



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

October 2022

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President: Bob Fitzgerald; Chaplain: Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; Vice President: Shawn Lenahan; Recording Secretary: Bill Halpin; Financial Secretary Jeff Everett; Treasurer: Dave McLaughlin; Standing Committee: Bobby Murphy; Marshal: Chuck Gleason; Sentinel: Jack Kelly; Historian: Jim O'Donnell; Webmaster: Vacant; Organizer: Vacant; Newsletter Editor: Bill Halpin (billhalpin@irshcultureva.org)

[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

September has been another successful month in the Division. I want to thank all of you for participating in the raffle ticket sales over the summer culminating in the winning ticket being picked at the Halfway to Saint Patrick's Day event at the Colonial Tavern on Saturday, 17 September. This year's raffle winner is James Crockett, a Saint Mary's parishioner. It was a beautiful day for the event, and I especially want to thank Shawn Lenahan for leading the ticket sales effort again this year. Just three days later, we conducted the Shamrock Degree at the monthly business meeting and congratulations are in order for newly degreed brothers Matt Messier, Walt Diercks, and Chuck Gleason.

For those of you who have not yet received the Major Degrees, there is a degree ceremony planned for the upcoming State Quarterly Meeting at St. Agnes Church in Arlington, VA, on Saturday, 15 October, if enough brothers will commit to attending. Note that you do not have to have the Shamrock Degree prior to the Major Degrees. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to get the Major Degrees so I can pass

names to the State President. Usually the ceremony starts around lunch time and takes about three hours to complete. More details will follow once the plans are finalized.

It is also Parish Festival season, and we plan to have brothers at each of them to share information about our Division and do some recruiting. Saint Patrick Parish Festival is on Saturday, 08 October, so proudly wear your green and stop by to say hello while you enjoy the festival.

And finally, I just want to congratulate our Division Chaplain, Deacon Aaron, on the occasion of his civilian retirement on 30 September! Slainte!

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

Bob Fitzgerald



Irish Sailors Salute A Hero

Adapted from an article by Ray O'Hanlon, September 20, 2022

Irish Navy sailors saluted Patrick Gallagher, the County Mayo hero during a visit to Bath Iron Works in Maine. Crew members from the L.É. James Joyce docked in Portland for a courtesy visit and traveled to the shipyard where the Arleigh Burke Class destroyer *USS Patrick Gallagher* is being built.

Patrick Gallagher arrived in the U.S. from Ballyhaunis, County Mayo in 1962 and later joined the Marine Corps where he served in H-Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division during Operation Hastings in South Vietnam. Gallagher was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on July 18, 1966, when he "selflessly threw his body on an incoming grenade," shielding his fellow Marines. The U.S. Navy account of the action: "He quickly pitched the grenade to a nearby river where it safely exploded out of harm's way, without injury to himself or others. Gallagher was killed in action one year later in Da Loc near Da Nang on March 30, 1967."

After a lengthy campaign, and with considerable input by Senator Charles Schumer, the Navy was persuaded to name an Arleigh Burke Class destroyer after Gallagher in 2018. The Irish Naval Service named a recruit class after Patrick Gallagher a number of years ago.

(The action to upgrade Gallagher's award to the Congressional medal of Honor continues.)



Henry Ford's Model T, the "universal car" designed for the masses, was introduced for sale on 1 October 1908. Henry's father was an Irish immigrant from County Cork.



The Council of Europe in co-operation with the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe will sponsor a panel discussion on the “**Centenary of the Irish Civil War**: a case-study for Europe”. It will take place in Strasbourg on 4 October 2022 9AM-11AM (our time). You can watch the event through the following link: <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/771111144601/join>



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.

Catholics Now The Majority in North

Condensed for space consideration from *Irish Echo* Sept 22, 2022 by James McCarthy

Statistics from the 2021 census show the Catholic population in Northern Ireland has overtaken Protestants for the first time. 45.7% identify as Catholic, while 43.5% as "Protestant, other Christian or Christian related".

One third (33.3%) of the people living in NI identified as "Irish." This is up from 28.4% in 2011. The number holding Irish passports increased by 60% since 2011. The number of people identifying as "British-only" is down by 8% since the 2011 census.

Sinn Féin MP for North Belfast John Finucane said “There is no doubt change is underway and irreversible. The partition of Ireland has been a failure. We can build a better future together for every person who lives on this island.”

The Good Friday Agreement states the Northern Ireland Secretary of State can call for a border poll “if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland”. We’ll have to wait and see what PM Truss’ newly appointed Secretary says.

Dublin Gathering Eyes Ireland's Future

Adapted from an article by Anthony Neeson in *Irish Echo*, Sept 29, 2022

A major event focused on the future of the island of Ireland will take place in Dublin on 1 October. An expert panel of politicians and people from civic society and the arts will discuss what a future united Ireland could look like. Among those taking part are Neale Richmond TD (Fine Gael), Jim O’Callaghan TD (Fianna Fáil), Mary Lou McDonald TD (Sinn Féin), Colum Eastwood MP (SDLP), Leo Varadkar TD (Fine Gael) and Michelle O’Neill MLA (Sinn Féin), as well as actors Colm Meaney and James Nesbitt and musicians Dónal Lunny and Denise Chaila.

One of the discussions will focus on the diaspora and will feature James Maloney MP (Canada), **Rep. Brendan Boyle (USA)**, the Honorable Martin Walsh (USA) and Paul Lynch (Australia).

Thousands of people are expected to attend. Recently pro-unity civic groups have held public meetings throughout Ireland to discuss constitutional change and the ever-increasing likelihood of a border poll. Ireland’s Future have been pressing the Irish government for a Citizen’s Assembly on Irish reunification.

Secretary of Ireland’s Future, Niall Murphy, called on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to clarify the criteria that would lead to a border poll, especially in light of the historic census results in the North. “There have been a series of shifting tectonic plates in successive elections, which have seen the inbuilt unionist majority in the North evaporate forever,” Murphy said. Ireland’s Future want to see constitutional change which delivers a new Ireland and society in which all who live here feel comfortable and have a stake in.

Ireland’s Future was established to advocate and promote debate and discussion about Ireland’s future, including the possibility and viability of new constitutional arrangements on the Island. The organization is guided by the values of the Good Friday Agreement and dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, equality and fostering mutual respect between all views and traditions that share this island.



Test Question: *Who were the Milesians?*

The Milesians, or *Mil Espáine*, were ancient Gaelic kings reportedly descended from Míl, the fictional Celtic king of Spain who invaded Ireland. Ireland’s original legal code, the

Brehon Laws, restricted the right to rule to families or clans of high social status descended from the Milesian kings.



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!*

- **8 Oct:** St. Patrick Parish festival
- **15 Oct:** Major Degree Exemplification at St. Agnes Church, Arlington
- **18 Oct:** Division meeting
- **22 Nov:** Annual **TFM Division Memorial Mass**, 7:30PM at St Jude
- **11 Dec:** Wreath presentation at Irish Bde memorial/City Dock
- **12 Dec:** **35th Anniversary of the Division Charter**
- **18 Dec:** Adoration at St Jude 3-4 PM



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- Cora Fitzgerald, mother of Bob Fitzgerald, who is undergoing dental surgery
- Chuck Lyons, a New Jersey Hibernian and friend of Tim Lynch
- Division applicant Adam Wiederman's wife and infant child.
- Jerry Timmons upcoming surgery
- Dan Mulhern upcoming surgery
- Cecilia Murphy, daughter of Booby Murphy recovery from a skull fractures
- Joe Daly, COPD
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Loretta Larzelere: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer's

- 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: Gen. 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 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)

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



Hibernian Attire

Every brother should have these articles of clothing

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.
- Second source used 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>

The AOH “uniform”:

- ***Semi-formal/formal occasions*** are 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.
- ***For Informal events*** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo/sweatshirts and optional ball cap are appropriate.

Division Logo Items: Contact for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))

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.