



GENERAL MEAGHER DISPATCHES

December 2013

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NOLLAIG SHONA (MERRY CHRISTMAS) AND ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE (HAPPY NEW YEAR)

DIVISION LEADERSHIP FOR 2014



Bill McCarthy will serve as President of the General Thomas F. Meagher Division in 2014. Bill hails from Massachusetts. Bill transferred into Meagher Division from the Monsignor Bradican Division in Arlington. He joined the AOH in March 2004 and received the Order's Tower Degree in July 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and International Relations and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Bill and Joan have been married for 52 years and they have four children and eight grandchildren. They moved to the Fredericksburg and St Patrick parish in 1996.



Bill served in the U.S. Army for 27 years with assignments in command and staff positions in the U.S. and overseas. He retired in 1988 with the rank of Colonel. Post military retirement, Bill was employed by Towers-Perrin an international consulting firm. He is a founder of the Honor America Corps and a lifetime member in many organizations, including: Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, VFW, the Vietnam Veterans Association., and the U.S. Army War College Alumni Association. Bill is also a member of: 12th Infantry Regiment of Vermont Volunteers, Irish American Society of Fredericksburg, Knights of Columbus, NRA, North American Chapter of the Clan MacCarthy Foundation, Scottish Society of Fredericksburg, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Irish Brigade Camp #4



Vice President Patrick Fogarty: Patrick was born in Fredericksburg and then had pit stops in Japan, Massachusetts and New York prior to settling down back in Fredericksburg in

2012. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Virginia Tech and a Juris Doctorate from Syracuse University. Patrick joined the AOH in January 2013 and immediately volunteered to be Division liaison to St Mary of the Immaculate Conception where he represented the division at the Holy Cross Academy scholastic grant award and organized recruitment and raffle ticket events. He received the Order's Shamrock Degree in November. Patrick currently practices law at a Washington, D.C. based trade association. St Mary parishioners, Pat and Kimberly are expecting their first child this month.



Recording Secretary Dennis Ryan: Dennis joined AOH and received the Shamrock degree in 2013. Dennis holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management, a Master of Business Administration Degree in Aviation, as well as others. Dennis is widowed from the former Grace Alice Clark of Washington, D.C. They were married for 39 years and have two sons. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army for over 24 years. His assignments included numerous operational, training and staff assignments in the U.S. and overseas. He retired with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four in 1988. Dennis continued to serve the Department of Defense in various capacities. He worked for the Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Sea Systems Command, Marine Corps Systems Command, and the Department of the Army both in the U.S. and overseas. He retired from the Army Intelligence and Security Command in 2012. He is a life member of the Army Aviation Association and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. He is also a member of the American Legion and the Clan Cunningham Society. Dennis is a past Grand Knight of the Battlefield Council, Knights of Columbus and a St Mary of the Immaculate Conception parishioner.



Financial Secretary Bill Gilhooly: Financial Secretary Bill Gilhooly: Bill joined the AOH in 2011, receiving the Shamrock Degree that year and the Major Degree in 2012. Bill was re-elected as Financial Secretary for the third consecutive year. Bill was an Army brat and was raised a numerous Army installations in the U.S. He holds degrees from the University of Texas at El Paso, Boston University and Florida Tech. Career-wise, Bill spent 42 years as an army officer and Department of the Army civilian; retiring in 2010. He joined the Knights of Columbus at Ft. Sill, OK 1972.



Treasurer Bud Logan: Bud joined the AOH in 2010 and received both the Shamrock and Tower Degrees in 2011. He served the division as Marshal for the past three years and has volunteered to support every division external activity, including: Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment, parish events, ticket sales recruiting efforts, the St Patrick Day parades and Battle of Fredericksburg commemorations. His effort was rewarded when he was selected Virginia

Hibernian of the Year in 2012. Bud hails from Philadelphia where he attended Catholic high school and St Joseph University. Bud retired from Exxon Mobile and worked in Dallas and New York prior to owning a printing company in Vienna. He and Natalie moved to Lake of the Woods in 2003; they have one daughter and three grandchildren.



Standing Committee Chair Jim McMorrow: Jim joined the AOH in 2011 and received the Shamrock (2011) and Tower Degree (2013). Jim is always willing to go the extra mile, volunteering to support all division external activities, including parish events, ticket sales, and recruiting efforts. He was the main force behind this year's Halfway to St Patrick Day Party and our Christmas Party. He also provides *gourmet* meals for our social hours. Jim was born in the shadow of Yankee Stadium (the Bronx) and raised in Brooklyn. He attended St Matthew grade school and a vocational high school. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at age 17 and immediately after high school graduation entered on active duty. That year he also joined the Knights of Columbus. After five years in the Marines, Jim went to work for the telephone company where he remained for 35 years. A St Patrick parishioner, Jim has three children and six grandchildren.



Marshal Bill Phillips: Bill joined the AOH in 2009 and is recipient of both the Shamrock and Major Degrees. He was born and raised in Darby PA, not far from Philadelphia. He is a product of Catholic elementary and high schools and completed undergraduate study at Drexel (BS, Business) and graduate study at Marymount University (MBA). Bill's career was in information systems and he retired from the Army Information Software Systems Center at Fort Belvoir, where is last position Deputy Commander. Bill served in Army signals intelligence (1957-60) ASA, and is member of the Knights of Columbus - PGK and is the current Faithful Navigator. He and Pat have been married 51 plus years; they have three children and five grandchildren. Hobbies include golf and enjoying most sports.



Sentinel John Hogan: John joined the AOH in 2010 and received the Shamrock and Tower degrees in 2011. He has served the division as Sentinel for three years and can be counted on to volunteer in support of division external events -- ticket sales, recruiting efforts, etc. John was born and raised in Boston where he attended the Cardinal O'Connor minor seminary for his last three years of high school and evening classes Boston College. Commissioned in the Air Force, John served 25 years as a maintenance and logistics officer. Assignments took him to the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Japan, plus California, Texas, Illinois and Maryland. His ultimate assignment was Deputy Wing Commander, Andrews AFB, where he was responsible for maintenance performed on Air Force One and other VIP aircraft. Post retirement, John was employed by the American College of Radiology in Reston. John and Lynne moved to Lake of the Woods in 2002; they have two daughters and seven grandchildren. A Saint Patrick Catholic

Church parishioner, John is also a Knight of Columbus (55years!) and served seven years as treasurer of the Battlefield Council.



Halpin's Parting Words -- We have a great slate of officers to lead us in 2014. It is a creative mix of veteran brothers and newer members. Our nominating committee did outstanding work developing this corps of executive leaders.

I'm honored to have served as division president for the past four years. Through team effort, we've grown by more than 60% and are now positioned to generously donate increasing sums to support Catholic education, pro-life organizations, local parishes' diocesan work camps, and other Irish-Catholic/Catholic activities. We've established ourselves in the community and in area Catholic parishes through our Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration, the Trip for Two raffles, Irish breakfasts, recruiting events, the Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment initiative, and we've received favorable media publicity in the *Free Lance Star* and the *National Hibernian Digest*.

My special thanks to the Officers and Committee Chairmen who led the Division and really made these great things happen. These men are the finest examples of ***Hibernian zeal, generosity, volunteerism and action***. Special honors go to our elected officers. Shane **Quinlan** selflessly served the division for four years as Treasurer, Recording Secretary Gene **McKenna** who chronicled our progress in the past three years, and Financial Secretary, Bill **Gilhooly** who kept the division in good standing with National and State, precisely tracked due payments (and non-payments) for the past two years and is being 'rewarded' by election for a third term. John **Hogan** and Bud **Logan** served as Sentinel and Marshal respectively for the past two years and supported every external event we've sponsored; both joined the officer slate again for 2014. Bill **Phillips** served twice, once as Chairman, Standing Committee and last year as Vice President and Jim **O'Donnell**, last year's Standing Committee Chair ran the most successful Trip for Two Raffle in Division history. Jeff **Fitzpatrick** served as Financial Secretary, Vice President and St Mary parish liaison for multiple years and is main impetus behind the Irish breakfasts, St Patrick Dinners at Holy Cross Academy, and of course our St Patrick Day parade and Irish Fest at the brewery. For years Joe **O'Connor**, the 2011 VAAOH St Columcille Award winner, willingly volunteered to serve the division and the Catholic community and ensured our social hours would be successful. Hugh **O'Brien**, past division and state president, served as *consigliere* (in the Irish sense), charities committee chairman, and never failed to entertain us with brief (and sometimes not-so-brief) articles on contemporary Irish issues and history. Jim **McMorrow** made immediate and positive impact on the division when he joined two years ago: Gourmet delights at meetings and spearheading our 2013 external events! Of course, Chuck

Payne was the catalyst behind our Help & Hope initiative. **These men deserve your special thanks!**



At our December 17th meeting our 2014 officers were installed by the VAAOH President, Bruce Denault. In the photo they are (r to l): Dennis Ryan, Bill Phillips, Bill Gilhooly, Patrick Fogarty, Bill McCarthy, Father Keven Fimian, Bud Logan, Jim McMorrow, and John Hogan.



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT:



Our Christmas party was a great success again this year. About 40 Hibernians and spouses attended and had a great time enjoying fine dining, dancing to spectacular music by `Ned's Oldies but Goodies_, and just having a good time. Our Chaplain, **Father Fimian** attended, visiting every table to say hello and offer a blessing. Thanks to **Jack McGovern's** initiative, Mary's Shelter will receive a large box of toys donated by attendees. The `Irish_ gift exchange went well and **Paul O'Brien** was the lucky with the 50/50.

«Special Features this Month!»



151st Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg

The Division was well represented at the 151st Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg: Pete Carroll, Pat Fogarty, Bill Gilhooly, John Hogan, Bud Logan, Bill McCarthy, Gene McKenna, Hugh O'Brien, Joe O'Connor, Bill Phillips, and Dennis Ryan. (See article pp 1 & 6, Dec 16th *Free Lance Star*)



(GRIFFIN MOORES / THE FREE LANCE-STAR)
Pete Carroll and Bill Phillips, Vice President, Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Div., Ancient Order of Hibernians



Bill Gilhooly and Gene McKenna place wreath





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Our Sentinel John Hogan (always on the lookout for us!) sent this excerpt from a John F. Kennedy address to both houses of the Oireachtas on 28 June 1963. The *Oireachtas Éireann* is the Irish National Parliament that consists of the President of Ireland (*Uachtarán*) and the two legislative bodies (the *Dial* and *Seanad*). The speech is a tribute to our namesake, General Thomas Francis Meagher and the Irish Brigade.

Extract from President Kennedy's Address to the Oireachtas – June 1863

By Eddie Synnott

The following extract from President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's address to the Oireachtas shows the esteem which the Irish Brigade and Brigadier General Thomas F. Meagher are still held in modern day America:

Mr Speaker, Prime Minister, Members of the Parliament: I am grateful for your welcome and for that of your countrymen.

The 13th day of December, 1862, will be a day long remembered in American history. At Fredericksburg, thousands of men fought and died on one of the bloodiest battlefields of the American Civil War. One of the most brilliant stories of that day was written by a band of 1,200 men who went into battle wearing a green sprig in their hats. They bore a proud heritage and a special courage, given to those who had long fought for the cause of freedom. I am referring, of course, to the Irish Brigade. General Robert E. Lee, the great military leader of the Southern Confederate forces, said of this group of men after the battle, 'The gallant stand which this bold brigade made on the heights of Fredericksburg is well known. Never were men so brave. They ennobled their race by their splendid gallantry on that desperate occasion. Their brilliant though hopeless assaults on our lines excited the hearty applause of our officers and soldiers.'

Of the 1200 men who took part in that assault, 280 survived the battle. The Irish Brigade was led into battle on that occasion by Brigadier General Thomas F. Meagher, who had participated in the unsuccessful uprising of 1848, was captured by the British and sent in a prison ship to Australia, from whence he finally came to America. In the fall of 1862, after serving with distinction and gallantry in some of the toughest fighting of this most bloody struggle the Irish Brigade was presented with a new set of flags. In the city ceremony, the city chamberlain gave them the motto 'The Union, our Country, and Ireland Forever.' Their old ones having been torn to shreds by bullets in previous battles, Captain Richard McGee took possession of these flags on September 2nd in New York City and arrived with them at the Battle of Fredericksburg and carried them in the battle. Today in recognition of what these gallant Irishmen and what millions of other Irish have done for my country, and through the generosity of the Fighting 69th, I would like to present one of these flags to the people of Ireland.

As you can see, gentlemen, the battle honours of the Brigade include Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Gaines Hill, Allen's Farm, Savage's Station, White Oak Bridge, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, and Bristoe's Station.



Make some time (approx. one hour), to view this really good BBC documentary about St Patrick and the Irish (you can skip the ad). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulBkv7pU9Eo>



[play video](#)

[How the Celts Saved Britain - HD - 1of2 \(BBC\) - A New Civilisation... youtube.com](#)

Provocative two-part documentary in which Dan Snow blows the lid on the traditional Anglo-centric view of history and reveals (in part 2 of 2) how the Irish saved Britain from cultural o



Watch for this new Headliner in 2014:

GENERAL MEAGHER DISPATCHES



GENERAL THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER DIVISION
FREDERICKSBURG/ SPOTSYLVANIA NO 1
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

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