



County Roscommon Society of New York, Inc.

January 2024

Dear Friends,

John F. Kenny comes from Castleteehan, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon and is the son of the late Paddy and Kitty (nee Lyons) Kenny. John has an older sister Angela and younger brother Kevin. John attended Kilmurray National School and Mary O'Flanagan secondary school Castlerea. In 1986 John married Ann (nee Connolly), Milltown. They are proud parents to daughter Katie and even prouder grandparents to their grandchild Edie Bea Ward. An avid footballer from a young age, John played corner back with his parish team, Tusk Lord Edward's, winning an Intermediate County Final in 1984. He played soccer with his local club CP Ajax and was one of the founding members of the club in 1978. John worked as a bricklayer in Dublin for eight years, before immigrating to New York in February 1985, in pursuit of a better opportunity, like thousands of other young Irish. John continued to work in the construction industry, and had his own construction company for many years. In 1999, John established himself in the bar business where he owns and operates the successful bar, Sissy McGinty's, in Astoria. John has been an active member of The County Roscommon Society, where he currently holds position of Treasurer. He is proud of his Roscommon heritage and is privileged to have been chosen as tonight's guest of honor.

Brian Caslin is the fifth child of Anne & Stephen Caslin, past officers and long-time members of the Roscommon Society. Anne & Stephen both migrated from Ireland, Stephen from, Strokestown Roscommon and Anne from Ballyhaunis, Mayo. They raised Brian and his siblings Joann, Marian, Stephen, Una, and Deirdre in Brooklyn. While attending Nazareth Regional High School in Brooklyn, Brian rediscovered his love for aeronautics after a persistent guidance counselor convinced him to apply to the College of Aeronautics at LaGuardia Airport. Brian was accepted into the program and graduated with a degree in aerospace. Not long after, Brian began his aviation career with Grumman Aerospace on Long Island. After working three years with Grumman, he accepted an opportunity to work with Merrill Lynch. There, Brian assisted with technical operations and development of business critical corporate real estate spaces. His 20-year career at Merrill Lynch included the development of numerous commercial buildings and data centers. Although managing the repairs, renovations and re-occupancy of Merrill's Global Headquarters at Ground Zero was one of his biggest undertakings following the September 11th terrorist attacks. While working at Merrill, Brian decided to go back to school and attended night classes at New York University. He graduated with honors earning a second degree in real estate. Following this achievement, he was promoted to First Vice President of Corporate Real Estate. In 2008, Credit Suisse enlisted Brian's expertise to head technical operations in the Americas. His major accomplishments there include repairs and major renovations to data centers and trading floor spaces. Since 2011, Brian has been working for Blackstone, providing global technical management for all the firm's business critical spaces. Brian and his wife Delia married in 1985 and live in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Their daughter Shawnie and her husband Joe also live in Tinton Falls are both meteorologist working for local media organizations.

Each year we produce a **Souvenir Journal** in conjunction with the dinner – the journal is a vital component of the Society's financial stability, and it is our only fundraiser for the year. We are so grateful for your support, that allows us to exist, and, we hope we can count on your continued support for the 2024 Dinner and Journal.

Sincerely,

Jim

James Tansey
President



<https://www.roscommonsocietyofny.org>



County Roscommon Society of New York, Inc.

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