

Ancient Order of Hibernians



Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

The Dooley Dispatch

October 2019

Celebrating 40 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Next Meeting – Tuesday October 8, 2019 7:00 p.m. **St. Mary's Church**



President's Message:

Brothers,

The checks to the churches are being sent out and we are scheduling dates to present the big check over a few upcoming Sundays. We've already presented to St Bridget's and St Mary's; St Michael's is lined up for October 6th at the 11am Mass. Again I wish to thank all the brothers and families who turned out for Mass and the check presentations. More dates to come as I am still trying to coordinate dates with St Patrick's and St Benedict's.

I was happy to see some of the Division at our half-way to Saint Patrick's Day celebration(s) at rare Olde Times. A few of our more 'devout' brothers went to both the Sept 17th happy hour and the Sept 20th music night as the Donneybrooks were playing.

Our upcoming meeting on October 8 will have a couple of important topics to discuss. Past President Brian Hegarty, who is chairing the nominating committee, will put fourth our list of officers for 2019. They will be voted on at the November 12 meeting. Also at that meeting, we'll be voting on Gael of the Year. In September, the Division voted on hosting the 2021 VA State Convention and while that is a long-way off it is not too early to start thinking about chairing a committee for this event.

We have the kickoff of our annual "Trip to Ireland" raffle sales at the Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games on October 26 – 27. Always a good time, hope to see you there as we need volunteers to man the booth, sell raffle tickets and recruit new members.

Watch for information and volunteer opportunities for upcoming events, especially the Commodore Barry/40th Anniversary picnic on October 6th. Our Anniversary Committee has some interesting things cooked up, so don't miss out. Best place to keep up with Division events is via our website, aohrichmond.org. Pat Shea does a great job keeping it up to date for us.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Steve McGann

Upcoming Events:

Dooley Division Business Meetings in 2019 at 7 pm every 2nd Tuesday of each Month, except for July and August, at St. Michael Catholic Church. 2019 Meeting Dates - 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10 (Officer Installation)

October 6, 2019 – John Barry Picnic St. Michaels 1:00 – 4:00 pm

October 19, 2019 – Jack Cassels Funeral Mass St. Mary's 10 am. Reception to follow at Rare Ole Times

October 26 & 27, 2019 – Central VA Celtic Festival at Richmond Raceway; www.vacelticfestival.com Kickoff the selling of 2020 Dooley Raffle Tickets and Recruiting at Double Booth (FAMILY Event).

December 8, 2019, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party. (Chair Mike Muldowney).

December 10, 2019, Tuesday – Officer Installation for 2020 Officers by State AOH Officer at St. Michael's Church.

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For October 8, 2019 Meeting, as 10/8/2019

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarsenault@stelizcc.org

From Prior Meetings:

- **Prayers for repose of Jack Cassels** soul and his family. Jack passed away on July 25, 2019.
- **Chad Costello's brother-in-law (Doug Dakins, Alisha's brother).** 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon. Doc removed a large stage 3 tumor and is confident he got the margins and will be fine after chemo.
- **Paulie McFadden skin condition and his wife, Mary Ellen,** back pains.
- **Jim Whelen, wife Alesia's Mom,** Norma Oakley, had cancerous kidney removed a couple weeks ago, spleen/lungs, six months to live.
- **Mike Muldowney's dad, Michael James Muldowney,** age 91, minor stroke.
- **Gene Johnson, cousin of Jim Mundy,** prostate cancer.
- **Jim Mundy, friend Don Tharpe,** cancer surgery.
- **Steve McGann,** recovering from complications – prostate biopsy.

- **Hugh Naughton's** wife, Jessie, has lower back issues and other ailments.
- **Steve McGann's sister, Patricia McGovern,** passed away May 5th, after a long fight with leukemia.
- **Brian Kiernan** – recovering from a leg infection.
- **Mike Smith,** family friend **Whitney Bush** passed away.
- **Tim McDonnell's friend, Rob Northern** – recurrence of cancer.
- **Fr. Jim Arsenault's mom**
- **Jim Woods – Uncle Philip** cancer in jaw.
- **Brian Kiernan** – first cousin brother-in-law **Jim,** stage 3 cancer.
- **Fr. George Zahn** - This year is 51 years as a Priest. Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Please contact Steve McGann (email below) if you'd like his phone number.
- **John Mulligan,** Jack Rowe, 18, 2nd kidney surgery.
- **Billy Spicer's brother-in-law, William McCracken,** had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it. Also his heart is very weak. And he has emphysema as well. He's been doing better recently.
- **Pat Saizan, sister of Larry Keefe,** reoccurrence of breast cancer.
- **Fred Gerloff – Jude Crouch** leukemia, husband of cousin Cecelia.
- **Gary McAuliffe's wife, Betty,** macular hole in retina needs surgery.
- **Don Lattanzi,** AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems. Out of hospital and back at rehab in Waverly. Keep in your prayers.

From September Meeting:

- **Jocelyn Costello (Chad's Daughter)** – Pinched nerve in neck
- **Tom Edwards (Jim Donahue)** – Found another legion. Radiation/Chemo treatments. Second round in 18 months.
- **Maureen Mooney (Jack Griffin's Sister)** – Confined to bed

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

A General Befriends a Private

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Thomas Francis Meagher, participant in the Young Ireland Movement, is arrested in Ireland for sedition, never firing a shot, and is banned to Tasmania, Australia in 1848. He escapes and arrives in New York in 1852. Meagher becomes an American citizen just before the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln promotes him to Brigadier General and he commands the Irish Brigade.

By 1862, Meagher had participated in numerous battles but sometime after Fredericksburg, he falls into despair. This is at a time that Meagher's confidence was shattered. He lost so many people who were close to him...people he had personally recruited...whose mothers he had known from the old country...whose wives he had known...who he entertained just two nights before he had to see their dead faces. And this just about killed him. For him, this is at a low point of the civil war and things are not going well for the Union.

After Antietam, along the way to Fredericksburg, one person who became close to Thomas Meagher was a young man from the 116th Pennsylvania infantry named Private William McCarter. Meagher was so impressed with McCarter's extraordinary penmanship he made him one of his secretaries and ghostwriter. However, one-night McCarter noticed that Meagher, with a wild stare in his eye, is standing in front of this big bonfire supported by a tent pole. Meagher is very drunk and starts to slip and falls toward this giant blaze, private McCarter sees this, reacts quickly and holding out his musket where Meagher falls upon it. McCarter saves him from going into the fire. McCarter then carries the unconscious Meagher to his tent and puts him to bed. After a few hours Meagher came to – groggy and red-eyed – and one of his highest officers, both in rank and age, remarked to Meagher, “General, you owe your life to that private.” Meagher then develops a relationship with this boy. When the boy is wounded at Fredericksburg, he is sent off to Washington, D.C. to save his arm from amputation. During the Civil War the solution to every wound was to bring out the saw. Private McCarter has this giant open wound and suddenly a team of the best doctors appear at his hospital. They are taking special care of him. McCarter asks the doctors “Am I going to lose the arm?” The doctors flatly said, “No, you are not going to lose your arm.” They move him to his private room and they attend to him for ten days. They save his arm. It turns out that Meagher had gone behind the scenes to make sure this boy had the best medical care.



William McCarter had written a memoir “My Life in the Irish Brigade”, and states “to his honor and credit, I never saw General Meagher intoxicated again” after that incident. McCarter was impressed by Meagher and writes in his diary that “General Meagher presented an exceedingly neat and clean soldierly appearance, marked and admired by all. He was a gentleman of no ordinary ability. In thorough military skill and courage and bravery on the battlefield, he was second to none in the Army of the Potomac. He was the finest, most educated man I had ever saw put on a uniform.”

Thomas Francis Meagher would go off and speak and recite epic poems in Greek and Latin. He loved romance, he loved language, he loved the theater and he loved history...he probably did not love war.

The Division will be attending the Funeral Mass for Charter Member Jack Cassells



October 19th, Saturday

10 am Funeral at St. Mary's

Burial directly after at Westhampton (Gaskins and Patterson)

ROT after

Sign up to attend on the website on the
sign-up sheet page

https://aohrichmond.org/sign-up-forms/?sheet_id=32

St. Mary Raffle Donation



Front: Jim Feliciano, Mitch Irvine, Fr. Renninger, Winner Paul Elbling, Brian Hegarty, Steve McGann, Jim Woods
Back: Bill Spicer, Gary McAuliffe, John Costello, Tim McDonnell, Dan Caffrey, Matt Joss, Scott Nugent, Brian Kiernan,
Members of the Dooley Division are pictured with Fr. Renninger at St. Mary's presenting the \$1000 donation check raised during the Trip for Two to Ireland annual raffle.

To see a list of all Raffle donations, [click here](#)

Commodore John Barry Day, a National Holiday of the Order

September 13, 2019 By National Board



Commodore John Barry

September 13th is Commodore Barry Day, a National Holiday of the Order. John Barry is symbolic of both the fact that the Irish have contributed to America since its earliest days and sadly how little known those contributions are. Please like and share the following article by National Historian Mike McCormack, especially with the younger people in your life.

Did you know that the first flag officer and founder of the United States Navy was an Irishman? His name was John Barry and Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, said in his eulogy at Barry's graveside, "*He was born in Ireland, but America was the object of his devotion and the theater of his usefulness.*" Barry was born in Co. Wexford, Ireland in 1745 and grew up with a great love for the sea. As a young man, he emigrated to the Crown colonies in America, and by 1760, he was employed in a shipbuilding firm in Philadelphia. In 1766, at the age of 21, he went to sea as Captain of the ship, *Barbados*. The young Irishman seemed destined for a prosperous career in the colonies, but his

integrity and sense of justice led him to risk all in a dangerous venture.

In 1775, years of smoldering unrest erupted in open rebellion as the American colonies declared their independence from the Crown. As England prepared to regain control, the colonies formed the Second Continental Congress to establish a military force and defend their recently declared independence, but experienced men were hard to find. Captain John Barry, an early champion of the patriot cause, promptly volunteered his service. With nine years of experience as a seagoing Captain and five successful commands to his credit, the young Irishman was warmly welcomed, and given command of a ship under the authority of the Continental Congress. On Dec. 7, 1775, Captain John Barry took the helm of a new 14-gun vessel aptly named, *Lexington*. He quickly trained a crew and began the task of supplying and supporting Washington's ground forces.

On April 7, 1776, he captured the British ship, *Edward*, and her cargo – the first American war prize. On June 6, he was given command of the new cruiser, *Effingham* and captured two more British ships. Despite Barry's successes, the war was not going well for the Americans: Philadelphia was in the hands of the British, the British Navy had bottled up the Delaware River, General Benedict Arnold had betrayed West Point, and Washington's troops were in dire need. A victory was essential to boost sagging morale. Barry captured a British arms vessel when ammunition was scarce and a supply ship when food was at a premium. When Washington planned to cross the Delaware, Barry organized seamen and joined the land forces which crossed at one of the ferries owned by his Irish friend, Patrick Colvin of Co Cavan. After the Delaware crossing and the subsequent victories at Trenton and Princeton, in which he served as an aide to Washington, Lord Howe made a flattering offer to Barry to desert the patriot cause. "*Not the value or command of the whole British fleet,*" Barry replied, "*can lure me from the cause of my country which is liberty and freedom.*" In addition to commanding naval operations for the Continental Congress, Barry supervised the building of their ships.

During a confrontation at sea on May 28, 1781, Barry was wounded and taken below. His First Officer informed him that the battle was going against them and



Barry and the U.S.S. Alliance engaging HMS Atlanta, and HMS, Trespassy. Barry would capture both ships. Barry ordered to be carried back on deck. When the British demanded his surrender, Barry defiantly refused and sparked his crew to victory. The wounded Captain returned with yet another prize. The last sea battle of the American Revolution took place in March 1783, as Barry was returning with gold from Havana and was set upon by three British ships. The resourceful Captain engaged and destroyed one and outdistanced the other two, returning with the precious cargo which was used to establish a National Bank for the new

nation.

Far from the war at sea, Barry also assisted at the Pennsylvania Convention held in 1787 to adopt the new constitution. During the Convention, a small group, opposed to the adoption of the new constitution, absented themselves, preventing a quorum from being formed. Barry organized a group called *The Compellers'* and physically forced enough of the seceding members back to form a quorum. The vote was taken, and the constitution was finally approved. People cheered, and church bells rang as Barry scored yet another victory for his adopted nation. In recognition of his vast experience and dedication, Washington demonstrated Barry's immense value to the new nation when, on June 14, 1794, he sent for the popular naval hero and charged him with forming and training a class of midshipmen who would then be commissioned as Ensigns and form the nucleus of the new United States Navy. Barry himself was named the ranking officer and granted Commission number one.



Commodore Barry Memorial erected by the AOH at the U.S. Naval Academy

The mists of time have clouded the memory of this great Irish American and the tales of his heroic exploits were forgotten by the general public while the memory of Barry's good friend and comrade, John Paul Jones, remained prominent. However, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and the Irish Brigade Association began to lobby for proper recognition for America's early naval hero. With support from the Naval Reserve Association, the Sons of the Revolution, the Naval Militia Association and Commodore Barry clubs, elected representatives were lobbied and in July 2000, Senator Daniel P Moynihan introduced a Senate resolution to recognize

Commodore Barry as the First Flag Officer of the U.S. Navy. Several years of lobbying and letter writing led to Peter King introducing a House resolution on March 17, 2005, which became law officially recognizing Commodore John Barry as the First Flag Officer of the U.S. Navy. The AOH then organized the erection of Barry Gate and Barry Plaza at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Commodore Barry had many firsts to his credit from being the first to fly the new American flag in battle to escorting America's ally, General Lafayette, back to France, but the first that he should always be remembered for his position as First Flag Officer and organizer of United States Navy and one of the Irish who helped to shape America.

Mike McCormack, National Historian

John Barry Memorial Picnic

40th Anniversary of Dooley Division

Sunday October 6, 2019

1:00 – 4:00

Come celebrate John Barry Day and the 40th anniversary of the Dooley Division. A special 40th anniversary presentation has been organized by our Division Historian Brian Hegarty with the assistance of the anniversary committee: Larry Keefe, Jim Donahue, Patrick Shea, John Cates, Tom Murphy, Pat Naughton.

Please sign up to attend on the division website:

https://aohrichmond.org/sign-up-forms/?sheet_id=30

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Ancient Order of Hibernians
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MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

