



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

March 2021

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Spread the word, March is

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH!



As in 2020, again this year we're hamstrung by restrictions on gatherings, the need to socially distance and the compulsory mask. However, your committee has been working to assure IAHM is properly announced and responsibly celebrated. You'll be reading articles in the *Free Lance Star* (e.g. pg. 6, Feb 17th), local library websites will feature division supplied materials and the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress and the National Archives websites will be hosting significant information on Irish/Irish American contributions to the United States over the past nearly 300 years. *But wait, there's more!* During the IAHM the Colonial Tavern – Home to the Irish Brigade will display division materials from past years and will support a small Hibernian gathering (approx. 1-5PM) on March 20th (probably in the tent - max 25 people). We hope to have one or two guest speakers that day.

26+6=1

President's Corner

My Brothers,

March – first day of spring, middle of Lent, and the feast day of our patron saint. Indeed, **Irish American Heritage Month** is an especially important and busy time for the Irish and, especially, the Hibernians! As you will recall last year, March was the month we quickly became *less* busy and *less* engaged as the month progressed due to Wuhan virus-driven restrictions. It was sad and disappointing as we canceled event after event.

But this year, we begin a return to normalcy. As usual, this spring month will be one of energy, enthusiasm and renewal. As the restrictions are already easing and vaccinations are becoming widely available, we will have more opportunities to share our brotherhood and celebrate our common culture and heritage.

Please add to your Lenten resolutions, to do something *positive* – **commit to at least one of our upcoming activities**. This is the time for you to embrace our motto of *Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity!*

Brother Dave McLaughlin



St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City

Adapted from *IrishCentral* article March 13, 2020



St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, New York City ISTOCK

St. Patrick's Cathedral is one of New York City's finest buildings and most spectacular churches as well as being the largest house of worship for Catholics in the city. Over 160 years ago, Archbishop John Hughes announced plans to build the Cathedral. It took 21 years to build and was opened to the people in 1879.

Here are some facts about St. Patrick's Cathedral:

- ✓ The Cathedral was named after the patron saint of Ireland in response to the increasing numbers of Irish immigrants in the city.
- ✓ It is the largest Gothic Roman Catholic Cathedral in the United States.
- ✓ The cornerstone of the Cathedral was laid in 1858.
- ✓ The church takes up one whole city block. The spires rise 330 feet above street level. It seats 2,400 people.
- ✓ The new gallery organ, which was replaced in 1930, has 7,855 pipes.
- ✓ The Cathedral has 21 altars and 19 bells, each named after a different saint.
- ✓ It has more than 2,800 stained glass panels.
- ✓ Eight Archbishops of New York are buried in a crypt under the high altar.
- ✓ Five million people visit the Cathedral every year.
- ✓ More than one million prayer candles are lighted each year
- ✓ 15-18 Masses said every day
- ✓ 150 weddings every year.



Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day: The Commonwealth of Virginia annually proclaims 30 March as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" and encourages observance of that day with ceremonies and activities that promote recognition of the contributions of those involved in the Vietnam conflict.



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. There can be neither truce nor compromise.

The 1981 Irish hunger strike started with Bobby Sands refusing food on 1 March 1981



Dúisigh Éire! Awaken Ireland!

[St. Patrick's Festival](#)

“Dúisigh Éire! Awaken Ireland!” is the theme of St. Patrick's Festival 2021, a **clarion call to the Irish across the world** to throw off the long, dark months and rise to embrace the brighter days ahead. St. Patrick’s Festival is made possible through the continued support of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council, and many generous partners and funders.

Dúisigh Éire! Awaken Ireland! promises to be a positive and uplifting celebration of our incredible people, our beautiful island, our community bonds, our young people, artists, creators and makers, and our diaspora across the world. The Festival will connect our global family, to mark our national day, through remembrance and celebration, song and story, laughter and tears, exploring the unique ties that bind us as a people. **The Festival Programme is now available** StPatricksFestival.ie.

For this year's **online Festival**, a rich and dynamic series of events are being safely created and recorded by hundreds of artists, musicians, performers, makers, creators, arts and live events workers, and community organizations across Ireland. These events will run on St. Patrick's Festival TV (SPF TV), a dedicated online which **launches on March 12** and runs over six great virtual days and nights and will be accessible globally. The world is invited to take a front-row seat, connecting our family of 80 million through music, theatre, art, performance, poetry, storytelling, traditional arts, virtual tours, food, culture and much more. The full schedule with days and times for each event will be announced in early March. Viewers will be able to playback all the events on the SPF TV Player until March 21.

There is something for everyone at the Festival this year.

- **SPF Óg** offers a boisterous collection of events, performances, workshops, and fun experiences for families and young people
- **Sounds** is a packed programme of contemporary and traditional music from Ireland, recorded by our finest artists and musicians
- **Stories** invites the world to explore Ireland through the lens of film, poetry, literature, performance, and art
- **Living Ireland** reflects how we live and love, work and play, make, create, remember and celebrate.

While St. Patrick's Festival looks forward to a time when Ireland commences the journey towards reopening, and prepares to welcome the world to our beautiful, vibrant, island, this year we invite all our people to celebrate from home, in support of the tireless work of our healthcare warriors and our frontline workers, who battle on every day to protect our people and lead us out of the pandemic.”

(Modified for [Dispatches](#) from an announcement in IrishCentral 17 Feb 2021)



The Rising of 1867

On the morning of March 5, 1867 thousands of men, some well-armed, others not, were to assemble in the Dublin Hills near the village of Tallaght. This was designated as the rendezvous point, the jumping off point, selected by Fenian General William Halpin. Unknown to all, the rendezvous location and the attack plan had been given to the English by a trusted Fenian courier turned English spy, John Corydon. The English military was prepared and the Rising failed. But these men lit the flame that burned until Easter 1916.



Upcoming Division Events 

Government restrictions make everything tentative!

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

March 1: Irish American Heritage Month begins!

March 11: VA AOH virtual state meeting 7:00 to 8:30PM

March 12-18: Dúisigh Éire! Awaken Ireland!

March 16: Virtual division monthly meeting begins at 7:30PM

March 20: IAHM celebration, Colonial Tavern, Home to the Irish Brigade (2-5 PM)

August 30: (alt Sep 13) Shamrock Charity Golf Classic (venue TBD)

September 18: Halfway to St Patrick Day @ Colonel Tavern 11:30AM-5PM



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@yahoo.com//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 and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; John is undergoing chemotherapy.
- **Peter Carroll:** pancreatic cancer, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Jack Grey:** diagnosed with a protein related blood cancer
- **Rusty O'Brien:** completed radiation for prostate cancer, remains under observation.
- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Gene McKenna:** recovering from by-pass surgery in Dec 2019.
- **Brian Kiernan:** VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Norman Turley:** father of Dave Turley, died on 15 February
- **Dick Link:** father of PDP Andy Link who died 29 February
- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering seizures and Alzheimer's
- **Norma Cristiano:** Rose of the Soul Dan Mulhern's mother-in-law who died in February.
- **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)
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks' son (chemo-compromised immune system)

Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton:

<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>



General Meagher Division Attire

Every brother should 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 Masses, funerals, dinners, parades, State and National conventions, 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)

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 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; 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

Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and "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.