



MEDIA RELEASE

2014 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Say

“Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day Safely This Year and Every Year!”

The AOH Recommends You Pick a Designated Driver or Contact Your Local Sober Ride Program

St. Louis-- St. Patrick's Day is March 17, and the St. Louis Chapters of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is reminding drivers not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that more than 269 people have been senselessly killed nationwide in crashes involving drunk drivers during the St. Patrick's Day holiday from 2007 to 2011. Those fatalities were preventable.

“When you celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, just be smart about it. If you know you’re going to drink, whether with friends at a pub or attending our parade on March 17” commented AOH spokesman, Jim Mohan, “designate a sober driver ahead of time or call a taxi to make sure you get home safely. “There’s never an excuse for driving after drinking,” he added.

According to NHTSA in 2011, on average, one person was killed every 53 minutes in a drunk driving crash in the United States. Most of these crashes involved drunk drivers who had blood alcohol concentrations of .15 or higher, almost twice the legal limit of .08.

“St. Patrick’s Day* is one of the most widely celebrated saint’s days in the world, but all too often it shares that great distinction with a far lesser one—too many people are driving drunk and killing or maiming themselves and others on the road as a result,” Mohan said. “Even if you’ve think you’ve had only a few drinks and are just feeling ‘buzzed,’ don’t kid yourself because Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving. “And remember, ‘Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk,’” he said.

The St. Louis Chapters of Ancient Order of Hibernians recommends the following easy steps, for a safe St. Patrick’s Day.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home;
- If you’re impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- Remember to keep the following information handy: **Alert Cab 314-652-TAXI**. If you are interested in receiving a ride yourself and your vehicle can contact the **ScooterGuy** at **855-726-6848**. Or you can ask any bartender for information on local cab service.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

“Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk, not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant. Don’t depend on dumb luck this St. Patrick’s Day. Designate your sober driver before the party begins,” said Mohan.

For more information you should visit: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/StopImpairedDriving>.

****ST. PATRICK’S DAY IS DEFINED AS 6PM MARCH 16 TO 5:59AM MARCH 18.***