

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Manhattan Irish Fest is will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Downtown Manhattan. The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) is the official Fest host in conjunction with the Village of Manhattan. The parade will begin at 11am on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning on North Street then proceed to State Street.

Each year, the Manhattan Irish Fest honors an individual who exhibits the grass-roots ideals the Fest exemplifies of service to the community, devotion to family, and love of country. We are proud to introduce Joseph "Joe" Curran, the Grand Marshal of the 2018 Manhattan Irish Fest Parade.

Mr. Curran has lived in Manhattan his entire life. He is a 1993 graduate of St. Joseph Catholic Grade School and a 1997 graduate of Lincoln-Way Community High School. He is the son of the late Robert "Bob" & Patricia "Pat" Curran. He is the brother of Michael, James and Kathryn and the uncle of Kayla, Michael and Maya.

Joe proudly served in the United States Army as a Sargent. He served a tour in both Afghanistan and Iraq during the early 2000's. When Joe returned from the service, he volunteered his time to speak to students at Lincoln-Way High School about his life in the Army and dedication to his country.

Joe is currently employed as an Irrigation Specialist at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Joe takes great pride in providing a beautiful final resting place for American soldiers and their spouses.

Joe Curran – Grand Marshal



For more information <u>www.manhattanirishfest.com</u>