



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

March 2022

Volume 10/No 3

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Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be "one nation under God". This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.

President's Corner

Brothers all - Happy St. Patrick's Day! In addition to this one day of the year that all of the world celebrates because "everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day", March is traditionally recognized in the U.S. as Irish American Heritage Month (IAHM). Our Division has an annual tradition of setting up displays and scheduling special cultural events at our local libraries. If you can help man one or more of these library events, please let Brother Shawn Lenahan know as soon as possible by responding to his recent email message.

As was noted in the last Dispatch, we were honored to serve as the host Division for the State Quarterly Meeting on 26 Feb at St. Jude Church. Many thanks to Shawn Lenahan, Dennis O'Leary, Jack Kelly, Jeff Everett, Bill Halpin, and Deacon Aaron for helping to plan the event, get the food and drinks, set up the room, participate in the meeting, and then hang around to help clean up after this successful event. Deacon Aaron received special praise and appreciation from the State President and all attendees for his thoughtful reflection on this weekend before the start of Lent.

A topic of discussion during the Quarterly Meeting was the need for all Brother Hibernians to get the Shamrock Degree at their local Divisions as well as the Major Degrees at one of the Quarterly Meetings as soon as they can so they can fully understand what it means to be a Hibernian. Not enough candidates responded to the call for candidates for the Major Degree at this latest Quarterly Meeting, so please keep this in mind for the next Quarterly Meeting which is tentatively scheduled for May. I will broadcast the details when I get them so you can add it to your

calendar. Meanwhile, I would like to schedule a Shamrock Degree for our Division at the 17 May meeting before we all begin our summer vacations. We will be sending out notices to all brothers who do not yet have the Shamrock Degree so keep an eye on your email inbox for an announcement so you can get it on your calendars now.

In this time of uncertainty around the world, please remember to pray for all of our Brother Hibernians, our friends and families, and all those who are suffering.

In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Bob Fitzgerald, President



**John Hogan, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (ret.)
8 April 1940 – 14 February 2022**

Born and raised in Boston, Boston College class of '63, USAF twenty-five years, Viet Nam Veteran, devout Catholic and outstanding example of Hibernian zeal.

John was a Hibernian's Hibernian, always ready and willing to support the General Meagher Division in so many ways, it would be difficult to list all. Suffice it to say that if there was a task to be accomplished, a Hibernian presence required, a leadership challenge to overcome, John was always present for duty. It didn't matter where or when: Hibernian day trips and luncheons, celebrating IAHM at area libraries, presenting wreaths at Irish brigade memorials, as parish liaison, at annual golf tourneys, parish festivals, selling T4T raffle tickets at every TFM division parish.

John's accomplishments were recognized when he was voted to be the General Meagher Division Hibernian of the Year in 2015.





John died at 6:20AM on Monday 14 February after a lengthy illness. John was buried in his green jacket and tri-color sash. He asked for green jacketed Hibernians be the pallbearers at his funeral. His presence and energy will be missed.

Funeral Pall Bearers were: Frank Connor, Bill Halpin, Jack Kelly, Shawn Lenahan, John Needham, and Dan Mulhern. At the Culpeper National Cemetery Hibernian Pall Bearers were Halpin, Needham and Jake Ruppert.



Brother Mike Yearsley



Hibernians and former Hibernians honoring John (many more were in the church)





Irish American Heritage Month

Now we're about to enter the second week of Irish American Heritage Month. The Commonwealth Governor's office has assured me he'll proclaim March to be Irish American Heritage Month.

Bill Temple and Bill Halpin represented the division at the main library (CRRL) for three days with Irish heritage displays and information handouts. Library patron traffic was much lower than past years. The library staff attributed it to "virus hangover". On March 2d, Muggivan Irish dancers performed in the library auditorium. The Muggivan spokesperson explained the selected dance routines including the history of each dance and the type shoes traditional Irish dancers use to create sound. The dancers wore shoes that would not scar the wooden stage floor. When their routines were complete the dancers finished the performance with a fun session for the children in the audience.



The Best Irish Pub In Virginia: The Celtic House Irish Pub & Restaurant

(This according to Courtney Iseman of *Delish Magazine*)

The two owners of *The Celtic House* in Arlington have 100 years of experience in hospitality in the United States and Ireland. In other words, these folks know what they're doing and that's reflected in this pub's welcoming atmosphere, drink selection, and Irish fare. This spot is so well-loved that patrons have voted it their [favorite pub in the state](#) and [one of the best pubs in 19 big U.S. cities](#). *Where to find it: 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA, 22204*

BUT ... What do they know?



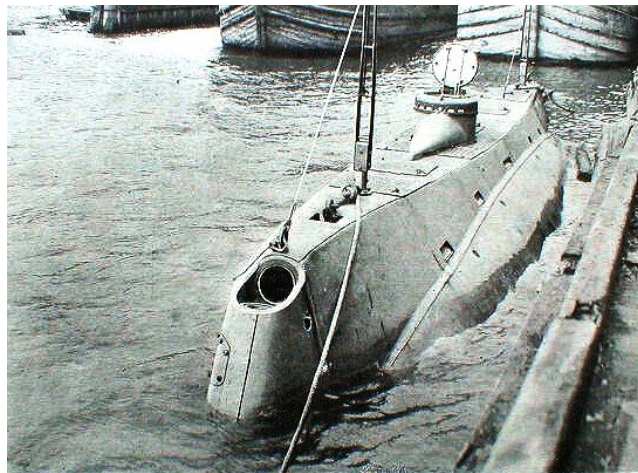
The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until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

The **Irishman** Who Invented the Submarine

(Adapted from an article by Teresa O’Dea Hein, August 12, 2014)



John Phillip Holland



USS Holland, first USN submarine. Both Photos: Wikipedia

John Philip Holland, a Clare man recognized as “the father of the modern submarine.” Holland’s pioneering work on submarines was done after he emigrated to the United States in 1873.

Despite many challenging times and rough currents, Holland persevered for decades to perfect his vision of a submersible craft. For all his life, the sea was an essential element of Holland’s life. It started with his father, John Holland, who patrolled the headlands of Clare as a “riding officer,” a roving coastal patrolman with the British Coastguard Service. Holland was born on the wild Atlantic coastline of Liscannor, just north of Lahinch. Holland attended the Christian Brothers School (C.B.S.) in the nearby town of Ennistymon.

In 1852, his father retired and the family moved to Limerick where Holland studied at the Limerick C.B.S. Later he taught in several Christian Brothers schools in Ireland and joined the Christian Brothers and took the name of Brother Philip.

On Nov. 3, 1858, Brother Philip was assigned to the North Monastery school in Cork where he met Brother James Dominic Burke, a Limerick man, noted science teacher and founder of vocational training in Ireland. Burke encouraged Holland in his plans for a submarine and as early as 1859, he completed his first drafts of a sub, a design he never radically changed. Over the years, the inventive Holland built useful items at the schools where he taught.

Ill health later forced him to leave the Christian Brothers in 1873. By then, Holland's mother and two brothers had emigrated to Boston. He booked passage – in steerage – to meet them there and worked for a time with an engineering firm. Holland joined St. John's Parochial School in Paterson, N.J., as a lay teacher again under the auspices of the Christian Brothers.

Funding for development of the submarine was provided by Holland's brother, Michael, who was involved with the Fenian Movement. The Fenians and the inventor teamed up in an effort to build a submarine to use against the British Navy. The *Fenian Ram*, designed for the Fenian Brotherhood, was launched in 1881. It was funded by the Fenian Skirmishing Fund.

Throughout the next two decades, Holland collaborated with corporate backers to advance submarine prototypes. Successes he achieved were accompanied by financial and bureaucratic struggles. On St. Patrick's Day 1898 Holland's first full-fledged trial run of diving and surfacing while underway off Staten Island in his *Holland VI* was successful.

A demonstration 10 days later for the U.S. Navy convinced Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt to recommend the purchase of a Holland submarine.

On April 11, 1900, the date now celebrated as the birthday of the U.S. Submarine Force, the Navy bought *Holland VI* — for \$150,000, just half of its design cost. The Navy quickly ordered seven more and on October 12, 1900, the Navy's first submarine was officially commissioned as USS *Holland* (later SS-1). The 53-ft.-long submersible incorporated the design principles validated in the *Fenian Ram* and became the prototype for modern submarines. Over the years, the U.S. Navy has named two submarine tenders for John Holland: USS *Holland* (AS-3), commissioned in 1926; and a second USS *Holland* (AS-32), commissioned in 1963.



Holland died at the age of 73 and is buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Totowa, N.J., just a mile from the Passaic River where he first tested *Holland I* in 1878. His gravestone includes a sculptural version of this iconic photo – characterized by his walrus mustache and bowler hat as he emerged from the *Holland VI*.

In 1964, a plaque was erected in Liscannor commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Castle Street has also been renamed Holland Street in his honor. (Photo from Wikipedia)





Government meeting restrictions may be revisited – stay tuned!

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

March 1-31: Irish-American Heritage Month. Hibernians will be at area libraries per this schedule

Howell Branch: (Halpin and ?)

Tuesday, March 8 - 3:00-6:00

Wednesday, March 9 - 3:00-6:00

Thursday, March 10 - 2:00-5:00

Salem Church Branch: (Halpin, O'Donnell, w/Kelly on 17th)

Tuesday, March 15 - 2:00-5:00

Wednesday, March 16 - 2:00-5:00

Thursday, March 17 - 3:00-6:00 (Irish Dancers!)

More help will be appreciated.

15 March: Division Meeting

? March: Kick-off of the T4T raffle!

9 May: The ***9th Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic*** at Lake of the Woods Golf Club



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Russell McLaughlin:** Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia (FTD)
- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer's
- **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)
- **Brian Kiernan:** VAAOH President, lymphedemic edema
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks' son (chemo-compromised immune system) *Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustine Tolton:*
<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>
- **Mary Lou and Keith Bowers:** St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- **Randy James (COVID)**
- **Alice Wilkowski (stroke)** Associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers and family members

- **John Hogan:** Meagher Division Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022
- **Christopher Grey:** son of Brother Jack Grey, died in Tennessee
- **Dawn Forest:** Wife of Brother Dean Forest, suddenly on 13 January 2022. (Dean was pledged by PDP McLaughlin Dec 12, 2021)
- **Bob Phillips:** Brother of Bill Phillips who died on 30 January 2022
- **Lois M. Hanson:** mother of Edwin Hanson who died peacefully on 18 November 2021
- **Mary O'Brien Gardner:** mother of Jill Lenahan, mother-in-law of PDP Shawn Lenahan who died on 12 November 2021

Send notifications to Standing Committee Chair Bobby Murphy (smurphy823@gmail.com)

Send prayer requests for inclusion in our newsletter to billhalpin@irishcultureva.org



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.

A second source recommended by Major James Dooley Division:

<https://www.uniformsinstock.com/collections/blazers/products/executive-apparel-winston-mens-kelly-green-blazer>

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 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, a raincoat/overcoat (and a growing waistline). Sashes are available from:

D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514/ <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>). The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.

Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and "special prices" for larger orders. <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

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

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.