

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

April 2016

Volume 4/Number 4

President: Andy Link **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian **Vice President:** Dan Mulhern
Financial Secretary: Jeff Banks **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Jack Grey
Standing Committee: Vacant **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin

URGENT REQUEST

A bill in support of Malachy McAllister, the Belfast native who is subject to deportation on April 25, will be introduced in the House of Representatives on Monday (April 11) by Congressman Joe Crowley of New York.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is mobilizing around the country, urging its members to reach out to House representatives to ask for relief for McAllister. He is to report for deportation on April 25 - an action which would bring an abrupt end his 20 years in the U.S. after fleeing the North of Ireland with his family after their home was attacked with gunfire of Loyalist paramilitaries in 1988. They first went to Canada and then to the U.S., where their quest for political asylum has been litigated ever since. McAllister, a former member of the Irish National Liberation Army, served three years in prison in the 1980s. Recently declassified U.K. intelligence documents indicate collusion between the British security forces and Loyalist paramilitaries in the attack on the McAllister home, making him even more worried about deportation.

Congressman Joe Crowley composed a letter to Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Homeland Security and Sarah Saldaña, Director, ICE. PLEASE call your representative TODAY; the number is (202) 225-3121. Give your zip code when requested and ask to speak to your Congressman's office. When connected ask to speak to the Legislation Officer or Immigration Liaison. Tell that person you support Congressman Joe Crowley's request that ICE exercise its discretion by taking quick action to suspend the deportation order against Mr. McAllister as he is no threat to this country. Ask your Congressman to contact Congressman Crowley and sign onto his letter! If not available, leave a message stating: "I would like to hear from the Congressman, the Chief of Staff or the Representative's Immigration person as soon as possible. Also ask for an email address in order to forward the Crowley letter:

`Dear Colleague,

Many of you have long joined efforts in support of change in Northern Ireland and its peoples. One such effort is to provide safe haven for Malachy McAllister who fled his native Belfast after he and his family were targets of an attempted assassination. After having been denied asylum and then having received deferred action from deportation for many years, Malachy is now facing deportation at the end of April. We are concerned for Malachy and his family, but are also concerned that his previous history is not being looked at through the lens of the greater context of Irish issues and the Troubles. The Good Friday Agreement and decades of U.S. efforts to achieve peace in Northern Ireland have depended on moving past a period of violence, and we are seriously concerned about any moves that signal steps backwards.

We will be sending the below letter to officials at the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State to clarify how Malachy's case is worthy of prosecutorial discretion and fits into the broader context of the Irish peace process. We hope you will join us on this letter. To sign on, please contact Nicole Cohen in Rep. Crowley's office at nicole.cohen@mail.house.gov, Ryan Woodward with Rep. Peter King at ryan.woodward@mail.house.gov, or Dylan Sodaro with Rep. Pascrell at dylan.sodaro@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph Crowley

Member of Congress

Peter T. King

Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Member of Congress

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's Corner

Greetings Brothers,

I have seen a lot of greatness within our Division over the past couple of months and you all should be very proud, furthermore, we continue to grow our Irish heritage and keep tradition alive

through activities and Brotherhood. Irish American History Month (IAHM) was a wonderful success and the Heritage Committee deserves much praise in sharing our culture and impact Irish-American immigrants have made

to better our nation. Also, please remember and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising which ignited the Ireland's flame of freedom. Be proud!

During the first week of April, I had a wonderful conversation with one of our division Brothers about Pope Francis' Extraordinary Year Jubilee of



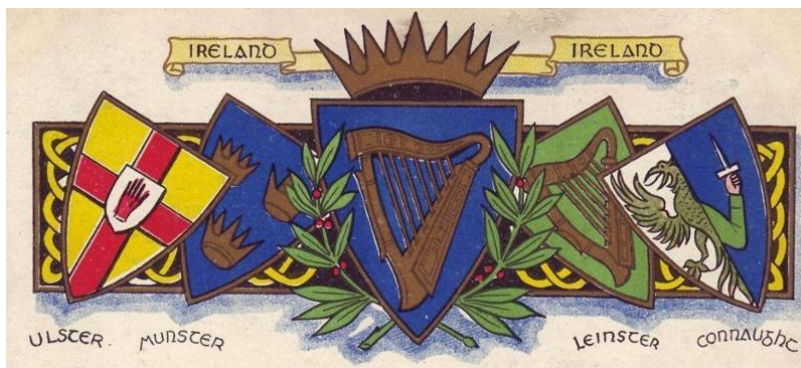
Mercy_ and what forgiveness means to each of us in our daily lives. Our discussion also focused on the belief of putting others before yourself and being disinterested rewarding one's self, even when we forgive one another. The official design for the Jubilee of Mercy (shown left) features Jesus as the good Shepherd carrying a man on his back as he would a lost sheep. The Latin, the words `Misericordiae Vultus means `papal bull of indiction_ translates the word Bull or `bulla_, it means `bubble_, a rounded object or wax seal with a cord to a document attesting authenticity, and, as a consequence, its authority. In a prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the `Extraordinary Jubilee Of Mercy_ exclaims `You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. _ for this year's tribute You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy. _ How can we show others the mercy of God? A quote taken from <http://www.usccb.org/>, `We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy. _

The Trip for Two to Ireland raffle ticket sales continue and please support Vice President Dan Mulhern. On Sunday, April 17, our Division will participate in St. Matthew's Mission Fair. Brother John Harris and I will participate in the parish Mission Fair located in the St. Joseph parish center. Please let us know if you can support before and following the 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am masses. We are planning to have more ticket sales for charity and Division recruitment opportunities at each parish, please continue to support our parish representatives. Still to come this month on Monday, April 18 is our 3rd Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Tournament at Meadows Farms Golf Course in Locust Grove. The support and guidance I have received from many of you all has been invaluable. We will also have our monthly Division meeting the following day of April 19 and any membership applications please provide to Financial Secretary Jeff Banks or one of the officers. I will also work schedule our second Shamrock Degree instruction either in May or in June. Thank you all again for your efforts in growing our Division and consider our annual goal of adding one qualified applicant each. I will have copies of our AOH applications at our meeting this month. In March, Irish-American Heritage Month (IAHM), the work of the heritage committee and chairman Bill Halpin represented us very well. Your participation in all parades, masses and events during the month of March was appreciated. Please take time to read our monthly Meagher Dispatch and continue to pray for our convalescing and distressed members and family.

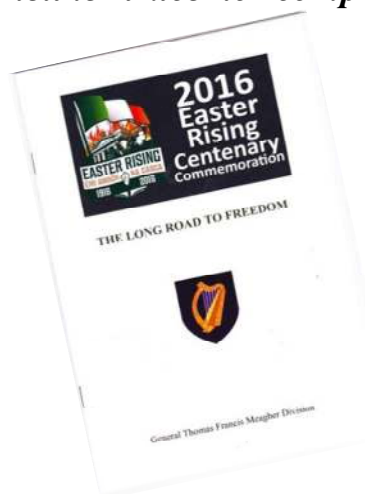
In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Richard Andrew Link, II
President

OUR IRISH HERITAGE



“The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. It is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt. There can be neither truce nor compromise.”



Haven't received a copy of the Division Heritage Committee's [The Long Road to Freedom?](#) Copies will be available at our **April 19th meeting**. This is a compilation of facts pertaining to the 800 years of the English occupation of Ireland. In it you'll read short biographies of the seven heroes of the Easter Rising executed in the weeks following the Rising. These executions set the stage for the Anglo-Irish War, establishment of the Irish Free State and the State of Northern Ireland, the Irish Civil War, and the 'Troubles' forward to Good Friday 1998.

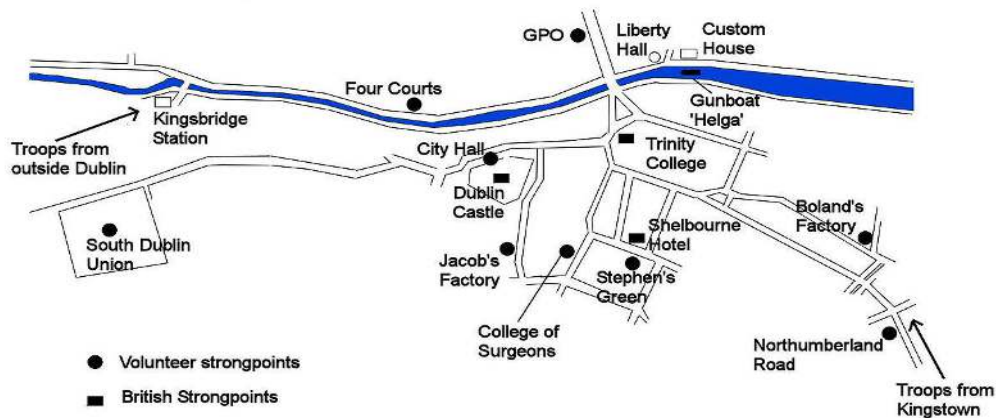
26+6 = 1

The Easter Rising -- Monday 24 April to Saturday 29 April

Organized by seven members of the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (The Fenians), the Rising as planned for months was to commence on Easter Sunday. However, Eoin MacNeill, Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers, countermanded the order at the last minute. This caused confusion within the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizens Army and *Cumann na mBan*. Reluctant to give up on the rising, Joseph Plunkett and James Connolly modified their strategy and developed a hasty plan for Easter Monday. As a result only about 1,000 rebels appeared on Easter Monday to seize control of designated strategic sites in Dublin.

The principal Irish rebel positions at the General Post Office (GPO), the Four Courts, Jacob's Factory and Boland's Mill. James Connolly, overall military commander and four other members of the Military Council: Padraig Pearse, Tom Clarke, Seán Mac Dermott and Joseph Plunkett were in the GPO. After occupying the GPO, the Volunteers hoisted two Republican flags and Pearse read a Proclamation of the Republic. The rebel position at the South Dublin Union and Marrowbone Lane, further to the west, inflicted heavy losses on British troops. After days of shelling, the rebel headquarters garrison at the GPO was forced to abandon their position when fire caused by the shells spread to the GPO. Connolly had been incapacitated by a bullet wound and passed command to Pearse. Vastly outnumbered, Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender.

Easter Rising 1916



A total of 3,430 men and 79 women were arrested; fifteen of those (including the seven signatories of the Proclamation) were executed by firing squad at Kilmainham Gaol https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=UQWgAd7EnCs

HIBERNIANS AT AREA LIBRARIES

The essence of **Irish-American Heritage Month** and the **Centenary Anniversary of the Easter Rising** was shared with patrons at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, the Salam Church Library, the England Run Library and the Wilderness Library (display only). Des Flanigan was chief negotiator with the library staffs, managed creation of beautiful posters provided by the library graphics department, and organized displays at each location. Des was assisted by Neil Buttimer, Peter Carroll, Harry Crisp, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, Paul O'Brien, and Hugh O'Brien. At Salem Church, we were fortunate to have the Muggivan School of Irish Dance demonstrate traditional Irish dance. During the nearly 40 hours spent at the area libraries, Hibernians shared their knowledge of Irish history, immigration, and the Easter Rising of 1916 with more than 200 visitors.



Harry Crisp, Des Flanigan and Bill Halpin at England Run Branch Library

Typical CRRL Graphics Department 3x5 ft. poster

march is IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Easter Rising Centenary

the cause: english rule

Ireland was part of the United Kingdom in 1916. The country was ruled day-to-day by a British administration, based in Dublin. Although Ireland had elected representatives, the Irish didn't run the country, and their civil rights had been suppressed by the English for centuries.

the rising

On **Easter Monday, April 24, 1916**, a group of Irish nationalists proclaimed the establishment of the Irish Republic and, along with some 1,600 followers, staged a rebellion against the British government in Ireland. They envisaged a new Ireland as a national democracy; an Ireland which, in the words of their Proclamation, "guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and [which] declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally." They believed that this could only be achieved through complete independence. The rebels seized prominent buildings in Dublin and clashed with British troops.

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.
SEAN Mac DIARMADA. THOMAS MacDONAGH.
P. H. PEARSE. EARONN CEANNT.
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

Articles like this one announced IAHM in the *Free Lance Star* and *The Lake Currents*

March Is Irish-American Heritage Month

This year the Irish diaspora from Tokyo to Washington and from Dubai to Santiago will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the historic 1916 Easter Uprising. This is the event that started Ireland on the path to becoming an independent republic after nearly 800 years of occupation by a foreign power.

In the local area displays will focus on the anniversary, depict Ireland's long road to freedom and identify the men and women who bravely fought in the rebellion. Displays include information boards produced by the Central Rappahannock Regional Library Graphics Department, copies of the Poblacht Na H'Eireann (Republic of Ireland) proclamation, and associated 'factoids'. Information sheets about Irish/Irish-American contributions to the growth of our United States will be available for visitors. The displays show how the Irish are inextricably linked to the development of the United States in fields ranging from labor, politics and government, science and industry, local, state, and federal leadership, and entertainment.

The 2016 U.S. President's Irish-American Heritage Month Proclamation takes note that "generations of Irishmen and women have helped shape the idea of America, overcoming hardship and strife through strength and sacrifice, faith and family. With an undying belief that tomorrow always yields a brighter day, Irish Americans symbolize the perpetual optimism that defines our country, and they have long embodied the truth at the heart of our promise -- that no matter who you are or where you come from, in America, you can make it if you try. As we celebrate Irish-American Heritage Month, we recognize the Irish people's contributions to our country's dynamism -- sons and daughters of Erin have come to America's shores, adding to our rich vibrancy and putting their full hearts into everything they do. From building our country's cities as preeminent architects and earnest laborers to building our national character as people of great joy and cherished culture, Irish Americans have endured intolerance and discrimination to find a place for themselves and their children here in the United States."

Irish-Americans transformed America by placing power in the hands of local working men and women. They built immigrant aid societies that provided jobs and social services as models for future federal safety nets. At least 22 U.S. Presidents have Irish ancestral origins. The first men to walk on the moon, Neal Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, were proud of their Irish heritage. More than 2000 Congressional Medals of Honor have been awarded to Irish-Americans. This is the extraordinary reality in the journey of Irish and Irish-Americans.

On March 7th and 14th Hibernians will be present and displays can be seen at the Salem Church Branch Library and later in the month at Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) and England Run Branch. Month-long displays can be seen at the CRRL and the Wilderness Library in Orange County. Check with your local library branch for the times and dates when Hibernians will be present at those locations.

Don't miss the **14th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade** on Saturday March 12th at noon in the Spotsylvania Business Park (Bowman Center off Rt 2). The parade is followed by an Irish music and dance festival at the Adventure Brewery (formerly the Blue & Gray) until 3PM. The Adventure Brewing Spotsylvania brewpub will be open too.



IMPORTANT IRISH PHRASES

Ireland forever	<i>Éirinn go Brách</i> (Air-ran guh braw)
Cheers	<i>Sláinte</i> (Slon-chuh)
Hello	<i>Dia Duit</i> (Dee-uh ditch)
Bye	<i>Slan</i> (slan)
A hundred-thousand welcomes.....	<i>Céad Mile Fáilte</i> (Ky-ed meel-ay fall-chay)

Do you know the difference between *Gaeilge* and *Gàidhlig*?

Learn Irish Gaeilge at www.bitesizeirishgaelic.com/beginners



OUR DIVISION PRAYERS



Please pray for the repose of the souls of deceased General Meagher Division brothers and all deceased Hibernians and family members.

Please pray for the comfort and healing of our **Brothers Dick Dowd, Jim McMorrow, Larry Pratt, and Mike Creegan** (VAAOH webmaster). Andy Link's mother, Eileen and Andy's father and care giver, Dick Link. Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project) also needs our prayers.

Pray to **Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States**, for preservation of our religious freedoms and for an unambiguous national moral compass. This is critically important in this era of progressive secularism and threats from patently evil terror organizations.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark Your Calendars!

Multiple Dates: **Bingo!** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at **St Michael the Archangel High School**, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

Multiple Dates: **Roller Derby** at **Golden Skate World** (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information, contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn's wife) at 540-295-2464. John Hogan attended a Derby and reports it is terrific family oriented fun!

April 18: 3d Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic, Meadows Golf Course in Orange County. Registration, coffee & donuts at 8AM; tee-off at 9AM

April 19: General Meagher Division meeting

April 23: Commemoration of the Easter Rising 1916 at various locations around the world, but especially in New York City at the epicenter of American Hibernianism, St Patrick Cathedral. Mass is a 1PM and will be followed by a procession to the Consulate General of Ireland for a reading of the Poblacht.

May 17-June 5: The Kennedy Center presents **IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts & Culture**, a major festival highlighting Irish culture and its relationship to America. This coincides with a **larger global celebration** commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, which led to

creation of the Irish Free State and the road to independence. <http://www.kennedy-center.org/festivals/ireland>



GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For **semi-formal/formal occasions**, the AOH `uniform_ is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and optional ball cap. These occasions include AOH State and National conventions, **Masses**, **funerals**, **AOH dinners**, **parades**, and other **public events**.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and ball cap.

Division Logo Items: **The Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan (s_lenahan@verizon.net)**

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html. Visit the website; call the 800 number. Tell them you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.

AOH Sash: Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
- D & E Morrissey (954-426-3514) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line).

AOH Sash: Tri-color AOH sashes are available from LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00. Patricia guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund. Mail your order and payment check (payable to Tracey's By Design or Patricia Ankrom) to: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Road, Quinton, VA 23141. For more information, email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com