



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

Oct-Nov-Dec 2025

Vol. 13, No 5

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@irishcultureva.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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Brothers can now pay annual dues using this link:

<https://square.link/u/wy5vb2Jt>



President's Corner

As my time as your President comes to a close, I wish to thank each and every member of our Division for their efforts to make our Division better in every way. Keep up the good work, and support Brother Jeff Everett as our new President, and the other elected officers for the upcoming two-year term.

Our namesake was a significant player in the struggles for Irish independence in the mid-1800s and as commander of the Irish Brigade during the Civil War. Shortly before he was deported as a state prisoner, he wrote a letter to Jay Leonard, a friend in Paris, in which he shared his thoughts about the situation in Ireland at the time. *"Never; never was there a country so utterly downcast, so debased, so pitiful, so spiritless. ... Thus too, shall Ireland survive all her sufferings, her errors, and disasters, and rear one day an "Arch of Triumph" high above the wreck and wilderness of the past. This is my sincere faith. It is this which elates me at this moment – it is this which in my weary exile will make me forget my solitude, forget my privations, forget all the happiness I have sacrificed, and change what would otherwise be a weary bondage into a tranquil, happy dream."*

And so it is with us. The world today is a much different place than it was in Meagher's time. And while there are challenges on every front, there is reason for hope. Hope is the basis for faith. Keep the faith and be persistent in the work to achieve the goals of our noble order.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

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It became necessary that this edition of Meagher's Dispatches include activities in October, November and December.

In October:

- We welcomed Timothy Parker into the division. He is a transfer from the Lt. Col. Dowd Division, a native of New York and a retired USMC officer currently employed as a contractor supporting the Marine Corps at Quantico. He is a parishioner at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish. At the meeting he volunteered to serve as division liaison to his parish.
- On October 18th, the division hosted the LAOH/AOH quarterly meeting at Holy Cross Academy. Although lightly attended, the hard work of Brothers Bob Fitzgerald, Dave McLaughlin, Jeff Everett, Shawn Lenahan, Ian Grady, Tim Lynch and Ed Hennessey assured success.
- On October 21st the "Nominating Committee" announced a slate of seven nominees for the 2026-2027 term. At the meeting, calls for other nominees did not produce competition or a nominee for Treasurer and the nominations were closed. This was the nominee slate:
 - ♣ President: Jeff Everett
 - ♣ Vice President: Mike Keegan
 - ♣ Recording Secretary: Bill Halpin
 - ♣ Financial Secretary: Ian Grady
 - ♣ Treasurer: **No nominee**
 - ♣ Standing Committee: Bill Hallahan
 - ♣ Marshall: Bill Daly
 - ♣ Sentinel: Neil Hornung

In November:

- We elected the above named officers for the 2026-2027 term
- The Charities Committee report included 15 organizations. Two new charities added are the Duffy Food Pantry and funds to help defray the cost of The Summit Academy rugby sled. The proposed charity amount for 2026 is \$10,800.00.
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The 2025 T4T winner, Vince Willgig, decided to take the Trip for Two to Ireland. Shown here are T4T chairman Shawn Lenahan with Mr. and Mrs. Willgig. Vince bought the winning ticket after Mass at St. Matthew Church

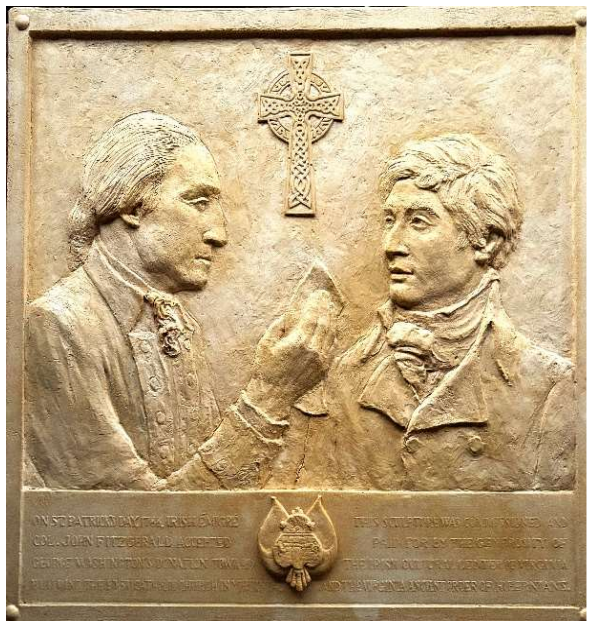
- We honored our deceased brothers with a memorial Mass celebrated by Father Paul Eversole at St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church.



Photos by Bill Halpin

Deceased Brothers

John A'Hearn (Charter Member)	Richard Fleming – d. Feb 2013	Joseph McCardell (Charter Member)
Lewis M. A. Barrett	John A. Glancy – d. 1 Feb 2006 (Charter Member)	William McCarthy d. 8 May 2015
Ray Beaver – d. 04 Oct 2017	John C. (Jack) Grey d. 4 Feb 2025	Neil Mulcahy – d. 8 Feb 2017
Phil Booty – d. 12 Feb 2015	James Hagerty – d. 30 May 2024 (Past Division President)	Rev. Fr John Munley d. 26 Apr 1995 (Charter Member)
William J. “Bill” Callahan – d. 02 Mar 2021 (Charter Member)	Donald A. Hildebrand, Sr. (Charter Member)	Joseph O’Connor – d. 1 Dec 2015 (Charter Member)
David Coon (Charter Member)	John Edward Hogan – d. 14 Feb 2022	John O’Toole (Charter Member)
Ed Cranshaw – d. 21 Jul 2016	Thomas G. Leahy – d. 6 Dec 2007 (Charter Member)	John F. Parker – d. 25 May 2010
Ronald Cullen – d. 19 Jul 2016 (Charter Member)	Michael "Mick" Linehan – d. May 2015	Larry Pratt – d. 20 Jul 2016
John Cunningham (Charter Member)	Jim Mannion – d. 4 Dec 2012 (Charter Member)	Earl Smith d. 2007 (Charter Member)
Jeff Fitzpatrick – d. 14 Oct 2016	Francis Maxey (Charter Member)	Gerard “Jerry” Timmons – d. 03 Jun 2023
William Fitzpatrick (Charter Member)		John Tracy – d. 21 Apr 2020



General Meagher Division was a major donor

On December 6th, The Irish Culture Society of Virginia's gift to the Basilica of Saint Mary was unveiled. The bronze raised relief sculpture was blessed by Father Hathaway, Basilica of Saint Mary Rector. A reception followed in the Lyceum attended by an estimated 50 Hibernians and others. On either side of the AOH logo, the words are:

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 1788, IRISH EMIGRE COL. JOHN FITZGERALD ACCEPTED GEORGE WASHINGTON'S DONATION TOWARD BUILDING THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN VIRGINIA.

THIS SCULPTURE WAS COMMISSIONED AND PAID FOR BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTER OF VIRGINIA, INC. AND VIRGINIA ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.



(L to R) Rev. James R. Searby Parochial Vicar; Terry Riley Vice President Irish Culture Society; Very Rev. Edward C. Hathaway Rector; Bill Halpin (PSP) President Irish Culture Society; Vince Eikmeier Virginia AOH State President; Jay McCarthy (PSP) Society board member



Sculptor Thomas Marsh with Project Manager Terry Riley



Wreath Presentation at Irish Bde Memorial:

December 14th 2026 was a bitterly cold and windy day at the Irish Brigade memorial in Fredericksburg. Nine Meagher Division brothers joined 28th Mass reenactors, The Irish Rifles, Camp#4, Irish Brigade, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to honor Irish sacrifices in 1862.



Brothers Daly, Everett, McGovern, Newsome; Fitzgerald and Grady
Not pictured are Brothers Carroll, Halpin and Lenahan



Division VP Jack McGovern presenting a history of the Brigade activities during the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862



Officers Installation for the 2026-2027 Term



State AOH President Vince Eikmeier officiated at the Meagher Division officer installation ceremony on 17 December. Pictured here are (L to R) Vice President Mike Keegan; Sentinel Neil Hornung; President Jeff Everett; State President Vince Eikmeier; Recording Secretary Bill Halpin; and Financial Secretary Ian Grady. Not pictured are Marshal Bill Daly (excused/injury) and Standing Committee Chair Bill Hallahan.



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.

The Northern Ireland Legacy Act:

In September, the Joint Legacy Framework was agreed to by the British and Irish governments, a marked a victory for victims' relatives, who had defeated the Tory Legacy Act in the Court of Appeals and discredited the ICIR Commission it set up. The Irish government was commended for taking Britain to the European Court and for getting Britain to agree terms that had the potential to give justice, after decades of bad faith and injustice.

However, British PM Keir Starmer has double crossed the Framework agreement and supports British veterans' organizations, some retired British generals and the SAS Regimental Association who demand special amnesty for their troopers, which would violate the European Convention on Human Rights and break with the Joint Legacy Framework agreement with the Irish government. Starmer's proposed amendments include the amnesty provisions of the original Legacy Act and are extended to include the Royal Ulster Constabulary.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Dec 14: Wreath presentation at Irish Bde memorial, city dock in FXBG (assemble @ 10:30) the Irish Brigade suffered horrendous casualties during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Dec 16: Division meeting, officer installation for 2026-2027 term

Dec 25: Jesus Christ, savior of the world, is born

Jan 1: The Meagher Division officers elected for the 2026-2027 term assume their official positions

Jan 11: K of C National Religious Freedom Day March

Jan 23d: The Washington, DC March for Life. National AOH plans are underway for the annual AOH March for Life Breakfast and Mass. Peadar Tóibín will be the keynote speaker at the breakfast! Peadar Tóibín is an Irish politician who leads Aontú, the conservative republican political party he founded in 2029. He has been a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Meath West constituency since 2011. He previously served as Chair of the Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs from 2016 to 2018.

Jan 31: 2nd Annual “An Irish Evening at Pub” with Irish trad music by Tim Trant. Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1372 Mary’s Way, Woodbridge. Admission is \$25 includes drinks. Food will also be available. For advance tickets call Tom Welsh at (703) 634-8185



Our Division Prayers



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

- Deacon Aaron: Suffering from complications from thyroid cancer surgery.
- Peter Carroll, pancreatic cancer
- Bob Fitzgerald, PDP, detached retina.
- Joe Daley, COPD
- Candy O'Donnell, wife of Brother/PDP Jim, undergoing chemotherapy.
- Russell McLaughlin: Brother Dave's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Hill Hornung: Brother Neil's brother - dementia.

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

- Brother Jack Grey, died February 4, 2025
- PSP and Parliamentarian Brother Rich Aleksy, died April 15, 2025
- Robert Eugene Tinnell, Bob Fitzgerald's Uncle, died June 11, 2025
- Rene Dominguez, Bill Halpin's brother-in-law died July 12, 2025
- Evangeline Rose Fitzgerald, granddaughter of Brother Bob, died September 23, 2025

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



Hibernian Attire

Every brother should have these articles of clothing.

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.

Meagher Division polo & sweat shirts: Order from Minuteman Press, 4122 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22408 (540-898-7888)

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets -- Kelly green is the color.

- One source: 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 Option:** 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>

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

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.