



RUTHERFORD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026



2026 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR JOHN D. KEANE



John D. Keane is a life-long resident of Lyndhurst, NJ and a proud member of the Rutherford Irish American Association since its establishment in 2017, alongside his brother, Michael Keane (LEO of the year 2017) and his father, John M. Keane. John, as well as the rest of the Keane family are members who always show their pride of family, country and heritage which traces back to County Clare, Ireland. He is a loving husband of wife, Erin, and proud father to his son, Colin.

John is a graduate of the Queen of Peace High School class of 2009, New Jersey City University where he achieved his Bachelor of Science in both National Security Studies and Fire Science in 2013 (Cum Laude), and Montclair State University earning a Masters of Arts in Law & Governance Studies in 2022 (Summa Cum Laude).

In 2009, Keane joined the Lyndhurst Fire Department and has been a firefighter who is always driven to serve the community and constantly learn in the fire service. He has served the LFD as Lieutenant in 2016, Captain in 2017, and has previously served as the department's Assistant Training Officer from 2017-2024. During his 16 years of service with the Fire Department he has received multiple certifications including Rescue Technician, Fire Inspector, Fire Official and has attended courses at National Fire Academy.

John also serves as the Assistant Director of Fire Safety at Montclair State University responsible for fire code compliance, fire emergency response planning, and implementing fire safety educational programs for MSU. Keane has been in this role since 2015 and has earned multiple service awards in this role, and presently holds the position of recording secretary for the New Jersey College and University Fire Safety Professionals Association. During the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Keane achieved National Recognition from the Center of Campus Fire Safety for developing a new form of online fire safety courses specifically tailored to college level students, being the first of its kind.

John is also an active member of the hockey community as a life long player, a former head coach for the Lyndhurst Youth Roller Hockey League, and presently as an on-ice official for youth and high school ice hockey. As an on-ice official, he has also taken part in several charity games donating much of his time to many first responder charity hockey games.