

EMAIL

To the City Clerk of Allentown,

At the urging of Mayor Matt Tuerk, who became familiar with the story of Rose Kennedy and met her daughters at the 2025 Allentown St. Patrick's Parade, the Allentown St. Patrick's Parade Committee, Inc. is submitting this written request for the civic naming of the 2000 block of Liberty Street in honor of Rose Kennedy.

“Rosie” as she was fondly known, was the daughter of the late Vincent and Rose Pernitsky. A retiree from Kraft Foods and a devout member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Allentown, Rosie was known for her kindness and optimism. She loved life, Zumba, her family and friends, and most especially her daughters Rachel and Meghan. The Allentown St. Patrick’s Parade moved to the West End in 2008, and found a remarkable “good will ambassador” in Rosie. She embraced the parade and spearheaded the house decorating and porch parties on parade day. Rosie involved her whole block on Liberty Street, creating one continuous party with decorations and parade day onlookers such that she received the parade committee’s official “Porch Party and Decorating Contest” award many times. Rosie had an extraordinary love for her Irish heritage and the St. Patrick’s Parade, supporting all of the Parade Committee events throughout the year. In 2020, Rosie was the recipient of the Barney McNulty Spirit Award from the Allentown St. Patrick’s Parade Committee, in acknowledgment of her love of the parade, Irish culture, and her community. She is dearly missed since her passing in 2023 after battling pancreatic cancer, and it is in her spirit that the contest has been re-named the “Rose Kennedy Porch Party & Decorating Contest.” Pass by her old address on Liberty Street parade day and you are sure to see her daughters, along with all the neighbors, keeping the party going in memory of Rosie. Her ability to inspire neighbors of all ages and cultures to come together and celebrate the day, is a testimony to her enthusiastic spirit and warm Irish heart.

It is this legacy that we seek to preserve by renaming the 2000 block of Liberty Street as “Rose Kennedy Way,” and hope to do so in time for the 2026 St. Patrick’s Parade on March 22!

Attached, please find letters from the Lehigh Valley AOH Division 1, as well as neighbors and friends, in support of this application.

Respectfully,

*Dianne Mascari, President
Phil Ferguson, Vice President
Sean Ferguson, Treasurer
Samantha Griffin, Secretary*