

2022 Hibernian of the Year Award Recipient

Richard “Rick” O’Neill



Rick was born on **June 22, 1950**, at Newport Hospital to **John and Betty O’Neill**. He grew up in the **Fifth Ward** in the family homestead at **26 Webster Street** until 1967 when the family sold the home and moved to Middletown.

Rick received his early education at **Carey School, St. Augustin’s, and Cluny School**. His further education was at **De La Salle, Middletown High, and Roger Williams College**. After college he was

employed at **Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank** starting as a teller and **finished his banking career as a Banking Officer and Manager** in the retail division. He continued his employment in the hospitality industry before working for the **State of Rhode Island** in the **Auditor General’s office and The Attorney General’s office**. He concluded his employment with the **City of Newport as the Canvassing Clerk** overseeing the local elections retiring in 2015.

Rick married **Barbara Kane on June 17, 1978** at **St Mary’s Church Newport**. They have **two sons Patrick and Conor**, both AOH members. He is the proud granddad of **Ronan, Adelind, Sloane and Olivia**.

Rick has been a **member of the Dennis E. Collins Division One Ancient Order of Hibernians for 49 years**. His sponsor was Robert O. Beattie. As a life member of the local AOH division, he has **served as; Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer**. On the **State level he was Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Vice-President, and State President for 5 years**. Additionally, he was a member of the **screening committee and chairman for several years, chairman of the Major Degree and by-laws committee** and a **member of the AOH Men’s Singers**. Rick has attended numerous National and Regional AOH conventions beginning when Newport hosted the National Convention in 1976.

Rick was a **former member of the St Patrick Day Parade Committee** and is a **founding member of the Newport Irish Heritage Association**.

He is the **chairman of the Newport Kinsale Twinning Committee** and was honored to be selected as the **Grand Marshall in 2014 of the Kinsale St Patrick's Day Parade**. He is a **life member of the Museum of Newport Irish History**, currently serving as the **1st Vice-President**.

Rick is immensely **proud of his Irish heritage** and especially his **Catholic faith**.

He is a **parishioner of St Mary's Church** currently serving as a **Trustee and chairman of the parish finance council**. He is also a **third-degree member of the Newport/Middletown Knights of Columbus # 256**.

Rick is a **long-time member of the Newport Rugby Club** and was fortunate to go on the first international tour to Ireland in 1984.

In November of **1999**, the voters of the **First Ward** elected Rick to represent them on the **Newport City Council** serving for five years.

Over the years Rick has served his community as a member of numerous organizations. He was **Chairman/President of Newport Jaycees, Coggeshall and Thompson PTO, Roger's Boosters Club, Newport Beach Commission, King Park Bandstand Restoration and Newport Winter Festival**. Additionally, he was a **past member of the Rhode Island Naval Affairs Commission, Bristol Rotary (Secretary), Bristol County Chamber of Commerce (Vice-Pres), Middletown FOPA, Swamp Association, Point Association, Newport 375th Committee, RI Bridge Turnpike 50th anniversary committee, American Ireland Fund**.