

2026 Walks of Life Honoree

Thomas F. McManamon



Tom McManamon has “never met a stranger.” A friend made has always been a friend kept. Lifelong friendships have developed from chance meetings in first grade—or even earlier.

McManamon’s family has deep roots in Cleveland’s Irish American community. His grandfather, Thomas J. McManamon, was a city engineer who oversaw construction of Cleveland’s Irish Cultural Garden in 1939. Thomas J. was also a frequent officer of the Irish Civic Association, an organization that relaunched the downtown St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 1935 and helped to spearhead the Irish American community’s participation in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation.

McManamon died on October 28, 1939, the night before the Irish Garden was due to be dedicated.

Tom McManamon’s father, Thomas F. McManamon, followed his father into the city engineering department as a sidewalk inspector, also honoring his father’s involvement in the Irish Civic Association. Thomas F. McManamon was the founding executive director of the United Irish Societies, which was formed in 1959 to revitalize parade planning and management once again.

Tom McManamon was born in St. Ignatius Parish but was raised in and attended grade school in St. Mark’s Parish in Cleveland’s West Park neighborhood. He went on to graduate from St. Edward’s High School before enlisting in the Air Force and serving from 1966 through 1970.

Upon his return from service, Tom helped his father to reorganize a sideline of selling insurance into an independent insurance agency in 1970. By 1978, Tom had become the principal producer of all property and casualty business within the firm. Tom became President of the family business in 1983, and by 1990 the firm’s sales had more than tripled. Often serving multi-generational clients, Tom has continued to guide the firm’s growth from a one-man agency into the multi-line firm it has become. A third generation of the McManamon family is now actively involved in carrying the business forward as well.

McManamon has also played a key role in managing Cleveland’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade since 1970, when he followed his father and grandfather in this lifelong commitment. Tom served as Executive Director of the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland from 2001-2004 and was honored as Parade Grand Marshal in 2022. He and his father are the only father-son duo to date who were named both Executive Directors and Grand Marshals. Tom has actively participated in the United Irish Societies for fifty-one years, receiving recognition as the organization’s longest serving member.

Tom and his wife, the former Jacqueline Fiocca, married in 1969 and currently reside in Avon Lake. They have 3 children—Kimberly, Thomas John, and Patrick—and 8 wonderful grandchildren.

2026 Walks of Life Award of the Irish American Archives Society, Cleveland OH