



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

**ESTABLISHED IN 1775, YOUR UNITED STATES ARMY
WILL CELEBRATE ITS 246TH BIRTHDAY ON 14 JUNE!**

June 2021

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President's Corner

Dear Brothers,

I ask you to focus on our two fundraising activities this summer. Please ask your friends and neighbors to buy our raffle tickets and please donate a little of your time to help with the ticket sales after selected Masses at your parish during the next three months. In addition, I ask you to tell any golfers you know about our annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic coming up on Monday, September 13th. I will send you the letter we use so you can ask friends businesses and others to support this fundraiser with donations.

In our Motto and Slainte,

Dave





June is a special month:

- ✓ **6 June: D-Day Anniversary (with video)**
- ✓ **14 June: U.S. Army's 246th Birthday (with video) and Flag Day**
- ✓ **20 June: Father's Day**

D-Day at Pointe du Hoc, France: The battle for Pointe du Hoc became one of the most heroic moments of the D-Day invasion. A battalion of U.S. Army Rangers scaled this 100-foot promontory overlooking Omaha Beach with nothing more than ropes and rickety ladders. As enemy gunfire and grenades rained down picking them off they climbed the cliff, secured the strategic high ground, and silenced a battery of long-range German guns.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=pointe+du+hoc+pics&&view=detail&mid=B8845F493F9C9BAF9E06B8845F493F9C9BAF9E06&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dpo>

U.S. Army Birthday: Often lost in the haze of history is the genesis of U.S. Army special operations. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS), an intelligence agency during World War II, was led by military personnel. President Truman disbanded OSS in September 1945 and in doing so transferred all operations to the Army. The Army formed Special Forces in 1952. They trained to conduct counterinsurgency, unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance and related missions. A year later the Army established a paramilitary capability trained to obtain intelligence not available by other means. In developing training curricula at Fort

Bragg and Fort Holabird both activities adopted and adapted OSS doctrine. [Click here! Ballad of the Green Berets - YouTube](#)

Father's Day: Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, worked to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to obtain support for her idea and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910. It became a nationwide holiday in the United States in 1972.

READ MORE: [The Man Who Inspired Father's Day Was a Single Dad and Civil War Vet](#)



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 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.

Irish Civil War

28 June marks the start of the Irish Civil War (*Cogadh Cathartha na hÉireann*). Subsequent to signing the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921, two opposing groups formed. One was pro-treaty Provisional Government and the other anti-treaty Irish Republican Army. The forces Provisional Government became the Irish Free State in December 1922. The IRA faction believed the treaty was a betrayal of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic delivered by Patrick Pearse during the East Rising of 1916.

The outbreak of the Civil War forced pro- and anti-treaty supporters to choose sides. Supporters of the treaty came to be known as "pro-treaty" or Free State Army, and anti-treaty advocates called themselves Republicans and they claimed to be defending the Irish Republic declared in 1916 and confirmed by the First Dáil in 1919.

The Civil War split the IRA. When the Civil War broke out, the Anti-Treaty IRA (concentrated in the south and west) outnumbered the Free State forces by roughly 12,000 men to 8,000. Nonetheless a lack of heavy weapons forced them to adopt a defensive stance throughout the war.

The IRA was unable to maintain an effective guerrilla campaign and gradually loss support. The Catholic Church supported the Free State and denounced the IRA to the extreme of refusing the Sacraments to anti-treaty fighters.

The conflict ended in 1923. Éamon de Valera issued this statement to the IRA/Anti-Treaty fighters on 24 May:

Soldiers of the Republic. Legion of the Rearguard: The Republic can no longer be defended successfully by your arms. Further sacrifice of life would now be in vain and the continuance of the struggle in arms unwise in the national interest and prejudicial to the future of our cause. Military victory must be allowed to rest for the moment with those who have destroyed the Republic.

BTW two of the main political parties in the Republic today are *Fine Gael* and *Fianna Fáil* -- direct descendants of the opposing sides of the war.

An Gorta Mór Commemoration

The Irish Hunger Memorial is a 0.5-acre park at the corner of Vesey Street and North End Avenue of Manhattan in New York City. The memorial is dedicated to raising awareness of the Great Irish Hunger, *An Gorta Mór* in Irish, in which more than one million starved to death between 1845 and 1852 as a result of British policies.



The Memorial is a reminder to millions of Americans who proudly trace their heritage to Ireland, of those who were forced to emigrate during one of the most heartbreaking tragedies in the history of the world. "The Great Hunger" began in 1845 when a blight destroyed the Irish potato crop, depriving Ireland of its staple food. By 1847, millions of Irish were starving and dying. Between 1847 and 1852 hundreds of thousands of Irish immigrated to New York where they arrived at South Street Seaport and Castle Garden.

The 96' x 170' Memorial, which contains stones from each of Ireland's 32 counties, is elevated on a limestone plinth. Along the base are bands of texts separated by layers of imported Kilkenny limestone. The limestone is more than 300 million years old and contains fossils from the ancient Irish seabed. The text, which combines the history of the Great Famine with contemporary reports on world hunger, is cast as shadow onto illuminated frosted glass panels. From its eastern approach the Memorial appears as a sloping landscape with a pathway inviting visitors to walk upward past a ruined fieldstone cottage and stone walls toward a pilgrim's standing stone. At the western end of the Memorial, 25 feet above the pavement, a cantilevered overlook offers views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, emblems of America's welcome to the Irish and to all immigrant people.

From the western or river end, the visitor approaches the Memorial through a formal ceremonial entrance that recalls the court cairn or graves of the Irish Neolithic period that are found in the Irish northwest. The ramped passageway ends inside the ruined fieldstone cottage that was brought to New York from the townland of Carradoogan, County Mayo.

The cultivated area of the Memorial, one-quarter of an acre, is significant. In 1847, Sir William Gregory proposed an additional clause to the Irish Poor Law stipulating that no person occupying land of more than one-quarter acre was eligible for any relief. This law had a devastating effect and contributed to the suffering. The unroofed abandoned cottage reminds the visitor of the stark choice between survival and holding home and hearth.

Nearly two miles of text have been installed in illuminated bands that wrap around the base of the Memorial. The text includes some 110 quotations, including autobiographies, letters, oral traditions, parliamentary reports, poems, recipes, songs and statistics. Backlit text panels are installed behind frosted glass sections that appear to the visitor as shadows. At night the light functions as a beacon to those on the river.



By The Way: PUBS in Ireland are set to reopen

On June 7, outdoor dining will reopen for pubs and restaurants and it's expected that indoor dining will return in July. The government's official rules: A one-meter distancing rule at the bar and a maximum of six people at a table. There will also be a time-limit of 105 minutes per sitting.

What happens at 1 hour and 46 minutes?



Upcoming Division Events



Government restrictions are being lifted – stay tuned!

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

June 13th: T4T raffle ticket sales at St Patrick Parish. Contact Bob Fitzgerald to help

June 15th: Division meeting begins at 7:30PM

June 17th: Virginia AOH State Meeting: Virtual, 7 -8:30PM (nominations for State Board officers for the 2021-2023 term)

July 11th: T4T ticket sales at St Patrick Parish – contact Bob Fitzgerald

August 8th: T4T ticket sales at St Patrick Parish – contact Bob Fitzgerald

August 20-23: Virginia AOH State Convention in Richmond

September 12th: T4T ticket sales at St Patrick Parish – contact Bob Fitzgerald

September 13th: Shamrock Charity Golf Classic @ Lake of the Woods Country Club

September 18th: Halfway to St Patrick Day/T4T drawing @ Colonel Tavern 11:30AM-5PM



Our DIVISION Prayers



Jack Grey chairs the Division Committee of the Sick: Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting (RHGrey@yahoo.com//540-373-4496).

Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **John Hogan:** pulmonary fibrosis and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- **Peter Carroll:** pancreatic cancer, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Jack Grey:** diagnosed with a protein related blood disorder
- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Brian Kiernan:** VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema

- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald’s sister-in-law suffering 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)
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks’ son (chemo-compromised immune system) *Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton:* <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers.



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)

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 Dooley Division:

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

AOH Sash: The AOH tri-color sash represents the national colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck) 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, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waistline).

Sashes are available from:

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

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.