



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

May-June 2024

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President: Dennis O'Reilly; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **Vice President:** Jack McGovern; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Financial Secretary:** Jeff Everett; **Treasurer:** Dave McLaughlin; **Standing Committee:** Bill Hallahan; **Marshal:** Tim Lynch; **Sentinel:** Neil Hornung; **Webmaster:** Bob Fitzgerald; **Organizer:** Tim Lynch; **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.



****The Division does not meet in July. Next meeting is August 20.****

June 14 should be considered one of the most patriotic day in America. As one of the oldest and most trusted institutions in the country, the U.S. Army's birthday is a time to recognize the service and sacrifices of the soldiers who have defended the nation throughout its history. But it's not only the Army's birthday, it's also Flag Day, celebrating the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official U.S. flag. army.mil/e2/downloads/rv7/values/ArmySongInstrumental.mp3

June 6 the anniversary of the 1944, D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied France was unprecedented in scale and audacity, using the largest-ever armada of ships, troops, planes and vehicles to punch a hole in Adolf Hitler's defenses in western Europe and change the course of World War II.



President's Corner

Greetings Worthy Brothers:

The past couple of months have been active and productive. The 11th Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic took place on May 13th at Lake of the Woods Golf Course. It was a beautiful day for golf. We had 48 teams (not as many as we planned for), but better sponsorship and more raffle prizes than in recent years. Afterward, we enjoyed an exceptionally fine prime rib luncheon with all the trimmings. Thanks to all the organizers, beggars, players, golf course and catering staff, and other participants who, together, made the event successful!

Ticket sales for the trip to Ireland fundraiser have been brisk. Brother Shawn Lenihan is leading this effort. Ticket sales are scheduled on weekends through early September at the four parishes which comprise the catchment area for our Division. Division Brothers are encouraged to volunteer for these sales weekends, even if you are a member of another parish. The drawing will take place at our “Half-way to Saint Patrick’s Day” celebration at the Colonial Tavern on September 14th.

Recently, we asked the Principals and Teachers at Saint Patrick School and Holy Cross Academy each to recommend three deserving graduating students who plan to attend Catholic high schools to receive our scholastic award.

- ♣ Saint Patrick School nominated: Christal Amoako, Wyatt Brito and Renee Bernier.
- ♣ Holy Cross Academy nominated: Sofia Barton, Jaya Pai and Elizabeth Vitkovitsky.

Each nominee will receive a \$500 donation toward their tuition this coming school year. Congratulations to the nominees!

And finally, as the world prepares for the Summer Olympics in Paris, we would do well to remember the Irish had the Tailteann Games. The games date back more than 4000 years - long before the Greek Olympics. The games ran similarly to the Olympics, with chariot races, boxing, wrestling and athletic events. They took place annually in Teltown, Co Meath, and were presided over by the King of Tara. We have much to be proud of!

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Dennis M. O’Reilly
President
General Thomas F. Meagher Division
(703) 201-6959
oreillyd@ix.netcom.com



Division Administration:

Two new brothers were installed in April and four more in June.

The Division awarded six Scholastic Awards in June...

The General Meagher Division plans to host a Shamrock Degree ceremony on August 20, 2024. Bishop Sheen Division brothers will be invited to participate.



SHAMROCK GOLF 2024!

On a sunny day in May, the division hosted the 11th Annual *Shamrock Charity Golf Classic* at Lake of the Woods Golf Club, on May 13th. The number of foursomes was smaller than anticipated, but the number of door prizes accumulated by a small number of dedicated Hibernians was much larger than in the past.

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2024 Shamrock Classic 1st Place (-50)
Dan Cronin, Terry Sindt, Rick McInnis,
Jim Corson (not pictured) with TFM Golf
Chairman PDP Bob Fitzgerald



2d Place (-54)
Keith McNamara, Greg Kuzniewski,
PDP Jim O'Donnell, Steve Gress



In the beginning, as golfers were being registered, buying optional green tees, helpful 24" strings, and raffle prize opportunities, our golf committee (Bob Fitzgerald, Tim Lynch, and Dave McLaughlin) was augmented by President Dennis O'Reilly and Deacon Aaron.

Deacon Aaron opened the tourney with a prayer.



After an excellent roast beef lunch and exquisite chocolate cake catered by the LOW Clubhouse kitchen, golfers eagerly waited for their number to be called as a winner of one of the many donated raffle prizes we offered. This photo shows about 1/2 of the participants.



2024 Scholastic Awards!

Over the past 13 years the General Thomas F. Meagher Division has provided \$39,000 in scholastic awards. Each year the division presents scholastic awards of \$3,000 to selected graduates of Fredericksburg area Catholic elementary schools who are committed to attend Catholic high schools. Students are selected by the school faculty and administration based on criteria provided

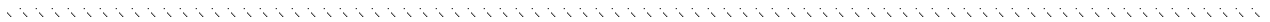
by the Gen. Meagher Division. The checks are sent to the selected high schools in the student's name to help defray tuition and related expenses. President O'Reilly presented awards:



At **St. Patrick Elementary School** the 2024 award was shared by Christal Amoako, Wyatt Brito, and Renee Bernier. Christal and Wyatt plan to attend Saint Michael the Archangel High School while Renee plans to attend Saint John Paul the Great High School in the fall. (L to R: Meagher Division President Dennis O'Reilly, Christal, Renee, Wayne, and Ms. Kaitlyn Long (8th Grade Homeroom).



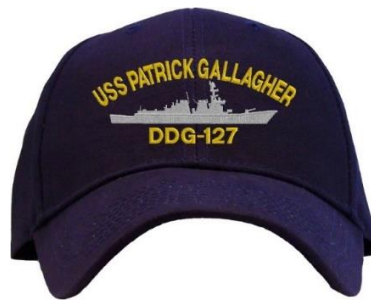
The **Holy Cross Academy** award was shared by Sofia Barton, Jaya Pai and Elizabeth Vitkovitsky. They plan to attend Saint John Paul the Great High School in the fall (L to R President O'Reilly, Elizabeth, Sofia, and Jaya) These awards and all charitable donations to various local charities are enabled by community support for the Annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle and the Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic.



USS Patrick Gallagher

In March 2022, on the 55th anniversary of Patrick Gallagher's death in Viet Nam, the keel for the USS Patrick Gallagher, designated DDG 127, was laid at the Bath Ironworks shipyard. The Naval Sea Systems Command confirmed the ship will enter water for the first time this summer. The USS Patrick Gallagher will join her sister ships the USS John Barry and the USS Michael Murphy.

Born in County Mayo in 1944, Patrick immigrated in 1962. Subject to the draft, he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps and was deployed to Viet Nam. On July 18, 1966, Patrick's team was engaged by the Viet Cong. During the firefight Gallagher and three other Marines were in a foxhole when a Viet Cong hand grenades landed on the rim. Gallagher kicked the grenade away where it exploded. A second grenade landed among the four Marines. Gallagher jumped onto the grenade to protect his friends. When the grenade didn't immediately detonate, Gallagher threw it toward the advancing enemy where it exploded. His Navy Cross citation states: "Without hesitation, in a valiant act of self-sacrifice, Lance Corporal Gallagher threw himself upon the deadly grenade in order to absorb the explosion and save the lives of his comrades". As submitted, the award was for the Medal of Honor. It was downgraded "because he wasn't killed by the grenade". An effort continues to achieve award the MOH. On 30 March 1967 Patrick was on a routine patrol near Da Nang when his unit was ambushed. Patrick was killed in action.



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.



Update: Legacy and Reconciliation Act of 2023

The English are planning to produce an “official” history of the Troubles. Of course, “official” means it will be officially written and officially approved by the English. It’ll be a “history” that probably will further disparage the Irish nationalist movement in the north of Ireland. Reminds me of a quote from Winston Churchill’s speech to House of Commons on 23 Jan 1948: “History will be kind to me because I intend to write it.”

The English will for a Prime minister on July 4th. The Labor Party candidate Keir Starmer said he’ll repeal the Legacy Act. If elected there’ll be no amnesties for paramilitaries or soldiers. Inquests must be held as well as investigations, prosecutions, and civil action. Meanwhile the Conservative Tories who have mistreated the Irish for decades, plans to introduce mandatory national service for 18-year-olds including those in the north of Ireland. Think about that! Young people from a nationalist background will be forced to join the British army! (BTW the term Tory was derived from the Middle Irish word *tóraidhe*, which means outlaw or robber.)

The European Court on Human Rights judicial review of the Act remains pending as it has since the Republic of Ireland’s petition contesting the Act was received on 19 Jan 2024. If the ECHR moves any slower it will become moot with a Labour Party win.



In Irish America magazine, Rosemary Rogers asked.

Why is it that No Irish saint has been canonized for over 700 years?

That question was answered in July 1690 at the Battle of the Boyne. That's when the Protestant Ascendancy began its rise. The Penal laws in 1695 and appeared to be a vendetta against the Irish people. The bigotry and brutality that followed presaged the Gestapo. Catholics were forbidden to speak or read Irish Gaelic, vote, own land, study medicine and law, join the army, own a horse or weapon. Even listening to Irish music was a crime. But even worse was the prohibition on the freedom to practice the Catholic faith. Priests could be hunted with hounds as if they were foxes. If priest-hunters discovered a secret Mass, the parishioners were often killed along with the priest.

Today there are 28 Irish natives on the Blessed roster, only one step away from canonization.



Buy Irish? If you can afford it!

Redbreast Cuatro Barriles Edition single-pot still Irish whiskey a testament to the artistry of cask experimentation in whiskey production. a masterful marriage of whiskey aged in four distinct cask types, each contributing its unique character. available now at **Dublin and Cork Duty Free \$110.00/bottle**

Midleton Very Rare 2024 vintage release. 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of Midleton Very Rare the pinnacle of Irish whiskey. Midleton Very Rare stands apart from many luxurious whiskeys on the market. **\$350.00/bottle**

Teeling Limited Edition Crystal Single Malt Irish Whiskey The Teeling Crystal Malt undergoes a dual fermentation with Distillers Yeast & White Wine Yeast an then it is Triple Distilled and aged in Virgin American Oak barrels. Bottled at 46% ABV Limited to just 18,000 bottles. **About \$100/bottle**

Bushmill 44-year-old Single Malt aged in Oloroso Sherry Casks, this signifies a significant milestone as the oldest single malt ever unveiled by the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery. Just 40 bottles will be available. Bottled at 48% ABV. Available at Dubai Duty Free. **\$12,000/bottle.**



On 19 June 1812 the United States of America declared war on the United Kingdom of Great Briton and Ireland



Upcoming Events



May 4, Anniversary of AOH in America

May 21 – Division Meeting

June 6: D-Day Anniversary

June 14th: The United States Army's 249 Birthday!

June 18th: Meagher Division Meeting

THE DIVISION DOES NOT MEET IN JULY



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers.

- Jim O'Donnell, prostate cancer
- Bob Fitzgerald - detached retina
- Bill Halpin Reverse Total Shoulder Replacement-Glenohumeral Joint surgery 11 June.
- Joe Daley - 100% blocked carotid artery, COPD, and hemoptysis.
- David Lee Chichester - recovering from a second heart attack within 5 months.
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Hill Hornung: Neil Hornung's brother - dementia.
- Jerry O'Brien: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- Margaret Casey: Tim Lynch's aunt - dementia.
- Mary Lou and Keith Bowers: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- Alice Wilkowski associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan - stroke

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

- Brother Jerry Timmons, died on June 3, 2023
- Gary Fitzgerald, PDP Fitzgerald's uncle, died 14 February 2024
- Ruth Pettinger: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) died on 19 March 2024
- Linda Mulhern Smith, Dan Mulhern's sister, died on 28 April 2024
- Jack Salvo, Jack McGovern's father-in-law, died.

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 -- Kelly green is the color.

- 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 are 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>
- Third option: <https://www.readygolf.com/trophy-club-green-blazer-jacket-by-readygolf/>

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>

Meagher Division shirts: Order from Minuteman Press [4122 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22408 \(540-898-7888\)](https://www.minutemanpress.com/locations/4122-Lafayette-Blvd-Fredericksburg-VA-22408)

General AOH Logo Items: <https://aohapparel.com>

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/sweatshirt and optional ball cap are appropriate.

This newsletter is an unofficial publication for members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division (44SP01) and others who may have an interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is responsible for its content.