



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



## **GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES**

May 2020

Volume 8/No.5

**President:** Dave McLaughlin **Chaplain;** Father Jerry A. Wooton; **Vice President:** Dennis O'Leary; **Financial Secretary** Edwin Hanson; **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Standing Committee:** Ed Hennessy; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** James Lenahan; **Webmaster:** John Hogan; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

### **Memorial Day, Monday, May 25**

Memorial Day (first known as "Decoration Day") commemorates the men and women who died in service to their country, particularly those who died in battle or from wounds sustained in battle. After the Civil War, Americans felt a need to honor its military dead. Monuments were erected and people decorated soldiers' graves. After World War I the day expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars.

Traditionally on Memorial Day Americans visit cemeteries and volunteers place American flags on each grave at national cemeteries. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. We should spend time reflecting on their sacrifices and on the freedoms we enjoy today. Memorial Day is always the fourth Monday of May.

#### **President's Corner:**

My Brothers,

Separation, I think, sadly describes the last two months. We have been separated from much human contact; separated from our Lord in Holy Communion; separated from fellowship with our Hibernians Brothers; and suffered the ultimate separation from our Brother, John Tracy. Thankfully, things are beginning to improve.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, your division officers met (virtually) to discuss the way forward and agreed to conduct a division business meeting this month. We will meet on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. It may be an entirely virtual meeting with phone dial-in or by using a meeting website or app. Even better, we may be able to meet with some attending in person with the option for others to dial-in.

This will be an important meeting because we have to modify our charity fundraising activities for the rest of the year.

Speaking of the Christian charity part of our Hibernian motto, the General Meagher division was recognized during this quarter's Virginia State AOH Meeting. We were praised by the State President because we contribute more of our total revenues (percentage-wise) to charity than any other division in the state.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dave McLaughlin



**John Lewis Tracy**  
**Vice President, Gen Meagher Division 2018**  
March 18, 1941 ~ April 21, 2020



Colonel John L. Tracy (USAF Ret.) died on April 21, 2020 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was preceded in death by his parents Lewis L. Tracy and Iris M. Tracy and his twin brother, James F. Tracy. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Lou Tracy; his son, Steven A. Tracy of Bonita Springs, FL; and his wife of 56 years, Mary Lou Tracy; his son Steven A.

Tracy of Bonita Springs, FL; and his daughter, Lisa Tracy Smith (David) of Spotsylvania; he is also survived by his five grandchildren, Jessica and Daniel Tracy, and Anna, Sophie, and Ivy Smith.

John joined the General Thomas F. Meagher Division in 2016, received our Order's Major Degrees in January 2017 and was elected Division Vice President for the 2018 term. John was a native Ohioan. His Irish roots come from his mother's side of the family. His great-grandfather was born in Ireland and emigrated to Canada in the mid-1800's along with his grandfather who arrived with his family to Canada around the same time.

John was raised outside of Dayton and graduated from Randolph HS in Englewood, in 1959. He went on to earn a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Capital University in Columbus, OH in 1963 and a Master of Arts degree in Business Management from Central Michigan University. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt from Air Force ROTC and served 24 years before retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1987. In the Air Force he served as an auditor with the Air Force Audit Agency, holding a number of increasingly responsible positions in the US and Korea, culminating with duty as the Comptroller of the Audit Agency. John then was assigned as financial manager for logistic support for the classified SR-71 “Blackbird” strategic reconnaissance program. His final Air Force assignment was in the Pentagon as the principal advisor to the Comptroller of the Air Force for the acquisition of financial information systems.

Col. Tracy’s military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Air Force Commendation Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Col. Tracy spent the eight years with ICL (British computer manufacturer) and served as Director of Operations of their East Coast sales operations. In 1996, he joined CACI and served as a Program Manager specializing in messaging systems until he retired in 2003.

He did not slowdown in retirement. Col. Tracy also devoted much time and effort supporting his local Catholic parish, St. Raymond of Peñafort, in Springfield, where he was a lay Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist, a volunteer driver for parishioners needing rides to doctor appointments, and undertook numerous tasks supporting the church’s office.

He was active in leadership positions in the Knights of Columbus (St. John Bosco Council 12846) as a Financial Secretary for six years and in various projects at the Council level and Assembly level, where he served for a year as the Faithful Navigator (organization head).

Col. Tracy and his wife moved to Fawn Lake in 2015. He was a member of St. Patrick’s Parish and a member of the Knights of Columbus Battlefield Council #10246 and Rappahannock Assembly #1613.

Col. Tracy was an engaging, caring, involved, fun-loving person who liked a good conversation. He was an avid sports fan who enjoyed bowling and golf and watching

college football (especially the Virginia Tech Hokies, the Clemson Tigers, and the Ohio State Buckeyes). And he was known to play a hand or two of poker.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick Catholic Church (detailed TBD). A private interment will follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the St. Patrick Church Capital Campaign (c/o St. Patrick Catholic Church, 9151 Ely's Ford Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22407) or the Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. (VKCCI, 3500 Gregory Pond Rd., Richmond, VA 23236).



**Volunteer Opportunity** (Edited for space from an article submitted by John Hogan)

Millions of gallons of beer are stuck in stadiums, concert halls, restaurants and bars are going stale, leaving the beer industry with a tricky problem: ***What to do with all that booze nobody will ever drink?***

The Wuhan virus forced bars to close ahead of two of the country's biggest beer drinking occasions: **St Patrick Day** and the "**March Madness**". Beer intended for those events is now spoiling in locked venues and brewers need to get the kegs back to be refilled before lockdown lifts. Draft beer typically stays fresh for between **two** and **six** months.

The National Beer Wholesalers Association estimates about 10 million gallons (1,000,000 kegs!) of beer is abandoned in the March venues. More beer is stuck in warehouses, in transit from other countries, and in breweries. Environmental regulations say large volumes of beer shouldn't be poured down drains or into rivers because it can disturb the pH balance, reduce oxygen in the water, and produce undesirable bacteria. So, this beer may be wasted as brewers will send expired beer to craft distillers to be turned into hand sanitizer (Believe it or not, it's quicker to use beer to make hand sanitizer).

We're always looking for volunteer opportunities. Maybe we can help save the industry – I'm sure we can empty a few hundred kegs!





*“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*

**From Padraig Pearse’s eulogy at O’Donovan Rossa’s funeral in Dublin, 1 August 1915**

*“Our foes are strong and wise and wary; but, strong and wise and wary as they are, they cannot undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men the seeds sown by the young men of a former generation. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.”*

April 24th was the 104th anniversary of the Easter Rising. Padraig Pearse was the person most responsible for drafting the proclamation. This is an older (pre 2016) 55 minute film about Pearse’s life. At times it is interrupted by ads that can be easily skipped. (taken from Irish America, 23 April 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lx-SiTR66gA&feature=youtu.be>

### ***IRISH STEW ANYBODY?***

**Irish stew** (made with lamb or beef) is a prime example of culinary thrift. Cooked with carrots, onions and potatoes in a three-legged “bastable” iron pot with a curved lid hung from a hook above glowing embers and simmered slowly for hours. The same pot, when stood on the hearth’s flagstone base over smoldering peat with its lid inverted and more coals piled on top, served as an oven.

Sometimes onions and a bit of broth were added to the “pot roast” during cooking. In both cases, as the juices braised the meat, even the toughest cuts turned tender and flavorful.

### **Braised Steaks in Guinness** (Classic Irish Recipe by Georgina Campbell)

Guinness Braised Steak.

- 4 round steaks
- 8 ounces sliced mushrooms
- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped roughly
- 2 medium carrots, sliced in 1/4 inch rounds
- 8 ounces Guinness
- 1 sprig of thyme
- salt and fresh ground black pepper
- oil for frying

Preheat the oven to 350F. While the oven is heating, warm a little oil in a large frying pan and brown the steaks quickly on both sides. Remove steaks from the pan and set aside. Add a little more oil to the frying pan if necessary, sauté the mushrooms and onion in oil for a few minutes until they begin to wilt, then spread the mixture and the sliced over vegetables of a medium ovenproof baking dish. Lay the steaks over the vegetables. Barely cover all with Guinness. Float the thyme sprig in the liquid and season the pan contents with salt and pepper. Cover the dish with a lid or tinfoil and braise in the oven for 1 – 1½ hours or until the meat is tender. Makes 4 servings.



### **Upcoming Events**

***Mark Your Calendars!***

***But keep in mind the Virginia governor’s Stay at Home Order “shall remain in full force and in effect until June 10, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order”.*** Gatherings of more than 10 people can be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor (fine \$2500 and/or 12 months in jail!). Any business that cannot follow the social distancing order of 10 patrons or fewer is required to close.

On the brighter side, Virginia ABC stores are still considered essential businesses.

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

**19 May:** Scheduled Division meeting

**9 June:** Scheduled “Irish Night” with FredNats – “Mystery” Hibernian to sing the National Anthem. Muggivan Irish Dancer to perform. See President McLaughlin for discounted tickets.

**23-26 July:** Scheduled AOH National Convention in Orlando, FL



### Our DIVISION Prayers



**Jack Grey chairs the Division Committee of the Sick:** 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:

- **John Hogan**, Pulmonary Fibrosis
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **Bill Phillips**, severe arthritis
- **Gene McKenna** recovering from double by-pass surgery
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Angelique Bolling**, Edwin Hanson’s sister in law - brain tumors
- **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
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan’s aunt (Vietnam Vet) 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
- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for canonization: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>







## General Meagher Division Attire

In a *perfect world* every brother would have these articles of clothing:

**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.

**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:

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).

### 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.**