

## Mary Fee



Mary Fee (nee Walsh) was born in Carrowkeel, Kilfian, Ballina, Co. Mayo. She is the eldest child of Martin and Agnes (nee Flaherty) Walsh; sister of Josephine Foynes and Francis Walsh.

She immigrated to the U.S. in 1957 and worked at The Royal Bank of Canada while attending evening classes. Mary later worked at DDB Worldwide, an advertising firm, for over 20 years before retiring in 2007.

Mary married the late Edward Fee from Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan in 1962 and they became the proud parents of three children; Edward, Bernadette and Michael.

Like most emigrants from Ireland during the '50's, '60's & '70's, Irish dancing and music lessons were essential for the next generation. This resulted in many trips to Ireland for All-Ireland dancing and music competitions. It also afforded a great opportunity to meet grandparents and travel around the country- from Belfast to the Ring of Kerry via Cliffs of Moher and the Blarney Stone, to mention a few points of interest. Mary is proud to say that all three of her children are gifted musicians and dancers.

Mary is President of *The Parents and Students Irish Dancing and Music Association*, an organization that was formed to promote Irish Culture through music and dance. The organization has participated in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade for 40 years.

She was proud to have been chosen as aide-at-large to the Grand Marshal in 2011 commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC.

Mary has four granddaughters, Fiona Conway, Mairead, Catriona and Angela Fee who are also keeping the tradition alive; marching, dancing and playing music up Fifth Ave in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mary is an active parishioner of Corpus Christi Church in Woodside, Queens.

Mary feels truly honored and humbled to have been chosen as woman of the year by her native county and wishes the officers and members of the Mayo Society of NY much success in their future endeavors.