

GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

July 2022

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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 - Happy Independence Day to all of you! I hope all of you are taking some time out to celebrate our freedom as Americans over this long weekend. As you know, we do not have a monthly meeting in July, but four of us are heading up to Pittsburgh, PA next week to attend the AOH National Convention. Brothers Bill Halpin, Dave McLaughlin, Jeff Everett, and I are delegates at the convention. One of our duties as convention delegates this year is to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment to remove the requirement that AOH applicants be male. Not sure how the vote will turn out but we will give you an after-action report soon after the convention. The Virginia AOH State Board resolved to not support the proposed amendment.

While thinking about our American Independence today, I remembered from my genealogical research that I have at least one Irish-American ancestor who fought and was severely wounded in the American Revolutionary War. It is an interesting story that I will share with you another time, but I was also reminded that we are looking for a brother to step up into the Historian position. If the history of the Irish people, their lives, families, traditions, and more is of interest to you, I encourage you to share your interest with our Division by volunteering as our Historian. There are many of us who claim Irish ancestry but know little about Irish and Irish-American history and our personal connections to it.

Our raffle ticket sales continue so please help out when and where you can to make our charitable efforts successful. Be sure to send in your payments for any tickets you buy or sell personally as well as help out at the sales events at each of the four churches.

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

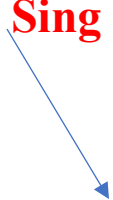
Bob Fitzgerald



HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!



Sing along with the USAF “Heritage of America” Band



"My Country,
'Tis of
Thee" (1:16)



**1:17Vocalists
with United
States Air Force
Heritage of
America Band,
2002**



July 2, 1776 - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7 by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."





June 2022 Scholastic Awards Presentations

PDP McLaughlin presented one \$1500 Scholastic Award to Holy Cross Academy winner Makayla Sullivan.

PSP Halpin presented another \$1500 award to St. Patrick School winner Mallory Bruggeman. Joining Halpin for the presentation are (l-r) St. Patrick pastor Father John Ziegler, Mrs. Bruggeman, Mallory and school principle Dr. Sally Nicholson

Mallory and Makayla will be attending St. Michael the Archangel High School in the fall. \$3,000 (\$1500.00 each) will be sent to the school in their names to help defray the cost associated with Catholic education.



Back After Two Years

Brothers Dick Dowd, Bill Halpin, Shawn Lenahan, and Dave McLaughlin spent a hot July afternoon at the Lake of the Woods Independence Day Celebration selling T4T raffle tickets. All-in-all in a smaller than previous crowd about 35 tickets were sold in four hours. The space was provided by the *Irish Culture Society of Virginia, a 501c(3)*

(photo by D. McLaughlin)



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.

Catholic Patriots of the American Revolution

The Catholic University of America: The Archivist's Nook: Posted on by William J. Shepherd

Americans celebrating their independence from Great Britain on the Fourth of July seldom remember Catholic contributions to the national cause. This is not surprising, as Catholics made up only an estimated one percent of the population of the nascent republic. Colonial America was generally prejudiced against Catholics and, with the notable exception of Pennsylvania, had enacted various civil and legal restrictions. As the American Revolution loomed, The Quebec Act of 1774 especially inflamed fears of an authoritarian alliance between the British Crown and the Vatican Pontiff to crush American liberties. Nevertheless, many Catholics rose to prominence in the front ranks of freedom's struggle, despite their status as a distrusted and often proscribed minority.

Among these Catholic Patriots of the Revolution were three remarkable members of the prominent Carroll family of Maryland. The preeminent Catholic patriot was Annapolis-born [Charles Carroll of Carrollton](#) (1737-1832), who risked both his liberty and fortune as the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence. [*Editor's note: The Carrolls were descendants of the Ó Cearbhaill lords of County Offaly, Ireland.*] His cousin, [John Carroll](#) (1735-1815), born in nearby Upper Marlboro, was an ex-Jesuit and one of the few Catholic priests in Maryland who would become the first American bishop in 1789.

As patriots and Catholics, Charles and John answered the call of the Continental Congress to join Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Chase on an unsuccessful mission in 1776 to convince Catholic Quebec in Canada to remain neutral. John's older brother, [Daniel Carroll](#) (1730-1796), served in the Continental Congress, signing the Articles of Confederation, and was one of only two Catholic signers of the U.S. Constitution, the other being **Irish-born**, Philadelphia merchant, [Thomas Fitzsimons](#) (1741-1811). Other important Catholic contributors include another **Irish-born** Philadelphia merchant, [Stephen Moylan](#); [Casimir Pulaski](#) and [Tadeusz Kosciuszko](#) of Poland; and, of course, George Washington's famed friend and protégé, the [Marquis de Lafayette](#) of France.

Perhaps the most significant Catholic military contributions to the war came from another **Irish-born** merchant from Philadelphia, [John Barry](#) (1745-1803). Along with his friend and compatriot, [John Paul Jones](#) (1747-1792), Barry was a co-founder of American sea power. He was the first commissioned officer in the Continental Navy, the first to capture a British war vessel at sea, fought on land at the battles of Trenton and Princeton, authored an effective signal book for ships' communication, fought the last naval battle of the war in 1783, and was President George Washington's choice to head the U.S. Navy when formally created in 1794. Barry's exploits are recounted in several statues and memorials, the most recent being at the

U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis in 2014. [*This is the Barry Gate, an AOH initiative*].

President Washington paid tribute to American Catholics in 1790 as [“faithful subjects of our free Government.”](#) American Catholics have honored him and preserved the Catholic patriotic record, especially historian John Gilmary Shea (1822-1892), whose tireless research resulted in a multi-volume history of [Catholics in the United States](#).



THE DIVISION DOES NOT **MEET IN JULY**

Upcoming Division Events



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

16 August: Division meeting 7:30 PM, K of C Hall, 4724 Harrison Road, Fredericksburg

17 September: Halfway to St. Patrick Day @ Colonial Tavern

20 September: Shamrock Degree Ceremony @ Division meeting 7:30 PM, K of C Hall, 4724 Harrison Road



Our Division Prayers

Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- David Chichester: recovering from hernia surgery
- Joe Daley: COPD
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- 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
- Alice Wilkowski (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan

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

- John Hogan: Meagher Division 2015 Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022
- Christopher Grey: son of Brother Jack Grey, died 15 February 2022
- Dawn Forest: Wife of Brother Dean Forest, suddenly on 13 January 2022.
- 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 Committee of the Sick Chair Bobby Murphy
[\(smurphy823@gmail.com\)](mailto:smurphy823@gmail.com)

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



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](mailto: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>). 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>

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.