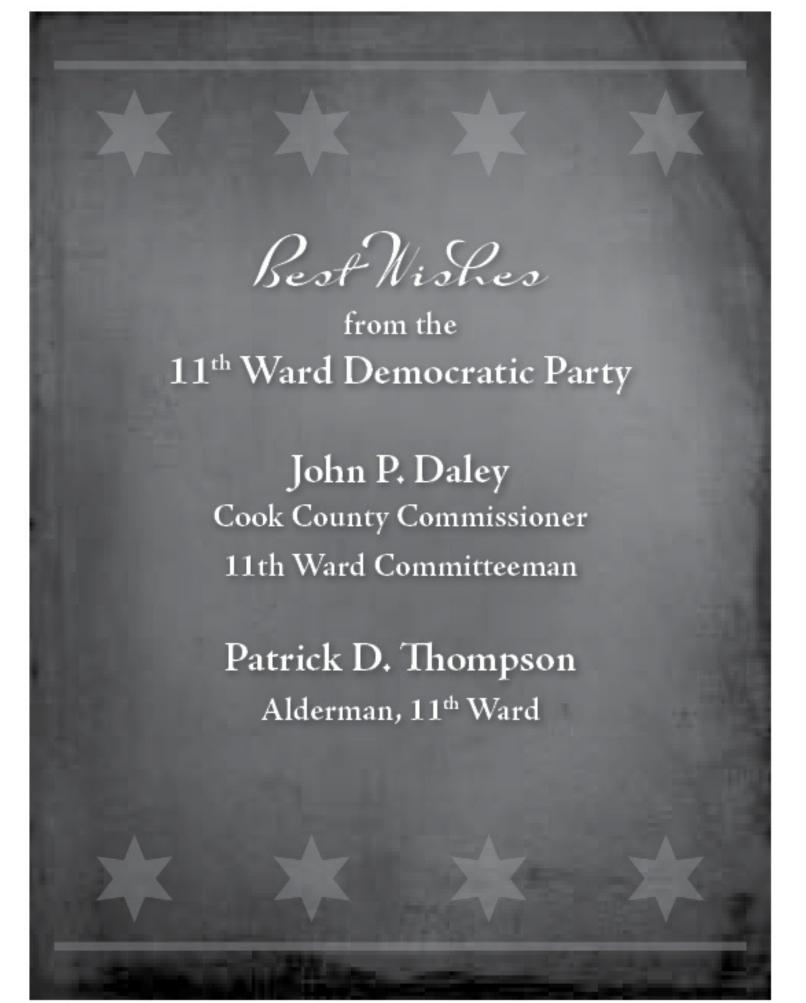


# Congratulations

The Shannon Rovers and Tim LeFevour & Marty McAndrew







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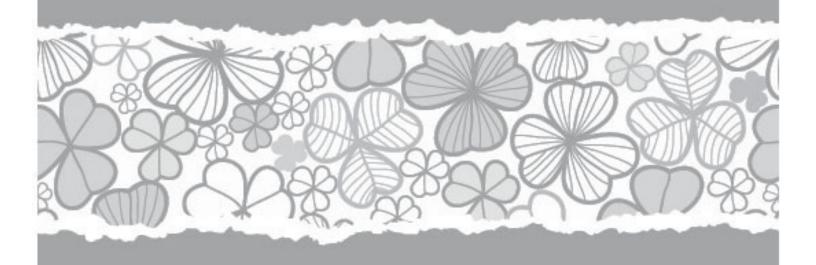
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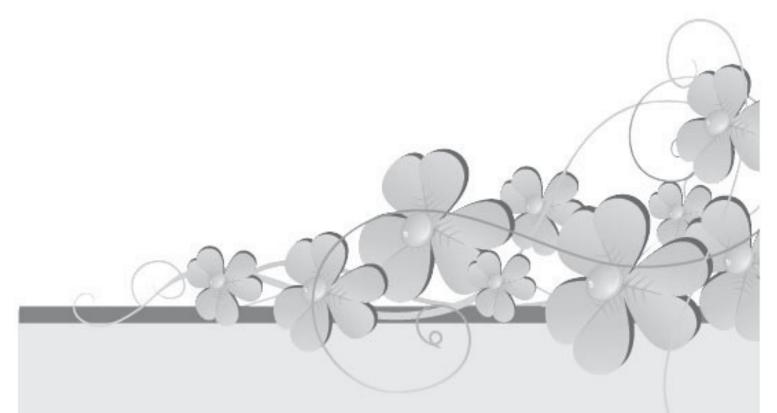


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#### Congratulations

to the Shannon Rovers, Tim LeFevour and Marty McAndrew!

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#### Mark Grover

President markgrover@StarsAndStripesChicago.com Extending 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congratulations to my Band of Brothers and Sisters in the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band.

Thanks for the Memories







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# TEAMSTERS FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE





### Congrats to the Shannon Rovers on celebrating 95 years!

We are honored to be friends with the Rovers and a special shout out to our glorious hair muses

Drummer Katie Lenihan

and

Piper Meagan Conery!

We wish the Rovers countless years of celebration to come and we look forward to the next time we can dance the night away.

> With love, health, and good luck, The Alchemia Art of Hair family

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#### The Legacy of the Shannon Rovers

The Dinner Dance Committee asked me to write a few words for our ad book about "The way of the Gael". Naturally, I asked for a little more direction than that. In hopes to further my creative process, it was suggested I focus on "Rover Eternal". That cleared matters up for me, just fine.

So I set off researching The Gael. Largely The Gael refers to Irish and Scottish people who lived in clans. The leader of the clan was referred to as a King or Chieftain. Throughout history, despite great adversities, the Gael remained strong and were determined to preserve their culture. They shared their culture through the ages by songs and stories.

I began to realize that we, the Shannon Rovers are quite like our ancestors. We are not just a band, we're a family, a clan. We too are lead by our Chieftain, or rather our Pipe Major. And like the clans of Scotland and Ireland, we have a rich history that was built by those that have played before us, those that have made us one of "Chicago's Very Own".

If you'd like, you can visit our website (or Wikipedia) to read about how our band started, which is a very interesting story. The legacy that began with Tommy Ryan and 8 other men from areas near the Shannon River in Ireland, should not be overlooked. However, I think it is also important to recognize those that have made it their mission to carry on that legacy, through our pipes, drums and of course, our storytelling....

As a band, we are known for our music and our ability to make your special moments, truly memorable. Although many have contributed, the tunes we play today, were largely influenced by Pipe Major Tom Kerr in the 1950's and 60's and later by Pipe Major Bob Whelan in the 1980's. Today, Pipe Major Danny Shevlin is continuing in their footsteps of developing the Rover repertoire

In the 1970's, Drum Instructor and legend, Luke McCabe, began crafting the majority of the drum scores we continue to play today. Although Luke passed away in 2012, Luke has taught the largest amount of drummers, including many that are still marching to this day. Sometimes I think I can hear Luke whistling the tune along, as we practice together on our drum pads.

Although the music is where our story started, it's the pageantry, performance and people that make us the Shannon Rovers. Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Jerry Ryan worked with the Sexton Family, to upgrade our uniforms and honor our fallen president, by introducing the Kennedy tartan. Jerry was also responsible for helping sculpt the events of the Saint Patrick's Day Season we so enjoy today.

Bass Drummer Danny Sullivan wore that uniform with great dignity, as he proudly led the band down the parade route for over 25 years as our Drum Major. Danny used his experience from drum and bugle corps to rebuild our Color Guard, bringing that tradition and decorum to the Shannon Rovers. Danny passed away in April and we miss his warm smile, friendly nature and great stories.

The recently deceased, Chicago newscaster, legend and tenor drummer, Bob Wallace, was not only a member of the Shannon Rovers, but helped open doors for the band. We remain grateful to Bob for all he has shared with us and remember him for his love of life and great character.

Today, Tim LeFevour, Piper and Drum Major, has replaced Bob as the face of the band. What many do not know, is Tim's parents, Dick and Ginger LeFevour were fond patrons of the band, long before Tim could play a note. Mr. and Mrs. LeFevour served as the chairmen of the Shannon Rover's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance. Mrs. LeFevour designed the logo that is proudly displayed on our bass drum head and the patch we wear on our uniform shirt.

Of course, so much is owed to the generations of Band Officers that have steered this band through the years. One Officer of note, was longtime Band Secretary, Barb O'Hara. Barb dedicated her life to the Rovers, authored the Band newsletters, "The Wild Rover" and "The Rambling Rover' and today we honor other band members with the Barbara O'Hara Inspirational Award.

The spirit of the Irish clans is still evident in the Shannon Rovers through the generations of families that have played for the band. From Tommy Ryan, the founding member, to Eddie Ryan, a current snare drummer, the Ryan Clan has been a part of the Shannon Rovers for 3 generations. However, not only the Ryan's have been around for over 90 years.

The Boyle Family has also populated this band with 3 generations of Boyle's and McLaughlin's. Although we mourn the loss of John and Sally McLaughlin, we honor Noreen Boyle for her dedication and tenure, as the longest active band member.

The McAndrew and McTighe families have also celebrated three generations of pipers and drummers. Marty McAndrew had served as a our Piper Major and currently presides as our Band Manager. Marty is proud to march side-by-side, on the pipes, with his son, Deaglan. Bill McTighe, like his children, grew up in this band. Bill served as Pipe Major for 4 years and Band Manager for over 20 years. Mary Kate is a piper and Billy currently leads the Drum Corps as Drum Sergeant. Maura is one of our greatest fans!

Of course our membership is also made up of other great families and friends. As it is our members, our patrons, our fans, our family that truly shape the legacy of the Shannon Rovers. Thank you to all those that have contributed to the "Way of the Gael" and the legacy of the Shannon Rovers.

