



IRELAND

John Keane, Honorary Consul

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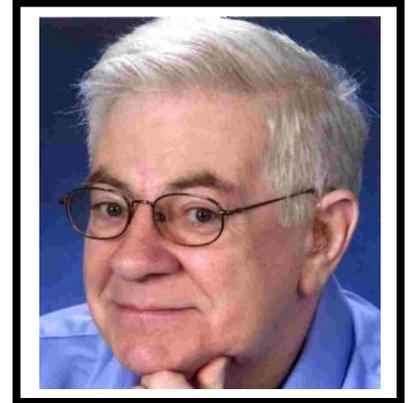
About Consul Keane

Born in Co. Westmeath, Ireland, in 1942, John Keane emigrated to the USA in 1967, and worked for the Bell Telephone System in Detroit and Seattle before retiring from U S West, now Qwest, in 1999.

Since his arrival in Seattle in 1978, John has been continuously involved as an officer and active member in nearly every Irish organization in the Seattle area, including the Irish Heritage Club, the Seattle Gaels GAA Club, the Seattle Galway Sister City Association, and the Society of the Friends of St. Patrick in Seattle. He serves as Chair of Seattle's Irish Week Committee which annually organizes most of the major celebrations in Seattle surrounding St. Patrick's Day, including the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Irish Festival. He writes a monthly column on Seattle's Irish activities for the Celtic Connection newspaper and publishes a monthly email newsletter for over 5,000 online members of Seattle's Irish community. In 2007, he published *Irish Seattle*, a pictorial history of the Irish in Seattle.

John has been elected to various national offices in the North American Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), serving as the Association's Executive Secretary between 1998 and 2004. John also serves on the Board of Directors of the Matt Talbot Center, a program for the homeless in Seattle, and is involved in St. Thomas More Catholic Church. He has been honored by the Ethnic Heritage Council of the Pacific Northwest and the City of Seattle for his outstanding contributions to the community. In January 2010, John was appointed by the Irish government to serve as Honorary Consul of Ireland in Seattle, with responsibility for Washington State.

John has been married for 37 years to Maureen, an author and nutritionist. They have one son, Micheál, 33, who is a political consultant in Washington, DC.



About Ireland

Location: Western Europe, occupying five-sixths of the island of Ireland in the North Atlantic Ocean, west of Great Britain

Size: 70,273 sq. km (slightly larger than West Virginia)

Population: 4,670,976 (July 2011 est.)

Major Industries: pharmaceuticals, chemicals, computer hardware and software, food products, beverages and brewing; medical devices

Embassy of Ireland

<http://www.embassyofireland.org/>