



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



## **GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES**

August 2019

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### *President's Corner*

Brothers, August has arrived and with it the resumption of our regular business meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Harrison Rd. Please especially make every effort to attend this month's meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have several new members present for the Shamrock Degree and I would like maximum meeting attendance. As always, we will have food and fellowship after the business portion of the evening.

The Virginia Board will hold their biennial convention on August 16, 17 and 18. It is not too late to register for the convention, meet us for golf on Friday or come to the Major Degrees ceremony on Sunday. See the newsletter for more information.

Of course, with the upcoming convention, our very own Brother, Bill Halpin, will complete his term as State President. I wish to congratulate Bill on a successful tenure as President and for all that he has contributed at the state level for the past eight years as a member of the Board.

We are about a month and a half from the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party. This year, the event will be held in conjunction with the Colonial Tavern in downtown Fredericksburg. Unlike previous years, this is a free event to attend. It will take place from 1pm – 5pm on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be Irish food specials, live Irish music, Irish step dance demonstrations, vendors, children's activities and the Trip for Two drawing. Please gather up your friends and family and come on out for what *will* be a fantastic time!

Speaking of the raffle. We still have tickets to sell. I am coordinating a time to sell tickets at an upcoming weekend. We will sell tickets at St. Mary's on August 17 and 18 after all masses. That being said, WE NEED BROTHERS TO HELP SELL TICKETS. It is a very small time commitment if we can get coverage for all masses and not fair for one brother to cover all masses. Look for a separate email from me for a sign up for St. Mary's weekend.

As always, remember each other in your prayers. Please pray especially for the victims of the senseless violence in El Paso and Dayton and for a smooth Brexit-one that will not place a hard border across Ireland and a return to sectarian violence.

In Our Motto,

Shawn M Lenahan



### *Touring the Old House*

On Saturday, 27 July Hibernians and spouses enjoyed a guided tour of the Old House Vineyard and facilities. The tour was led by owner Patrick Kearney, who will be joining the General Meagher Division in August. We gained an appreciation for the varieties of grapes grown there, the hard work of tending and harvesting grapes and the details on processing grapes into wine, fine brandy and fortified (port) wine (small "p" as he can't call it "Port"). Following the discussions on wine, we entered the distillery where tequila (although it cannot be called that), rum, gin and vodka are produced. We learned that Patrick's distillery is often used by other would-be distillers who lack a copper still. Still later we entered the soon-to-be-opened Irish pub. This will be an amazing facility augmented by a genuine, imported Irish bar, Irish literature, knickknacks, plus Irish brewing and distilling memorabilia. Behind the stained glass and Guinness advert is the dart board. Patrick suggested "bring your own darts". Adjacent to the pub is a very popular (by observation) watering hole that features six styles of beer brewed on location and live music. We lingered there for a "few"; I found the Imperial Stout to be perfect.

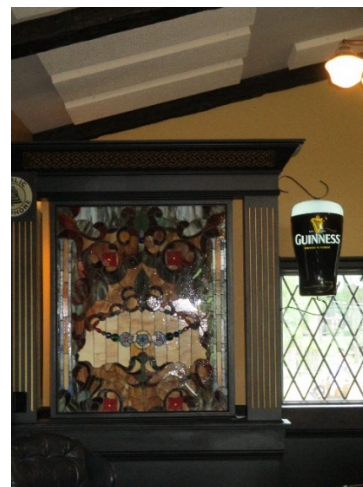


Neil & Connie Buttimer, John & Lynne Hogan, Neil & Celeste O'Leary, Dick & Peg Dowd, Shawn & Jill Lenahan, Bill Halpin, Dave McLaughlin and owner Patrick Kearney

The Kearneys (Patrick, his wife Allison and their son Ryan) have created the trifecta: wine produced on-site, a variety alcoholic beverages distilled on-site and beer brewed on-site



The Vineyard



The Pub



The Distillery



The Brewery



### Astronaut Michael Collins on the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing



*The Apollo 11 crew. From left: Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin. (Photo: NASA)*

*Irish America*, by Gregory Chestler, Editorial Assistant, July 20, 2019 (edited for space)

***The most trusted designated driver of all time reflects on the ride 50 years after lift-off and offers wisdom to those who will be behind the wheel in years to come.***



July 20<sup>th</sup> marked the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, the one where that Armstrong guy took “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” With Neil Armstrong having died nearly seven years ago and Buzz Aldrin in the spotlight, saluting Congress at the 2019 State of the Union, we at Irish America turn our focus to the third man aboard *Apollo 11*, fellow Irish American Michael Collins, as the world remembers the spacecraft he successfully returned to Earth on July 24, 1969. When President Kennedy declared the United States would touch down on the Moon **by the end of the decade**, NASA was four years old; and Michael Collins and Patricia Mary Finnegan Collins had just celebrated their 5th anniversary. The excitement for space exploration was in Collins’ blood since he’d read the *Buck Rogers* comic strips.

The son of a U.S. Army officer, Collins graduated from West Point in 1952 and joined the Air Force. While accumulating flying hours at Edwards Air Base he learned that NASA was searching for a new crew of astronauts. Collins started at NASA in 1963; after six years at the job and 400 hours in command-module simulation, Command Module Pilot Collins launched an eight-day mission that over half a billion pairs of eyes watched on television screens across the globe.

As the astronaut in charge of orbiting the Moon as his crew mates, Armstrong and Aldrin, collected samples and photographs, Collins spent nearly 24 hours alone in space – at times going hours without radio connection. The most crucial part of the mission was ensuring Aldrin and Armstrong connected back to the main spacecraft. When describing the steps that had to be taken in order to correctly execute the reunion of two vehicles in space, Collins writes in his book, “Against all instinct, one must apply thrust away from the direction of the target, drop down into a lower, faster orbit, and then transfer back up into the original orbit as precisely the right point in the catchup trajectory...” After (a successful coupling), the trio was on its way back to Mother Earth. Upon successfully landing in the Pacific Ocean the crew was placed in quarantine for 18 days. After that, the trio embarked on an international tour to 28 cities in 25 countries.

Collins realized the feat of *Apollo 11* was much larger than the trio, NASA, and even the U.S.: “I was amazed that everywhere we went, people would say, ‘we.’ ‘We did it.’ We, you and me – the inhabitants of this wonderful Earth – we did it.” Interviewed July 14 on *CBS Sunday Morning* Collins said, “I hark back almost daily to John F. Kennedy. I felt that we were fulfilling his mandate. And I was just thrilled to be a piece of the whole thing.” When asked “Do you at all regret not having closed that final 60 miles, and left Collins boot prints on the Moon?” “No,” he replied. “I’d a liar or a fool if I said I had the best seat on *Apollo 11*. But I felt that I was an important part of it. When I was behind the Moon I later discovered I was being described as, oh, lonely, lonely, lonely. I was happy back there. I had my own little domain. And actually, going down and touching the Moon, eh, that was not high on my list.”

Astronaut [Eileen Collins](#), the first woman to command a space shuttle, talked about Collins' feat in an email to Irish America, "Michael Collins had an extremely difficult job. He knew he would not have the opportunity to actually walk on the Moon, yet he supported the mission from lunar orbit. He was very focused on maintaining that the Apollo service module was in great shape, while orbiting the Moon, so it was ready to take the crew back home. He also had to be ready to react in an emergency. This took a very humble person. Also, obviously his intelligence and discipline made the mission a great success. I recommend people read his book, *Carrying The Fire*, written in 1974. It is one of the best books written on the Apollo moon program! I read it while I was an Air Force pilot and found it very inspirational!"

In 2019 the book was re-released with an [updated preface](#) in which Collins reflects on the world he finds himself in now. His wife of 57 years, Patricia Mary Finnegan Collins, whose father was born in County Mayo, passed away just over five years ago.

Collins reflects on his twenty-plus years of retirement as "fun and fulfilling in many ways. Watching my family grow, all doing well, has been paramount, but beyond that come fishing, reading, chasing the stock market, and exercise, exercise, exercise." He speaks of the investment from the private sector with enthusiasm, citing Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos as men who can make anything cheaper and faster may also be the people who can make reaching Mars a reality.

When asked – "How was the Moon?" – Collins reflects, "My primary recollection is not that of the Moon. It is of the Earth as seen from 230,000 miles out...it's a fragile place and we need to do a better job of taking care of it." The words are reminiscent of a statement from a JFK's speech: "We meet in an hour of change and challenge, in a decade of hate and fear, in an age of both knowledge and ignorance. The greater our knowledge increases, the greater our ignorance unfolds."



*“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.”*

Taken from related news articles:

The DUP is performing the traditional role of planter descendants carrying out the will of the imperial capital against and despite the wishes and welfare of the majority of the population.

Increasing numbers of both Unionists and Nationalists are more likely to vote for Irish unity. Waiting for the Referendum will become the new canopy under which Northern Ireland's politics unfolds. After the 2021 census (the need of a referendum) will become obvious.

In the 2020s British troops won't be joining with loyalist militias as they did in 1920 and 1970.

### **JUST PLAIN NEAT INFORMATION**

If you stop getting thirsty drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Drinking water after eating reduces acid in your mouth by 61%.

The roar we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

In ancient Greece tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.



## Our DIVISION Prayers

**Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman.** Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting ([RHGrey@cox.net](mailto:RHGrey@cox.net)/540-373-4496).

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for canonization (the prayer: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Joe Daley**, COPD complicated by pneumonia
- **John Hogan**, vascular irregularities
- **Bill Phillips**, undiagnosed swollen right leg
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH State Secretary, lymphedemic edema
- **Andy Link**, recovering from hip surgery
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor.
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt -- acute myeloid leukemia
- **Amy Whittaker** – cancer
- **Request Prayers** for the repose of the souls of Don Walters, Roxanne Kessler, Jacqueline Padgett, and Skip McMichael all friends of Bill Halpin and for Thomas Iribarren, Bill Phillips' grandson. All died in June or early July.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mark Your Calendars!**



**Bingo!** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

**August 16-18:** Biennial State Convention at the Leesburg Hotel & Conference Center, 726 East Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Register now at: <https://aohvirginia.org/2019/02/21/aoh-va-state-convention-2019/>

**August 20:** Division meeting. President established the nominating committee to identify a slate of the willing and able to serve as division officers for the 2020-2021 term.

**September 15:** Halfway to St Patrick Day Party @ the Colonial Tavern

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### **GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION 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.

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

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: [http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](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 colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar)

crossing to the left hip. 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 waistline).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom produces a 7.5-foot sash; satisfaction guaranteed. Send a personal check for \$60. Turnaround time is about 10 days. The sash will be sent to you via Fed Ex or UPS -- signature required. Her address: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Dr., Quinton, Va. 23141-2400. Email [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers “special prices” for larger orders. <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

**This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen Thomas F Meagher Division and others who may have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.**