



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

January 2023

Volume 11No 1

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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.



Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Duit

(avleen fway vosh-ah gwitch)

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**President's Corner:**

Brothers all - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Our Division's 35th anniversary was in December and Brother Bill Halpin updated our history and other items of interest in a very informative pamphlet which I hope all of you get a copy of at the upcoming January business meeting. It's especially valuable for brothers who do not yet have the Major Degrees. If you can attend the upcoming State Quarterly meeting in Fairfax Station on Saturday, 28 Jan, the pamphlet contains valuable information for use in the ceremony.

We'll have the Shamrock Degree at our business meeting on Tuesday, 17 Jan. Both the Shamrock and Major Degrees are vital for your development as a Hibernian brother. I encourage you to take the time to attend these exemplifications. If you are able to attend one or

both of these Degree ceremonies, please let me know as soon as possible so the hosts can be prepared.

Meanwhile, Division effort for the new year is ongoing with budget development, planning for the raffle and golf tournament, Irish American History Month, and many other activities. Your active participation is needed to make our Division successful and I look forward to working with you on these events in 2023 and beyond.

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

Bob Fitzgerald, President



The Free Lance Star's 14 December edition carried an excellent account Mali Lucas-Green's family history. Her great grandfather, a mule driver for the Confederate army crossed the Rappahannock with his family to escape slavery as Lee's army was preparing defensive positions at the sunken road on Marye's Heights. This was a feat of desperation and courage. It reminded of my mid-19<sup>th</sup> century antecedents risking everything in crossing the Atlantic Ocean to escape the oppression of English dominance in Ireland.

Lucas-Greens' account was an important contribution to Fredericksburg recognition of the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, a small gathering watched as General Thomas F. Meagher Division brothers, the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment re-enactors, and members of the Irish Brigade Camp No.4 presented wreaths at the Irish Brigade memorial located close to the Rappahannock City Dock where the Irish Brigade crossed the river. This was a quiet and solemn display honoring the incredible bravery and determination in the fight for the Union at Fredericksburg. The irony on this anniversary was the remarkable absence of the National Park Service. For many years NPS historian Frank O'Reilly added important context to the day as he recounted General Meagher exhortation as his soldiers prepared for battle. This year the NPS decided not to honor the Irish Brigade, but instead chose to honor the 7<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Regiment which lost 51 soldiers killed, wounded or

missing at Marye's Heights. According to one NPS ranger (not O'Reilly), a decision was made to honor other units from year-to-year. Who knows when balance will be restored to the universe.



### *2022 in Review*







AOH National Convention July 2022



Mike Yearsley @ John Hogan Funeral



Gene McKenna 50yrs a Hibernian



IAHM Display @ Salem Church



Dennis O'Keefe Hibernian of the Year 2021



Book donation @ Summit Academy



Scholastic Award @ St. Patrick



Raffle Ticket Sales @ St. Matthew



Shamrock Degree May 2022



Scholastic Award @ HCA

## HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT RETURNS

After a two-year pandemic hiatus, the General T. F. Meagher Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and Colonial Tavern will host the 12th annual Halfway to St. Patrick Day Celebration on Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Live music will be provided by DragonFyre and Sibling Rivalry, Irish dancers from the Muggivan School of Irish Dance will perform, Irish food specials will be half price, a limited number of commemorative mugs filled with an Irish beverage will be available for purchase, and the winner of the 14th annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle will be drawn. The lucky winner will choose between the six-day trip or the alternate cash prize of \$2,500. There's no admission charge.







*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.*



**It's official** after two years President Biden has appointed a Special Envoy to the north of Ireland. Joe Kennedy III, grandson of Bobby Kennedy, was appointed as “Special Envoy to Northern Ireland for Economic Affairs”. This came as a surprise to many who considered former congressman Bruce Morrison a better candidate. But, like everything else, this appointment is about American politics. Appointing Joe Kennedy provides him with a platform to launch his political future. The “for economic affairs” caveat is the same title George Mitchel was given when appointed in 1995. President Biden plans to visit the north of Ireland in the April-May timeframe to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday Agreements.



On Irish matters, it seems Massachusetts rules. Former member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives Claire Cronin is now U.S. Ambassador and former Massachusetts congressman Kennedy is our Special Envoy. As an aside, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker will be the next NCAA president.



A record 1,080,000 Irish passports were issued by the Irish Passport Office in 2022. More than 1.15 million applications were received. Nearly 100,000 applicants were from the north of Ireland and Great Britain.



**December Trivia Question:** In the USA the term “plantation” is commonly used to describe large tracts of farming and grazing land. What is the origin of the term?

**ANSWER:** In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the English confiscated Irish owned lands as a means of controlling and anglicizing the Irish. The English “transplanted” loyalist Protestants from

England and Scotland to Ireland where they assumed ownership of the confiscated lands. They called the lands “plantations”. This fundamentally changed the Irish culture primarily in Ulster, but elsewhere as well.

**January Trivia Question:** In Irish mythology, what does the salmon provide?



### *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 Jan:** Epiphany
- **TBD:** Fredericksburg Religious Freedom March
- **17 Jan:** Division monthly meeting/Shamrock Degree
- **28 Jan:** AOH State Convention/Major Degrees exemplification @ St. Mary ff Sorrows, Fairfax Station
- **1 Feb:** Virginia Pro-Life Day in Richmond. Learn more at [VaProLifeDay.org](http://VaProLifeDay.org)



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

- **Joe Daly, COPD**
- **John Needham: back surgery**
- **Frank Connors: abdominal surgery**
- **Neil Hornung: knee surgery**
- **Gene McKenna: Covid 19**
- **Russell McLaughlin:** Dave McLaughlin’s brother - frontotemporal dementia
- **Chuck Lyons, a New Jersey Hibernian and friend of Tim Lynch**
- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald’s sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer’s
- **Jerry O’Brien:** Paul O’Brien’s brother – cancer
- **John O’Brien:** Hugh O’Brien’s brother-- recovering from stroke.
- **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
- **Mary Lou and Keith Bowers:** St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- **Alice Wilkowski** (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan
- Division applicant **Adam Wiederman's** wife and infant child.

***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

*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](mailto: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'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>



***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))

### **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.

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