



## Irish Festival Association Announces

### Michael Connor-Scarteen will be the Grand Marshall of the 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

A prominent son of Ireland, Michael Connor-Scarteen, will be the Grand Marshall of the 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held in Springfield, Missouri, on March 13, 2010.

A luncheon honoring Connor-Scarteen will be held at the Farmers Gastropub at noon on Friday, March 12. Members of city, county, and state governments will make presentations. "We encourage the public to attend," said Dave Trippe, president of the Irish Festival Association.

"We encourage members of the media to attend a press conference following the luncheon," he added. For information concerning the luncheon, please contact Trippe at 865-6333.

Michael and his family have long served the people of Ireland.

His uncles, Brigadier General Tom O'Connor-Scarteen and Captain John O'Connor-Scarteen, fought beside Michael Collins and played instrumental roles during both the War of Independence from Britain and the Civil War that ensued. On September 9, 1922, they were shot and killed defending their town of Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland.

Michael's father, Patrick, served on the Kerry County Council, in the Irish Senate and as a member of the Irish Parliament. Michael was on the Kerry County Council from 1973 to 2009, when his son Patrick took his place. Pat, Michael and Patrick have 63 years unbroken service to Kerry County Council.

Southwest Missouri has a rich Celtic heritage. Michael strives to build greater bonds between the people of Ireland and the Irish Diaspora. He has traveled to London, New York City, and now Springfield to connect with families that left Ireland.

For further information about our Grand Marshall or our parade, including parade entries, please go to the St. Patrick's Day web site, [www.springfieldstpatparade.org](http://www.springfieldstpatparade.org)

Pre-parade activities begin at 11am, with the parade starting at 2pm on Commercial Street and ending at Park Central Square.

For more information please contact Donnie Rodgers, Community Development Coordinator at 417.831.6200 or [donnied@itsalldowntown.com](mailto:donnied@itsalldowntown.com)