

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY Parade



March 17, 1991 Washington, D C



## Remembers

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St. Patrick's Day Parade



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1917-1990

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# St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C.

2532 Lindley Terrace, Rockville, Maryland 20850 (301) 424-2200

Chairman  
MATTHEW J. HANNON

March 17, 1991

Dear Friends,

"The Contribution Of the Irish To the United States Military" is the theme of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is proud to honor the Irish and Irish-American men and women who are serving in the United States Military Operation Desert Storm, as well as the thousands of Irish and Irish-Americans who have served the United States during previous military conflicts. Instead of selecting one Grand Marshal to lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year, the Parade Committee asked the U.S. Military to select an Irish-American from each branch of the armed forces to lead the Parade.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is also celebrating the 20th anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington, D.C. As part of this celebration, we are dedicating this Magazine to the memory of John O'Beirne, a hard-working, loyal organizer of this Parade over the years, as well as other Irish causes. Mr. O'Beirne passed away during the past year.

Our magazine tells the story of many of the Irish who have distinguished themselves throughout U.S. military history. We also review the history of this Parade. We hope you enjoy the magazine after joining us to salute all of the Irish and Irish-American men and women who have served in the U.S. Military and to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

On behalf of the Irish American Club and the 1991 St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, we wish to thank the National Capital Park Service, and all the businesses, organizations, and individuals who made the 1991 St. Patrick's Day Parade possible.

Cead mile failte. Cead mile buiochas.

May the blessings of St. Patrick be yours.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Hannon  
Chairman  
St. Patrick's Day Parade

# William "Howie" McClennan Gael of the Year

*By Richard Joseph Barry*

William Howard McClennan, former president of the International Association of Fire Fighters of the AFL-CIO, is widely known as "A fire fighter's fire fighter."

Howie McClennan graduated from the High School of Commerce, attended 2 years at Boston University Business School, Boston College-High Labor Relations School, and special labor programs at Harvard College and the Universities of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Before entering the fire service, Mr. McClennan managed the largest supermarket in the world, the Manhattan Market, and was elected president of the Central Square Businessmen's Organization in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During this period, Howie employed a young fellow named Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, later a Massachusetts Congressman and Speaker of the House.

After this six-year stint at the Manhattan Market, Howie discovered his true life's endeavor—fire fighting. Howie joined Engine Co. 17 of the Boston Fire Department in November 1942, with his first call to duty the infamous Coconut Grove inferno.

A cheerless rain fell that afternoon of November 28, 1942, as Sugar Bowl contender Boston College awaited their archrival, Holy Cross, at Fenway Park. Heavily favored Boston College expected an easy win over Holy Cross and a bowl bid. Fenway Park was filled to capacity as stunned fans watched Holy Cross dominate play that afternoon upsetting B.C. 55-12. Local fans, were initially disappointed over the loss of the Sugar Bowl bid, but elected to continue with preplanned celebrations at a popular nightspot, the Coconut Grove. By nightfall, the Grove had filled to well over 1,000 people, exceeding its legal capacity by more than 500. The nightclub's exterior was made of masonry with interior decorations of cloth, paper, bamboo, rattan, and a blue satin ceiling. Shortly after 10 o'clock that evening, an employee of the Grove was replacing a light bulb in a paper palm tree and struck a match to see in the darkness. The palm tree ignited and flames soon reached the satin covered ceiling which rained-down burning embers throughout the club. The fire produced noxious vapors that rendered many patrons unconscious within a minute. Others attempted to flee, only to find most fire doors locked. There were only two useable exits, which quickly became blocked by hundreds overcome by smoke. The Boston Fire Department was at the scene within 1 minute of the outbreak of fire and sounded five alarms within the first 20 minutes. The firemen had great difficulty getting to the fire as all entrances were blocked. Four hundred and ninety-one people perished that evening in the Nation's worst nightclub fire.

As a result of this tragedy, Mr. McClennan mounted a



union campaign to enact comprehensive fire and safety laws. His efforts produced substantially improved fire codes throughout North America.

In 1951, he was appointed Commissioner of Firemen's Relief for the State of Massachusetts and served a term on the Board of Fire Prevention Commission appointed by the Governor. He was successful in cutting the firemen's work week in Boston from 64 to 48 hours. He also served as delegate to all but one of the IAFF Conventions since 1942. Howie served as legislative representative of his local and successfully lobbied for better benefits and protective legislation for fire fighters throughout Massachusetts, and later served as vice president of the IAFF's Third District representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which organized 95 percent of the fire fighters and provided collective bargaining and arbitration laws in four of six New England States.

A fire fighter for 26 years, McClennan was vice president of the IAFF Union for 10 years, national president of the International Association of Fire Fighters of the AFL-CIO, and the first president and founder of the Public Employees Department of the AFL-CIO, and member of

the executive board of the AFL-CIO for 12 years. He also served on the executive board of the National Muscular Dystrophy Association and worked with Jerry Lewis' National Labor Day Telethon.

President McClennan helped achieve a 40-hour work week, a national collective bargaining law, and an aggressive organizational drive in all districts represented by the IAFF.

President Nixon appointed Mr. McClennan as vice chairman of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control which founded the National Fire Academy. Later, President Ford appointed him to the National Commission on Productivity.

Howie was married to his late wife, Muriel, for 33 years and has two sons, Ronald and Howard, Jr., five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Howard McClennan, now 84, has remained active in labor and community service groups including Friends of Ireland and other philanthropic causes. Mr. McClennan, president emeritus of the International Association of Fire Fighters, attended the AFL-CIO National Convention in February 1991, and continues to be actively involved in the affairs of its members. Howie is an avid sports fan supporting the Washington Redskins, the Caps, and the Boston Red Sox.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee salutes the extraordinary life and career of William Howard McClennan for his great charitable works and his unceasing efforts to improve the public safety for all Americans.



*Jim Snyder of the Fire Department Emerald Society of Washington, D.C. presents the Dublin Fire Brigade Plaque to Howie McClennan.*

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We salute William Howard McClennan, an outstanding labor leader and a wonderful human being.

We join the members of the armed forces leading the parade because they represent all of the courageous men and women who are fighting for peace in the Persian Gulf.

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# Commodore John Barry Father of the American Navy

By Kathleen P. Dunlavy

John Barry, known as the "Father of the American Navy," was born at Tacumshane, County Wexford, Ireland in 1745. At the age of 10 he went to sea as a cabin boy. At 15, he settled in Philadelphia and sailed on colonial merchant ships. By the time he was 21, John Barry was in command of his own merchant ship, the *Black Prince*.

Barry was respected by Philadelphia's merchants and seamen. He had more record passages from the West Indies to Philadelphia to his credit than any other captain in the port. He had once carried all sail through a hurricane in which several vessels had been lost so as to be back in port on the day he promised. Among the sailors, he was known as a humane man, firm but kindly to his crew.

In 1775, the marine committee of the Continental Congress was given the task of creating a navy for the colonies in anticipation of a British naval blockade. Building and launching the ships would take months and time was not on the colonists' side. The Congress elected to convert merchant ships into warships. John Barry offered the *Black Prince* as a warship for use against the British. Barry's willingness to fight British tyranny was rooted in his memories of poverty and oppression in his native Ireland. Because his parents were Catholics, they were forbidden to own land, to rent land of more value than 30 shillings a year, to own a horse worth more than 5 pounds, to educate their children except in state schools, or to have a gun in their house for self-protection. Since emigrating to America, Barry had experienced personal and religious freedom that was unknown in Ireland. Now those freedoms were being threatened again by the British, and so, John Barry cast his lot with the colonists.

He distinguished himself in battle as he had as a merchant seaman. Barry was the first naval commander commissioned by the Continental Congress and was given command of the brig *Lexington* in March 1776. One month later, the *Lexington* became the first ship of the American navy to capture a British warship, and Barry at once found himself a national hero. His other commands included the *Effingham* and the *Raleigh*.

Later in the war, at the conclusion of a 48-hour battle with the British frigate *Experiment* and the *Unicorn*, Barry set the *Raleigh* afire near the Penobscot River to avoid capture by the British. He and his men made for land and escaped.

Things were going badly with the other ships of the young American Navy. About this time it was crushed almost out of existence. With no ships to command or sail in, Barry joined the army and served with distinction

for the next couple of years.

Early in 1781 he returned to sea, being given the 32-gun frigate, the *Alliance*. It was on the *Alliance* that John Barry participated in the last battle of the war. It was against the British frigate *Sybil*, and in less than 1 hour the *Sybil* was a silent floating wreck barely able to break off the fight. When *Sybil* challenged *Alliance* to identify herself, Barry shouted, "This is the United States ship *Alliance*, saucy Jack Barry, half Irishman, half Yankee, who are you?"

It was because of his skill as a fighting seaman, and the reputation he had made, that in 1794 he was sent against the Algerian pirates. In 1798, when there were hostilities with France, he was given command of the United States naval forces in West Indian waters.

John Barry has often been referred to as Commodore. There was no such rating in the United States Navy until July 1862. Captain was the highest rating although the nonofficial title of Commodore was applied to a Captain in command of two or more vessels. Because of his success in the training of young officers who were later to make their mark, John Barry was also called the "Father of the American Navy."

Captain Barry married twice — his first wife died in 1771 and in 1777 he married Sarah Austin and was survived by her. Captain Barry left no descendants from either marriage. He died on September 13, 1803, and was at the time the senior officer in the Navy. He was buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church in Philadelphia.

In 1876, the City of Philadelphia erected a monument to his memory in Fairmont Park as part of its Centennial celebration. In addition, another statue of Barry was dedicated in Franklin Park in Washington, D.C., by President Woodrow Wilson. An Irish postage stamp commemorates John Barry. In 1956, the United States government erected a statue in the Wexford harbor bearing the following inscription.

Presented to the people of Ireland by the United States of America, in 1956, in recognition of Commodore Barry's outstanding contribution to the naval annals of his adopted country . . .

Further information about John Barry and the early United States Navy can be found in *John Barry* by William Clark; *The Father of the American Navy* by George Baird; *Rebels Under Sail* by William M. Fowler, Jr.; and *Sea of Glory* by Nathan Miller. Children can read of John Barry's exploits in *John Barry, Father of the American Navy* by Leonard Wibberly.

# John Fitzgerald: Alexandria's Forgotten Son of Erin

By Anne Finnegan McGrath

Two companies of Infantry, Capt. Simpson's cavalry, a company of Riflemen, the Silver Greys in full procession they had come — the officers, mourning relatives, pallbearers, the guards, the music. And the corpse, John Fitzgerald, his horse carrying his military accoutrements in one of the largest military funerals in Alexandria's history.

It was December 4, 1799. And, at four o'clock, the sixteen guns fired by Capt. Harper's artillery signalled to the citizens of Alexandria that their former mayor, their defender in the Revolution, and bosom friend of George Washington, Colonel John Fitzgerald, was being buried across the Potomac in the state of Maryland.

The men of the 106th Regiment had marched from the courthouse to Fitzgerald's home to the wharf. From there, with the Colonel's remains, his family and friends had boarded a barge to a burial place opposite Mount Vernon.

But why had Alexandria's leading Catholic layman and a founder of Virginia's first Catholic church been barged from Jones' Point in Virginia to Warburton Manor in Maryland? And why has this accomplished son of Erin and prominent citizen of Alexandria been neglected by so many history and guidebooks of his adopted home up to the present? The answer may be as complex as the career of John Fitzgerald itself.

A most unusual immigrant, he arrived in the new little port city about 1770 as a paying passenger on a returning tobacco ship — unique in itself. More often the Irish came to the colony of Virginia as indentured servants or even convicts.

John Fitzgerald's business skills and genial manner soon won him acceptance among the Scottish merchants who had founded the town in 1749. A history-making friendship began at a ball Fitzgerald hosted in 1770, at which he first met George Washington. Washington often visited Alexandria on business in those years, and, in 1773, the Irishman was an overnight guest at Mount Vernon — a privilege he was to enjoy dozens more times.

The next official exchange between the two patriots was a letter written in 1774 by a Committee of the Fairfax Independent Company of which Fitzgerald was a member, asking Washington, then a delegate to the Continental Congress, to make inquiries for supplies for the company. Many colonists saw that the War with England was imminent, and such independent companies — small military units — were growing in number. Washington had also been solicited by the Virginia Companies to take command as a field officer.

By 1775 Fitzgerald's import-export business was well-established; he and his Scottish partner had bought lots at the foot of King St., in the Old Town section of Alexandria, where John built his own wharf. Then, in Feb. 1776, Washington appointed the Irishman as his official aide-de-camp with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and, in November, Fitzgerald joined Washington's forces at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The following year, at the Battle of Princeton, Lt. Col. Fitzgerald was credited with saving Washington's life. For this act, he won the affection of his leader's adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, who later referred to him as "a gallant and warm-hearted son of Erin."

After the fierce winter of 1778 at Valley Forge, John Fitzgerald returned to Alexandria and purchased the property known today as the Seaport Inn. In 1779 he married Jane Digges of a well-connected Maryland family. In the ensuing years, his ties with Washington deepened both on the battlefield and off — including such endeavors as the Potomac Company, the General's dream to open the West for trade.

No less significant than his military and business achievements were John Fitzgerald's religious and ecumenical contributions. Prior to 1785 and the Act Establishing Religious Freedom, the Catholics of Alexandria attended Mass in a log building and later at the home of Colonel Fitzgerald. But the War had spelled a victory for religious as well as political freedom.

After the Revolution, on St. Patrick's Day 1788, Fitzgerald hosted a dinner for some leading gentlemen of the time including George Washington. Plans for the erection of St. Mary's Church were made at this party, and it is said that Washington himself contributed to the building fund. The General, although a member of Christ Episcopal Church, was quick to acknowledge the loyal service of the Irish in his ranks. Fitzgerald led the fund drive, and the first Catholic church in Virginia became a reality in 1795.

The Colonel also served as Mayor of Alexandria (1797) and as Collector of the Port from 1798 until his death.

On Feb. 22, 1799, the last year of his own life, John Fitzgerald escorted General Washington into Alexandria, where he passed a line of military companies in review. Afterward came the Birthright Ball in honor of Washington which Colonel and Mrs. Fitzgerald attended — a festive beginning for a year which would end with the closing of two distinguished careers.

Yet, for all these accomplishments, why was John Fitzgerald barged across to Maryland for burial? And why

have his name and fame been obscured up to this day?

The burial arrangements may be explained by his marriage to a prominent Catholic Marylander, Jane Digges, whose family owned an estate at Warburton Manor. Also, until the revolution, Catholic burial in Virginia had been restricted.

As for Fitzgerald's neglect by local historians and Alexandria guidebook writers, several possibilities occur. First, Alexandria was settled by Scotsmen and Presbyterians. Fitzgerald's influence may have been legitimately overshadowed by the prevailing influence of the Scottish founders.

Then, too, during the Irishman's term as Collector of the Port, an appointment by President John Adams, there had been charges of mishandling of monies by one of Fitzgerald's employees. Had he fallen into disfavor or disgrace as a result?

Even more puzzling was the entry in Washington's diary for Dec. 4, 1799, which made no mention of the funeral of his Colonel but referred only to the weather of the day! Could it have been that Washington — only two

weeks away from his own death — had been unaware of the funeral? Or had there been a falling out between the two men? Time has obscured the reasons.

For this was the same man whom Washington had described in 1787 and who has earned the right to be remembered as:

... a person in whose skill and integrity ... (one) may ... have the fullest confidence ... a Gentleman who is a native of Ireland, Col. John Fitzgerald. The active Services of this Gentleman during the War, his long residence in the Country, and intermarriage in it (with one of the most respectable families, Digges of Maryland) all entitle him to be considered as an American. The laws of this Country know no difference between him and a Native of America. ...

Anne Finnegan McGrath, a freelance writer residing in Bethesda has been active with the Irish-American Community for 19 years.

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Miss Marguerita "Margo" Grace Ragan was selected to represent the Washington, D.C. area in the Rose of Dulse Festival in Tralee County Kerry Ireland.

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WE WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL  
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SELECTION OF WILLIAM HOWARD MCCLENNAN  
AS GAELE OF THE YEAR

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Congratulations to the  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Committee**

and

Best Wishes to our Friends

**The Armed Services Honor Guard**  
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and

**William "Howie" McClennan**  
1991 Gael of the Year



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General President



# "YOU WILL HEAR OF WAR AND RUMORS OF WAR."

## MATTHEW: CHAPTER 24, VERSE 6

Mary Coakley Farris

Following is a letter, dated July 4, 1844, that my great, great grandmother, Molly Gaffney of Ranelstown, County Meath, Ireland, wrote her daughter, Margaret, in New York. I submit this cherished family letter to the St. Patrick's Parade Committee magazine because of its historical bond to our present national and personal anguish of war and to the parade's salute to the military.

Molly and her husband, my great, great grandfather, Johnny Gaffney, lived during a "war" that continues one hundred fifty years later without resolution. They would be proud of their U.S. descendants who served their country with distinction in World Wars I and II, and Vietnam.



Ranelstown

4th July 1844

I received your welcome letter which made us all very happy to hear you were well as this leaves us at present thanks be to God for all his mercys. My Dear Daughter your letter has contradicted a bad report circulated here by Patt Dowd who came home from America and he would not know you you looked so reduced which made us very uneasy to get you home, but I think he leaped out of the pan into the fire for he is no better at home than starving and we have a bad prospect next year for the potatoe crop and oats never was so bad, the leader of our country and his companions who were struggling to better our conditions is put in prison for daring to ask anything for us and the country is full of soldiers ready to pounce on us to murder us for daring to ask for fair play and how it will end I know not, but our noble regenerator O'Connell mourns in a prison for poor oppressed Erin. My Dear Daughter your father's health would not admit his going to America for he is declining fast and nothing would make us so happy as to have you at home for fear you should want for and in consequence of the bad report circulated by Dowd on his coming home.

Paddy's wife and children stops with us and we are

endeavoring to send them to school with Simon and Briney. I wish poor Paddy never went to America for he would be alive now and over his children who are without him forever.

Mr. Kennedy and family is well and was glad to hear your being well and they beg of you to attend your religious duties whenever you can, your old acquaintances and neighbors sends there best respects to you. Jenny and Jack and all of us is in pretty good health except your poor father who is constantly complaining.

Thom and Kay and family is well and sends there best wishes to you. Bartle Keiman and his wife and children is well and would be very happy to go to America if they got any assistance as the times here are not likely to get better, write to us as soon as this comes to hand as it will be very gratifying to us to hear from you. May God Bless and Protect you from all Evil. The constant prayers of your attached father Johnny Gaffney your mother Molly Gaffney Jimmy Jack Briney and Rosey Gaffney.

NB as we cannot think of going this year if you can spare anything think of your poor Father and Mother in your next letter

"And the Molly's and Johnny's continue to weep."



Glenn J. Farris, a son of the author, served as a U.S. Army intelligence officer in Vietnam from 1968-1970. A sister of the author, T. Anne Coakley, served in Vietnam as a U.S. Public Health Service nurse from 1965-1968. A nephew, Thomas E. Coakley, served as a soldier with the U.S. Army in Vietnam until he was wounded. While a patient at Walter Reed Army Hospital, he met Nellie Harniss, also a Vietnam vet, the nurse responsible for his ward, and his future wife. Twenty years, four Coakley's, and 6728 hockey games later, Tom and Nellie are

champions of veterans' efforts. Both volunteered expert technical assistance for the national television series, "China Beach," and were featured on the series. They initiated and directed the development of St. Lawrence University's Steinman Festival of the Arts, "Vietnam: War and Memory." In addition to counseling numerous vets, Nellie is the New York state chair of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, and was the first woman appointed to the New York Veterans Affairs Committee.

**Fraternal  
Greetings  
To The**



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**A. L. "Mike" Monroe**  
*General Secretary-Treasurer*



# William Corby, CSC

Chaplain, Irish Brigade  
(1861-1864)

President, University of  
Notre Dame

by Kathleen P. Dunlavy

If you have visited the Gettysburg Battlefield, you may have noticed his monument — a bearded man in a frock coat with a hand raised to bestow a blessing. The statue commemorates the service of Father William Corby as the chaplain of the Irish Brigade. Father Corby, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, was one of eight order members to serve as Civil War chaplains. He is perhaps the best known of the chaplains due to his later position as the President of the University of Notre Dame.

William Corby, a Michigan native, was the son of a prominent Detroit physician. In the fall of 1853, he entered the University of Notre Dame along with three younger brothers. The following year, he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross. Father Corby earned a reputation as a serious student at Notre Dame and was ordained as a priest on Christmas Day 1860. He held a number of administrative posts including Prefect of Discipline and pastor of St. Patrick's parish in nearby South Bend.

During the fall of 1861, Father Corby resigned his professional and other duties at Notre Dame to volunteer his services at the front as a chaplain. Shortly thereafter, he was accepted by the Governor of New York and appointed to General Thomas Francis Meagher's famous Irish Brigade. The Brigade was a welcome sight to other Union regiments. One Union colonel, upon seeing a rush of soldiers coming to his aid, asked, "Is that the Irish Brigade?" "Yes, Colonel, we are here," shouted General Meagher. "Thank God, then, we're saved!" Confederate troops also had reason to remember the fighting spirit of the Irish. "Here comes that damned green flag again," was shouted when the Irish Brigade would engage them.

To begin his chaplaincy, Father Corby travelled to Camp California near Alexandria, Virginia, and was assigned to the 88th New York Regiment of the Irish Brigade. For the next 3 years, he followed the Brigade, offering spiritual assistance on the battlefield and in the hospital. He held the rank of Captain of Cavalry and assisted the Irish Brigade in its mission at Fair Oaks, the Seven Days' Battle, in the wilderness and on the Peninsula, at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Petersburg.

It was at Gettysburg that Father Corby distinguished himself as a chaplain. On July 2, 1863, the afternoon of the second day of battle, the Irish Brigade was posted on a spot of land called Cemetery Ridge. The Confederates

began their attack and the Irish Brigade was a part of the division ordered to the rescue.

Father Corby asked permission to speak to the Brigade. Major St. Clair A. Mulholland, one of the division's regimental commanders recalls: "There is yet a few minutes to spare before starting, and the time is occupied in one of the most impressive religious ceremonies I have ever witnessed . . . the Brigade stood in columns of regiments closed in mass. As a large majority of its members were Catholics, the chaplain of the Brigade, Reverend William Corby, proposed to give a general absolution to all men before going into the fight.

"Father Corby stood upon a large rock in front of the Brigade. Addressing the men, he explained what he was about to do, saying that each one could receive the benefit of absolution by making a sincere act of contrition . . . urging them to do their duty well, and reminding them of the high and sacred nature of their trust as soldiers . . . the Brigade was standing at 'Order Arms' and as he closed his address every man fell on his knees, with head bowed down. Then, stretching his right hand toward the Brigade, Father Corby pronounced the words of general absolution . . .

"The scene was more than impressive; it was awe-inspiring . . . the act seemed to be in harmony with all the surroundings. I do not think there was a man in the Brigade who did not offer a heartfelt prayer. For some, it was their last. They knelt there in their grave clothes."

After the war, Father Corby returned to Notre Dame's campus. He served two terms as its President and is credited with the rebuilding of the University after a devastating fire in 1879. He was elected Provincial-General of the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States and later chosen as First Assistant General for his Order. At the time of his death in 1897, he was Commander of the only G.A.R. post composed entirely of members of a religious order.

Father Corby's absolution at Gettysburg was captured in a monument erected on the battlefield by the Catholic Alumni Sodality of Philadelphia in 1910. A replica of this monument can be seen on the campus of the University of Notre Dame — in front of Corby Hall, the Holy Cross priests' residence.

Further reading on Father Corby and the Irish Brigade can be in *Notre Dame, One Hundred Years* by Arthur J. Hope, CSC; *Memories of Chaplain Life* by William Corby, CSC; and *The Irish Brigade* by Captain D.P. Conyngham.



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## John W. O'Beirne 1917-1990



John O'Beirne was a gentle, simple man. That he was.

He was proud of his country, his heritage, his family, his career, his religion, his home, and his friends. John enjoyed his Irishness, his family, his gardening, the Bureau, singing, good conversation, and his friends.

John was not a showman. "I'm just an Irish tenor", he'd often say. He loved to laugh and joke with the best of them and to tell a story with a few carefully placed embellishments on himself was always worth repeating.

John O'Beirne was a true man, an honest friend, and is a fond memory for many. I know of few he met who did not smile at seeing him again. You only need ask once for him to sing, and when he finished, your Irish eyes were smiling.

John worked feverishly on many Irish-American projects, especially this St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, as Chairman of the Advertising Committee and as a Member of the Board of Directors.

But his success as Founder of the American Foundation for Irish Heritage and his tireless lobbying for passage of H.J. Res. 482 was one of his greatest joys and final triumphs.

H.J. Res. 482 became Public Law 101-418, which designates March 1991 as, "Irish-American Heritage Month," the first National recognition to the contributions of over 42 million Americans of Irish descent to the founding, growth, and culture of this great Nation.

The Foundation will continue with John's dream although the void seems impossible to fill, but their determination is sincere.

Our time together was short, but so very grand.

God bless and Safe home.

Farewell, Squire, we miss you.

## Susan Kelly Long Gael of the Year 1990

Susan Kelly Long, 88, died January 16, 1991, at Holy Cross Hospital, of congestive heart failure.

Susan Kelly was born in County Galway, Ireland, the 5th of 12 children. She came to the United States in 1923 and married Owen Long. She was blessed with 7 children, 25 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

During the late 1940's and 1950's, she and her husband helped to revitalize the Irish American Club by holding fundraisers in her home.

From 1934 to 1976 she was a waitress at the Sulgrave Club and at dinner parties given by Washington Hostess Pearl Mesta.

Susan Kelly Long chose daily to "do her bit" for lonely Irish immigrants, her neighbors, and her community. She encouraged countless people with a cheery word or a helping hand.

In 1990, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee selected Susan as Gael of the Year for her outstanding service to the Irish American Community.

We will miss her.





## A Salute to Troy Evans

The St. Patrick's Parade Committee welcomes Troy Evans as a special guest to our Parade. Troy embodies the spirit of our Parade through a combination of his Celtic background, his distinguished military career, and his star role as Sarge in the television series, *China Beach*.

The eldest son of nine children, Troy was reared in Butte, Montana, (rumored to be the most Irish city in our country). President of his senior high school class in Kalispell, Montana in 1966, Troy attended the University of Montana, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967, and served 16 months with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He received numerous awards for his Vietnam service, including the Bronze Star medal, National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign medal, Combat Infantry Badge and the Gallantry Cross.

Since his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1969, Troy pursued varied, diverse careers, which eventually took him to Los Angeles, California. For the past 15 years, Troy has been a professional actor. In addition to *China Beach*, Troy has been a guest star on many television programs, including *Twin Peaks*, *L.A. Law*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Matlock*, and *Dallas*. He has been featured in numerous movies and performed in dozens of plays. Troy has won 5 Dramalog awards.

Troy, we wish you continued success, and we salute you!



# The Irish Brigade Of the Army of the Potomac

By Donald C. Coventry

By the middle of the nineteenth century a number of important political and social issues, which had been left unresolved at the time the United States was formed, were threatening to tear the young Nation apart. Looming largest among these was the continuing existence of the institution of slavery, and the question of its possible expansion into the federal territories as they were admitted into the Union as new States. Additionally, the precise division of authority between the States and the National Government in a number of other areas had been left rather vaguely defined by the framers of the Constitution. By the early 1860's the emotions engendered by these controversies had reached dangerous levels.

The spark needed to ignite the tinderbox, which American political life had become, was provided by the electoral victory of the recently formed Republican party in November 1860. The Republicans, and their presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, were pledged to prevent the creation of any new slave states from the federal territories. The reaction of the slave-holding South to this perceived threat to the status quo was both immediate and extreme. In December South Carolina formally terminated its membership in the Union, and, by the time actual hostilities commenced in April 1861, six other States of the lower South had followed suit. The attack on Fort Sumter prompted the secession of a further four States, completing a Southern Confederacy which was now in open rebellion against the National Government.

President Lincoln's call for troops to serve a 3-month enlistment in defense of the Union reflected a rather naive, albeit widely held, appreciation of the magnitude of the coming struggle. The appeal was responded to with enthusiasm in all areas remaining loyal to the Union. Many military units were formed to augment the State troops. A number of them were financed by private citizens. Sporting an immense variety of uniforms (regiments attired in the red pantaloons and fezzes of the French-Algerian Zouave units were particularly popular), and possessing little or no practical military training, most of these troops were incorporated into existing State units when the realization that the war would be long and unpleasant began to sink in. One unit, raised in the earliest days of the war, did manage to distinguish itself from the very first and maintained its unique identity throughout the course of the entire conflict. This was the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac, whose story is the subject of this article.

The Brigade was built around a core of three New York State militia units which, by the late 1850's, were already heavily Irish in their composition. These were the 63rd, 69th and 88th New York Regiments. To these later were

added two regiments raised specifically as Irish units in the Boston and Philadelphia areas. There were, respectively, the 28th Massachusetts and the 116 Pennsylvania. These five units, each with a strength of between 700 and 1,000 men, were commanded by the man whose brainchild the Irish Brigade was, General Thomas Francis Meagher.

Meagher's career, prior to the start of the Civil War, had been a very eventful series of ups and downs. Born in Waterford in 1823, he was the son of a wealthy and influential family. He had received a privileged education in both Ireland and England, and had established a successful law practice in Ireland before he was out of his twenties. An ardent nationalist, the young attorney had associated himself with the efforts of the statesman Daniel O'Connell to achieve the repeal of the Act of Union of 1801. This Act had abolished Ireland's separate Parliament and reduced her to a position of permanent political subordination in the Parliament of the United Kingdom at Westminster. Meagher's participation in the desperate, famine-driven, Rising of 1848 earned him a life sentence in the British penal colony of Tasmania, where he arrived in 1849. Although he was a convicted felon, the political nature of Meagher's offense — as well as his standing in Irish society — assured him a rather comfortable incarceration. His wife had been permitted to accompany him to Tasmania, and the couple resided in a small cottage in an isolated part of the island. By early 1852 Meagher had made plans to escape. As Mrs. Meagher was expecting a child, she did not accompany him. The lightly guarded convict managed to reach the coast and a prearranged rendezvous with an American ship, and reached the United States in the spring of 1852. The joy of freedom was diminished when he received word that his wife had died in childbirth in Tasmania. By the time the American Civil War started 9 years later Meagher had made himself a new life in New York City. He was a successful attorney and had married Elizabeth Townsend, the daughter of a wealthy local merchant.

Meagher's enthusiasm for the cause of the Union, while certainly deeply held and completely sincere, was not, however, without ulterior motive. In common with most of his fellow countrymen residing in the United States, Meagher had never forgotten the injustices which had been inflicted on his homeland by its British rulers. On Saint Patrick's Day, 1858, a secret society, dedicated to the achievement of Irish independence, had been founded in New York. This was the Irish Republican Brotherhood, popularly known as the *Fenians*. The men who brought the I.R.B. into being were largely veterans of the Young Ireland movement, which had organized

the abortive Rising of 1848. Although Meagher himself was not a member of the Fenians, he obviously was in sympathy with its goals.

The outbreak of war in the United States in 1861 presented the Fenians with a unique opportunity to prepare for their ultimate objective. The leaders of the society reasoned that service in the Federal armies could provide large numbers of their sympathizers with the training and combat experience which had been so desperately lacking in previous Irish attempts to liberate their country. It would also enable them to attract new members from among the many native-born or first-generation-American Irishmen with whom they would be serving in the ranks. Toward this end, Fenian companies began enlisting in the three New York militia regiments soon after the start of the war.

The Irish Brigade did not come into being formally until the spring of 1862. By that time, however, individual regiments, which were distinctively Irish, had already gained a formidable reputation as fighters. The 69th New York was the first of these to fight, at First Bull Run, the opening battle of the Union's effort to suppress the Rebellion. Under the command of Colonel Michael Corcoran, the regiment performed impressively in an engagement that was an unmitigated disaster for the army to which it belonged. The men of the 69th did not give ground until the rest of the Federal army was in full flight around them, and when they finally did retire it was in good order. Their courage and tenacity were singled out for high praise in the official dispatches and newspaper reports of the North and South alike.

The Peninsular Campaign of the spring and summer of 1862 was the first in which the three New York regiments fought together, under Meagher's command, as The Irish Brigade. This campaign, an initially bold attempt to capture Richmond from the east by landing the Union Army on the Virginia coast, degenerated into a miserable failure, largely as a result of the hesitancy and indecision of the Federal commander, General George McClellan. Although tactically successful in most of the campaign's engagements, superior South strategy — and a good deal of bluff — caused McClellan to react as if he had been defeated. Despite this, the Irish again distinguished themselves, proving their abilities both on the defensive and in the attack. By mid-August the Federal high command had decided that there was little or no chance that the effort on the Peninsula would succeed, and the Army of the Potomac returned to Northern Virginia. The Irish Brigade had suffered more than 700 casualties on the Peninsula, a figure representing almost one fifth of its original strength. By the autumn of 1862, the initial enthusiastic surge of volunteers had thinned considerably. A special recruiting trip to New York City by Meagher and several of his staff officers netted only about 250 of the more than 1,000 men needed to bring the Brigade up to full strength. In this weakened condition the Irish were soon to go through the bloodiest single day which they, and the Army of the Potomac, were to experience during the entire course of the war.

The Battle of Antietam, fought on 17 September 1862

near the little town of Sharpsburg, Maryland, was one of the most crucial of the Civil War. The somewhat marred Union victory, which was its outcome, ended the first Confederate invasion of Union territory. It also gave Abraham Lincoln enough of a success to justify issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, which put the Union cause on a higher moral plane and greatly diminished the likelihood of European intervention. The role played by Meagher and his Brigade at Antietam was of significance in gaining the victory, although at such cost that it threatened the continued existence of the unit.

The Irish did not go into action until the battle, which had begun at 7:00 a.m., was already more than 2 hours old. Their objective was to assault and overrun troops of the 6th Alabama Regiment who were holding a sunken rural road at the very center of the Confederate line. To accomplish this task they had to launch a frontal attack across 250 yards of open ground, the protection afforded by the natural parapet the road created enabled the Southerners to deliver a devastating fire on their exposed attackers at relatively minimal risk to themselves. Over a 3-hour period, the Irish made four assaults against the sunken road. Each was stopped cold by withering volleys of aimed rifle fire. Finally, a number of the Brigade's troops were able to position themselves at a point where they could fire down onto the Confederates and a fifth charge carried the position. The Irish success cracked open the center of Lee's line, but at the cost of 540 men killed, wounded, and missing. Several key officers of the Brigade had died in the fight, and Meagher himself had been carried from the field unconscious — although unwounded — after his horse was shot out from under him. The sunken road for which so many men had suffered and died passed into American history as the "Bloody Lane."

Darkness and mutual exhaustion ended the battle of Antietam after 14 hours of carnage. The battle was not renewed on the following day and, on the night of the 18th, the Confederates withdrew across the Potomac into Virginia. General McClellan's failure to pursue and destroy the badly hurt Southerners probably lengthened the war and undoubtedly cost him his command. Shortly after the battle, the greatly weakened Irish Brigade was strengthened by the assignment of the 116th Pennsylvania Regiment to its command. Although the 116th originally had been recruited as an Irish unit, it had absorbed many men of German and native American background and was no longer regarded strictly as a Green Flag Regiment. Despite this "shortcoming" it served loyally and bravely with the Brigade throughout the remainder of the war. In late October 1862, the Army of the Potomac crossed into Virginia to commence a new campaign, aimed at the capture of Richmond and the termination of the Rebellion.

The series of attacks in the Battle of Fredericksburg which the Army of the Potomac made in an attempt to dislodge the Confederate army from Marye's Heights, which rise above the town, have long been regarded as among the most courageous — and certainly the most futile — assaults ever made by American soldiers. It had

been the battle plan of General Ambrose Burnside, who had replaced McClellan, to capture and fortify Marye's Heights before the arrival of the Confederates. Delays in the delivery of material for pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock prevented this, but, despite strong warnings from his commanders, Burnside refused to budge from his original strategy. On 13 December 1862, the Union troops made 14 separate frontal assaults against their entrenched enemies on the Heights. None of them succeeded in reaching the Southerners' positions. The second of these attacks was made by the Irish Brigade, and it managed to struggle further toward the Heights than any of the others. Twenty five paces from the Confederate lines, the Irish could advance no further into the fire which was directed against them. The day's battle had cost the Union more than 12,000 casualties; the Southern losses were about 4,500. Meagher's men had lost 545 men out of 1,300 engaged. The wounded and dying Federal troops spent the night lying on the field of battle in temperatures that fell below freezing.

Despite the disaster, what remained of the Irish Brigade hosted a banquet that night to celebrate the arrival from New York of new green regimental flags for each of their units. Many high ranking officers from Burnside's staff attended and the event was concluded with reluctance only when Confederate solid shot started to hit the roof of the theatre that had been commandeered for the occasion.

The Irish Brigade served with the Army of the Potomac throughout the remainder of the war at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and at the siege of Petersburg. The losses it had sustained earlier in the war prevented it from taking as important a role in many of these later battles; by the final campaigns it was virtually a skeleton unit. It did, however, manage to retain its separate identity until the very end. The very heavy casualties suffered by the Brigade had caused some second thoughts among the leaders of the Fenian movement regarding the wisdom of encouraging Irishmen to serve in the Union army. Meagher himself had resigned as commander of the Brigade soon after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, stating that the remaining force was not large enough to require a brigadier general to lead it. He left the army in 1864 to become more active in Irish-American, and national, politics. After the war he was appointed Secretary of the Montana Territory. In 1867 he drowned accidentally in the Missouri River, bringing his strange and fascinating career to an equally unusual end.

The postwar plans of the Fenians met with very little success. By 1865 it was estimated that the movement had approximately 30,000 members, of whom slightly more than half were serving in the Federal armies. It was hoped that these men would form the nucleus of a force 100,000 strong to wrest Canada from the British as a pawn in negotiations for Irish independence. These numbers simply did not materialize. By the end of the Civil War most of the Irishmen who had fought in it, even those who had been the most fervent nationalists in 1860, were war-weary and eager to get on with their lives

in the United States. These men had not abandoned their aspirations for Ireland's liberty. Many were willing to work politically, or to contribute financially, to serve the cause, few, however, relished the thought of further warfare after the ordeal from which they had so recently emerged alive.

Despite the lack of anticipated support for military action against the British, the Fenians did make two attempts to attack Canada in 1866. In April of that year, several hundred armed members of the Brotherhood gathered at Eastport, Maine. Their objective was the capture of Campobello Island in the Bay of Fundy. The appearance of both British and American warships frustrated their plans and they dispersed with no blood having been shed. A more serious incident occurred on 31 May when 1,500 Fenians, almost entirely Civil War combat veterans, crossed the Niagara River into Canada. Their intentions were known to the authorities on both sides of the border and, after advancing several miles into British territory, they encountered a somewhat larger force of Canadian militia and student volunteers from the University of Toronto. The Irish were able to put this force to flight, with casualties being suffered on both sides, but the approach of British regulars the following day caused them to withdraw back across the border. There they were greeted by Federal marshals who disarmed them and put them onto trains headed south. A Fenian Rising in Ireland itself in 1867 was, similarly, a dismal failure. The British authorities in Ireland had so many informers within the movement there that they were kept well apprised of the nationalists' plans.

The most valuable service rendered by the several hundred thousand men of Irish birth or ancestry who fought in the American Civil War was then, to their new country rather than to their old one. Although the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac was the largest and best known Irish ethnic unit, it was by no means the only one. Most of the States of the northeast and mid-west had a regiment that was designated Irish, and some had several. There were, additionally, many thousands of Irishmen who served the Union in nonethnic regiments, as well as a smaller — but not insignificant number — who fought for the Confederacy. The reputation for loyalty, courage, and reliability that these men gained by their service in the Civil War was, in all likelihood, the single most important factor in enabling the recently-arrived Irish to move into the main stream of American society.

The information in this article came from the following books:

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## THE IRISH BRIGADE

*Enactment of the Color Guard of the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Brigade, part of the famous Irish Brigade.*

# Antietam Monument to The Irish Brigade

By Patricia James

*(Patricia James is a member of the D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and is the Washington Correspondent for the Irish Echo)*

The bloodiest day in American history took place 129 years ago in Western Maryland along Antietam Creek and its environs. The outcome of this successful defense of Union territory by Irish American George B. McClellan's troops was the publication of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. This victory, however, was achieved as a result of the great gallantry and the heavy sacrifices suffered by McClellan's Army of the Potomac.

The Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland was set aside in 1890 to commemorate this single bloodiest day of the American Civil War. Of the 40,000 Confederate and 87,000 Union troops who met at Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862, more than 23,000 were dead, wounded or missing at day's end. At the Antietam Battlefield Visitor Center one diorama on display shows the attack on "Bloody Lane" by the Irish Brigade; a green flag is clearly evident among the attacking blue lines. Following is the story of the bravery of the Irish Brigade at Antietam, which the Irish Cultural Society is now working to honor with a monument at Antietam.

While much of American society in the mid-nineteenth century disliked and actively discriminated against them, the Irish and Irish Americans were quick to show their patriotism. Despite prejudice and outright hatred, the Irish fought for their adopted country in great numbers and served with great distinction. As the U.S. Army recruiting offices did not post any "NO IRISH NEED APPLY" signs outside their offices, many Regulars before, during and after the Civil War were sons of Ireland.

When the Army of the Potomac was formed, it numbered thousands of men of Irish descent within its ranks. This army was trained and led by George B. McClellan, who was of Irish descent on both sides of his family. Two entire brigades of the Army of the Potomac were Irish: the Irish Brigade (63rd, 69th and 88th New York, 28th Massachusetts, and 116th Pennsylvania) and the Corcoran Legion (155th, 164th, 170th and 182nd New York). In addition, several other regiments were Irish as were the Artillery Batteries. Numerous Irish companies in other regiments bore Irish names while multitudes of Irishmen served in units not considered strictly Irish, including all formations of the Regular Army.

The Irish Brigade fought in every campaign of the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula through Appomattox. It suffered more casualties — over 4,000 — during the war than were ever in its ranks at any one time. Of the five officers who commanded it, all became casualties. Three were killed in action.

The Irish Brigade had suffered severe losses in earlier

Civil War battles. Its strength built up again; it took part in one of the war's most difficult actions on September 17, 1862, the storming of "Bloody Lane." Bloody Lane was an excellent natural defensive position formed by a sunken farm road and manned by tough, determined Confederate infantrymen, the flower of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. These Rebel defenders of the 2nd, 4th, 14th, and 30th North Carolina Infantry Regiments ironically had many in their ranks who were of Irish ancestry.

The men of the Irish Brigade spent a restless night on September 16th. The pickets of the two armies had spent the night, more or less, banging away at each other, keeping everybody awake on this seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. McClellan used his army poorly that day. He committed his troops piecemeal. The Irish Brigade waited while it could plainly hear the rifle volleys and artillery pounding away at the front, as brave men and scared men were maimed in the flow of battle.

Soon Major General Richardson received word to advance his division with the Irish on his right. Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher, an Irish Freedom Fighter from County Waterford, led them. In 1848 Meagher first introduced the famous Tri-Color, now the national flag of the Republic of Ireland. He is one of the very few recognized as an outstanding patriot of both Ireland and America. The green flags of the New York regiments advanced up a slope along with that of the mostly Yankee 29th Massachusetts. As soon as they crested the hill, the Rebel defenders poured volley after volley of rifle fire upon them. It hardly seemed possible that anyone could survive the torrent of Minnie balls sweeping the ranks of the attackers, who also had to clear away a rail fence, as they rushed forward to attack. On they came, blazing away at their Confederate foes. "Meagher of the Sword," the Waterford patriot of '48, went down, his horse shot out from under him. He himself was knocked unconscious. Worse yet, the famed green flags of the Brigade were down. Back at McClellan's headquarters there was despair. At first they thought the day was lost. Then they saw that the green flags were up again — the Irish Brigade was charging.

Captain James McGee of the "Fighting 69th" had seized that regiment's fallen banner. Even as he did so, an enemy ball slashed through the beloved standard. As McGee stooped to pick it up again, his hat was shot from his head. Holding the banner aloft, he defiantly shook it at the enemy lines and charged forward, raising a cheer. On they came, these exiled Sons of Erin, and blasted away at their opponents. Brave men fell on both sides

until the pressure of the attack combined with a misunderstood order caused a break in the Southern lines.

The gallant Irish Brigade was not around for the finale. After three torturous hours of galling slaughter, they had exhausted their ammunition and had to retire to replenish their stock. In so doing, they accomplished one of the most difficult movements under fire: the relief of one unit by another in the face of the enemy. All who witnessed the charge of the Irish Brigade agreed that it was one of the most gallant moments of the war.

The price was high. Meagher was knocked unconscious and temporarily disabled. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Fowler of the 63rd and Major Richard Bendy of the 69th were wounded. Acting Major John Kavanaugh of the 63rd was killed, as were eleven other brigade officers. Over 500 enlisted men were also killed or wounded. Of the 120 new recruits who had joined the brigade the day before, 75 became casualties. Two of the regiments sustained staggering casualty percentages. The 69th lost 62 percent of its effectiveness while the 63rd suffered 59 percent losses. The Irish Brigade suffered so badly at Antietam and Fredericksburg that it was a mere shell of itself by the time of the battle at Gettysburg.

After the battle at Antietam the popular General McClellan was removed from his command. The veterans of the Irish Brigade wept openly and laid their flags at the general's feet during his farewell address to the Army. Most officers of the brigade wanted to resign when the change of command was announced. Only the famous eloquence of their leader, Thomas Meagher, kept them from leaving.

The Irish Brigade Monument Committee was formed by the Irish Cultural Society to erect a memorial to the Irish Brigade at Antietam. Chairman of the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Matt Hannon, is also Chairman of the Irish Brigade Monument Committee.

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# The St. Patrick's Day Parade Story — A History of Sorts

By Carole McNally Barry

"Twenty Years A-Growing" is a classic story of the life of a young boy growing up in West Kerry Ireland. The author, Maurice O'Sullivan, wrote for his pleasure and that of his friends.

Washington's St. Patrick's Day Parade parallels this classic story in some ways — it's been twenty years a-growing. It was published for the pleasure of those who work on it and for the pleasure of those who participate and watch the parade.

Twenty years isn't a long time in the history of most events, but it is when you think of the many things that must come together for a parade. For one thing, the St. Patrick's Day Parade isn't supported by government grants. Most of the money is donated by the small ethnic Irish community of the Washington area at fundraisers, along with money raised through advertising generated by the parade magazine, and a few faithful corporations. The city has helped by having a wonderful police force and clean-up crew and yearly gives us aide through the organization that helps promote Washington. In reality, the parade happens because of the tenacity of a few dozen people who set aside the natural Irish tendency to want things their own way and work for the common goal — a great St. Patrick's Day Parade. Also unique are the dozens of off-duty police and firemen and women who volunteer to be marshals during the parade. They keep the parade moving and organized.

In narrating the history of the Parade, the first hurdle is the actual date of the first parade and who started it. After much research, a few discounted stories, and great character analyses of whom to believe, the date was set at March 1971, and it was started by the Irish. Yes, folks, it's safer that way. The small group of people who conceived the idea, made the arrangements, marched, and celebrated were Irish. They also may have been members of the Irish American Club, The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Northern Aid, certain one man/woman shows, or the Hippies who hung out at Dupont Circle — the starting point of the first several parades.

In telling the parade story one has to acknowledge several things. First, many people, despite some of the very fine publicity, think of the parade as a few rowdies getting together for a march down the street for a few beers. Second, the weather is the great leveller. If it's good, it's a grand day; if it's bad, only the marchers and the planners show up. Third, it is fun, colorful, cheerful, happy, well-organized, and well-worth-seeing event that anyone can experience, and that in itself is a novelty for Washington.

Washington's parade has been led by many famous, interesting, and well-deserving men and women as Grand Marshal. House Speaker Tip O'Neill said that it

was one of the paring highlights after his years of service to this country. Cyril Court McCormack, the son of Ireland's most famous tenor John McCormack, came all the way from Ireland at Age 82 to participate. Washington's own actress, Helen Hayes, spent a week reminiscing and sharing her wonderful humor with parade goers. The list goes on: Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics Program, Rev. Gilbert V. Hartke, Founder of Catholic University's Speech and Drama Department, and the man who launched many acting careers from his classroom stage, Admiral Frances Shea, head of the Navy Nurse Corp, George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, Patrick Hayes, Founder and President Emeritus of the Washington Performing Arts Society, football great John Riggins, and during Dublin's celebration of its millenium, its mayor took time off to come here and be the Grand Marshal, to name a few.

So, the first assumption we can dispel is the rowdies. The caliber of Grand Marshals does that for us.

Believe it or not we have never. St. Patrick pray for us, had a downpour, snow storm, or below zero temperature on parade day. Yes, it has drizzled before and after, it has snowed a couple of days before, and it gets cold in the late afternoon with the wind sometimes. But for most Parade goers, it's a celebration of the beginning of spring. Last year people were in shorts. So, another assumption is dispelled. St. Patrick's Day in Washington is a beautiful day.

The third assumption doesn't need to be dispelled. It needs to be trumpeted. It's a grand day! It's a day that lifts the spirits, it gives us a vision of something light and colorful. It is a day of sharing memories and hopes for the future.

Although it started out as a 15-minute walk down Massachusetts Avenue, the parade now takes all the efforts of planners to keep it down to approximately 2½ hours. Assembly starts on the mall and the march now goes from 7th to 17th street on Constitution Avenue.

Through the years the Clydesdales have pulled their wagon, the bands from all over the United States have managed to learn an Irish tune or two to march by, Father Crowley's pipe band from Massachusetts has performed in front of the reviewing stand, the Touchdown Club's float riders have thrown out their miniature footballs to the children along the side of the road, the Irish Setters, the Kerry Blue Terriers, the Great Irish Wolfhounds have pranced along, the Irish Dancing schools and groups have managed to side step the jig around the horse droppings, and all those ancient men and women have carried their banners.

The Irish Ambassador and family along with the various other Embassy staff, their spouses and children can

be found sitting on the reviewing stand. They come remembering their homeland and its celebration of this religious holiday there. The Prime Minister of Ireland, the Mayor of Limerick, and various U.S. Senators, Representatives, and local politicians have participated throughout the years.

Traditionally, the Parade is not a forum for political issues. Only those who are elected officials march; candidates must wait until the ballot is cast.

This year's St. Patrick's Day parade is unique. It is being celebrated on the actual day. In most years the parade is held the Sunday before the 17th.

What all of us who are remembering past parades see in our minds this year is the precision marching of our Nation's Color Guard. They are at the head of the parade leading our young service men and women down the street of this Nation's Capital. We see them marching past the Archives building that holds our Constitution, past the monument that honors our first President, and past the home of the man who holds the fate of so many who may have been here last year, or the year before, and who were part of our parade. Hopefully, they will be able to remember that happy day, and that memory will hold them until they can celebrate The Nation's Capital St. Patrick Day Parade here next year.

**the emerald  
aisle**

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## St. John's Independent Accordion Band

We are happy to welcome the renowned St. John's Independent Accordion Band, appearing direct from Portadown County, Armagh, Northern Ireland. The band was founded in 1988. Only 1 year later, they enthusiastically marched in their first St. Patrick's Day Parade. Although they have been marching together only 3 years, they have won many trophies and awards. Last year the band took honors at the Portadown National Band Parade. They have been praised throughout Ireland for their marching style and musical abilities.

The Parade Committee wishes to thank the DC Friends of Ireland who are sponsoring their visit here. Our thanks goes to Tracey Burwell, Director of Public Relations at the Hyatt Regency Washington, who has helped arrange the band's stay at the hotel while they are visiting Washington. Thank you, Hugh Kelly, for your support of the band.

Join the Hyatt Regency Washington's Annual St. Patrick's Day Party after the parade, Sunday, March 17th from 5-9 P.M. in the Hyatt's atrium lounge. The Irish accordion band, St. John's Independent will perform. Food and beer specials are featured. For more information call (202) 737-1234 Ext. 1280 — located on Capitol Hill at 1st and New Jersey Avenue, N.W., 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.

**A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH!**



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS  
AND ASBESTOS WORKERS**

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**GEORGE SNYDER, JR.**

---

AFSCME Salutes  
Irish-Americans  
for their contributions  
to America



*1.25 million men and  
women working for America*

Gerald W. McEntee  
International President

William Lucy  
International Secretary-Treasurer

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**AT&T is proud to be part of the  
1991 St. Patrick's Day Parade.**



**AT&T**

The right choice.

Tyrone Power, an Irish comedian from Waterford, Ireland, supposedly wrote the following poem on the wall of the Old Blandford Church in Petersburg, Virginia in 1841. The Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg developed this old church, rich in Colonial, Revolutionary, and War of 1812 history, into a memorial chapel and a Confederate shrine in memory of the 30,000 soldiers buried in Petersburg. This poem is mounted on the Confederate memorial wall.

Thou art crumbling to the dust, old pile,  
Thou art hastening to thy fall,  
And 'round thee in thy loneliness  
Clings the ivy to the wall.  
The worshippers are scattered now  
Who knelt before thy shrine,  
And silence reigns where anthems rose,  
In days of "Auld Lang Syne."

And sadly sighs the wandering wind  
Where oft in years gone by,  
Prayers rose from many hearts to Him  
The Highest of the High,  
The tramp of many a busy foot  
That sought thy aisles is o'er,  
And many a weary heart around  
Is still forever more.

How doeth ambition's hope take wing  
How droops the spirit now;  
We hear the distant city's din,  
The dead are mute below.  
The sun that shone upon their paths  
Now gilds their lonely graves;  
The zephyrs which once fanned their brows  
The grass above them waves.

Oh! Could we call the many back  
Who've gathered here in vain —  
Who've careless roved where we do now,  
Who'll never meet again;  
How would our weary souls be stirred  
To meet the earnest gaze  
Of the lovely and the beautiful  
The lights of other days.



# An American Immigrant's Special Tribute To The American Flag

**Hon. Thomas J. Manton**  
**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, June 14, 1989**

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, today we honor our Nation's flag with its own day — flag day. The history of our flag is a long and interesting one. For the benefit of all Members today, I am placing in the Record an article written several years ago concerning an Irish-born New York City policeman, Matt McGrath. Officer McGrath was the individual responsible for creating the precedent that the American flag on review is never dipped, no matter what the event is. This is a remarkable story about an American immigrant and also informs us about some of the significant history regarding our flag.

## A COP FOR ALL SEASONS

*By Dr. Roger D. McGrath*

For his heroic efforts the cop was awarded the medal of honor, the police department's highest decoration; it was the first of two he would receive for courageous acts in the line of duty. The cop was Matthew J. McGrath.

Matt McGrath was born on a farm near Nenagh, County Tipperary, in 1876. He was one of 11 children. His tenant-farmer father worked long, hard hours but an absentee. English landlord insured that the McGraths would never rise above a subsistence level. The landlord's proudest boast was that he never had to catch a bullet from a tenant.

Surprisingly, though, the landlord was no effete Englishman. He was a practiced athlete and could throw the hammer nearly 150 feet. When he came to collect his rents during the summer he would join in the village games and impress the local youths with his prowess. Matt made up his mind that he would beat him.

For several years Matt worked as a blacksmith by day and attended school at night. In whatever spare time he had, he trained with the hammer. In 1902 his alderman got him an appointment for the police department's examination. Passing the test with ease, Matt became one of New York's finest. He also began to compete regularly in the hammer throw. In 1907 he won the United States junior championship, and the next year qualified for the Olympic team.

The 1908 Olympics were held in London, England. Since the American team was largely composed of Irish Americans — Matt McGrath, J.P. Sullivan, Tom Morrissey, Mike Murphy, John J. Hayes, Mike Ryan, D.J. Kelly, Martin Sheridan, and John J. Flanagan, to name a few — sparks were bound to fly. During the opening ceremonies the athletes of one nation after another passed by the

reviewing stand and dipped their flags to the King of England. When the Americans approached the royal box Matt McGrath stepped beside the American flag-bearer and said, "Dip that banner and you're in a hospital tonight." Old Glory went unbowed past the King of England.

The English were left in shock. The next day London newspapers lashed the Americans with the severest criticism they could muster and called for an apology. Veteran Olympian and world record discus thrower Martin Sheridan spoke for McGrath and the other Americans when he answered the English by pointing to the flag and saying, "This flag dips to no earthly king." The precedent had been set. To this day the United States does not dip its flag in the Olympic ceremonies.

For the next half-dozen years Matt dominated the hammer throw and the 56-pound weight throw, more than once breaking the world records that he himself had established in the events. In 1911 he threw the hammer 187'4" and the 56-pound weight 40'6". The second record remained unsurpassed during his lifetime. In the 1912 Olympic Games at Stockholm, Matt took the gold medal and set a new Olympic record with a hammer throw of 179'7". The record would last until the 1936 games.

Ever since the 1908 games, journalists had been referring to Matt McGrath and his fellow weightmen on the American team as the "Irish whales." Almost all of the American shotputters, discus throwers, and hammer throwers were Irish, and they were all huge. They also all happened to be New York cops. Martin J. Sheridan, John J. Flanagan, Patrick J. Ryan, and Patrick J. McDonald were the most prominent of Matthew J. McGrath's comrades. They must have been a sight walking the streets of New York. In a day when Americans were considerably smaller than they are today, McGrath stood 6'2" and weighed 245 pounds, and McDonald, who won the shotput in the 1912 Olympics, stood 6'5" and weighed something over 300 pounds. The others were similarly large.

World War I forced the cancellation of the 1916 games but Matt made the Olympic team in 1920, although by then he was 43 years old. Somewhat off form at Antwerp, he placed fifth in the hammer throw which was won by Pat Ryan. But Big Matt was not through yet. He again made the Olympic team in 1924, and not only carried the Stars and Stripes for America, but he also won the silver medal in the hammer. He was 47 years old.

Meanwhile, Matt McGrath the police officer was also making his mark. He was decorated with his second medal for valor when he captured a murderer in a most unusual manner. The murderer had taken refuge on a river barge and opened fire when McGrath approached



on a nearby pier. Big Matt found cover behind a pile of bricks, and then flung the bricks with such speed and accuracy at the man that he threw his gun into the river and surrendered.

Patrolman McGrath became a sergeant in 1917. The next year he was made a lieutenant; in 1927, a captain; and in 1930, a deputy inspector. In 1936 he became a police inspector, the third highest rank in the department. High rank, desk work, and age did not seem to diminish Big Matt's formidable appearance though. In 1932 a journalist looked in on McGrath as he sat behind his desk in a mid-Manhattan precinct and wrote: "His eye is blue-gray, his jaw like reinforced concrete, and his build of 245 pounds as solid as a steel bridge pier."



**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS**  
**TO ALL THOSE WHO APPEARED**  
**AND**  
**ENTERTAINED at the**  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
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*We appreciate your support and talent!*



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IN MEMORY OF

---

**MURIEL C. McCLENNAN**

---

Loving Wife of "Howie" for 53 years

Passed away March 17th 1986

**Wm. Howard McClennan**

President Emeritus

International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO-CLC





D.C. Friends of Ireland  
Salutes



William "Howie" McClennan  
Gael of the Year  
St. Patrick's Day Parade—Washington, D.C.

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JAMES KENNEDY, Executive Vice President

RICHARD P. O'CONNELL, Secretary-Treasurer  
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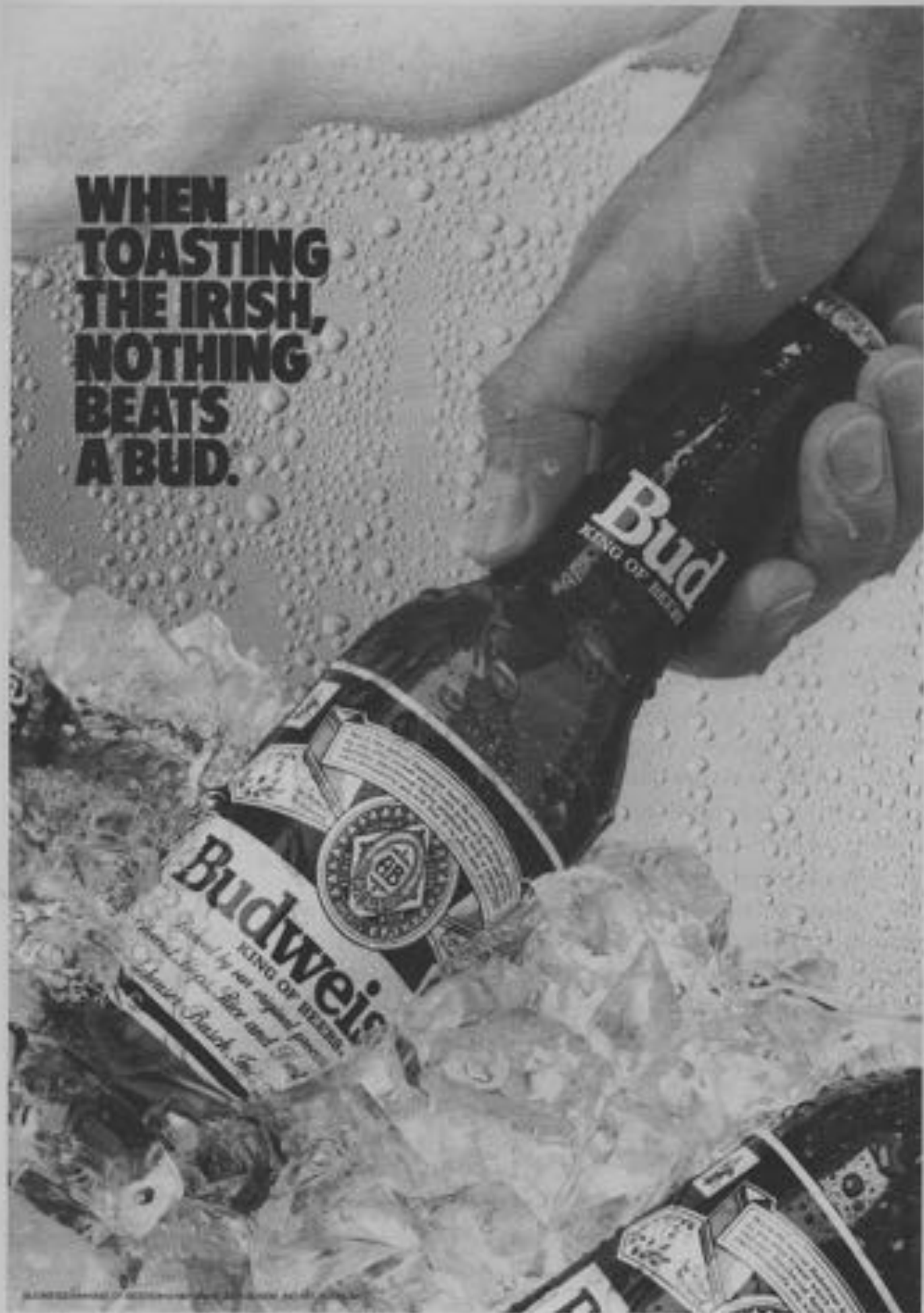
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TOASTING  
THE IRISH,  
NOTHING  
BEATS  
A BUD.**



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and

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWIE McCLENNAN

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"GAEL OF THE YEAR"



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**Jerry Willburn**  
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**INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

# Best Wishes

Howie McClennan

Congratulations and fraternal greetings to Howie McClennan, Gael of the Year. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO salutes Irish-Americans for their many contributions to our nation and our culture. Happy St. Patrick's Day to parade participants and everyone enjoying the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

# APWU

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO

**MOE BILLER**

President

**WILLIAM BURRUS**

Executive Vice President

**DOUGLAS HOLBROOK**

Secretary-Treasurer



# The Lone Sailor

Through the mirror image  
of shapes and thoughts  
fleeting symbols of  
a confused present  
linked to my past  
strong attempts to focus  
draw me toward a bronzed and stalwart statue

The individual  
strong yet weak in number  
left alone to face the opposition  
forced to deal with the unwilling in society

Branded  
as enemy by some people yet  
trying to help people everywhere  
tested for endurance and committed to cause  
tried by a jury who cannot understand

Born  
of woman and fired by God's determination  
shackled to serve society yet  
held at arm's length as different

A Genius  
helping life and larger than life  
heroic and of vast dimensions  
dependent upon the "winds of fortune"  
for a way to succeed  
forced to comfort the self  
torn by problems  
frustrated in communications

The individual is a  
Common Man  
who must at some time in life stand  
alone without support from others  
just the way we each must  
enter and exit the ship of  
life

By Norma Ellen Davis  
Member, Unit 67  
Ladies Auxiliary  
Fleet Reserve Association



# Parade Lineup As of February 24, 1991

Janet Donnelly, U.S. National Anthem soloist  
Daniel J. Sugrue, Irish National Anthem soloist  
Mac McGarry, Master of Ceremonies

## DIVISION A

1. ISAAC FULWOOD, Chief  
D.C. Metropolitan Police Dept.
2. COLOR GUARD, HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY BANNER,  
Irish American Club.
3. UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, GRAND MARSHAL,  
Representatives from each Service.
4. KEN JONES (CLAN MAC NEIL PIPE BAND)
5. MAJOR GENERAL DONALD C. HILBERT,  
Commander, Military District Wash.
6. U.S. ARMY PIPE AND DRUM BAND.
7. JOINT U.S. FORCES COLOR GUARD,  
U.S. Honor Guard Units
8. U.S. Army 3rd Inf. "Old Guard",  
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA.
9. U.S. NAVY, Ceremonial Guard and Drill Team.
10. U.S. MARINE CORPS, Honor Guard and Drill Team
11. U.S. AIR FORCE, Marching Unit and Color Guard.
12. U.S. COAST GUARD, Color Guard and Precision Drill Team.
13. U.S. PARK POLICE—Chief Lynn Henning.
- 13A. DIRECTOR NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS—Roger Stanton.
14. HOWARD McLENNAN, 1991 Guest of the Year.
15. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsored by GEICO  
U.S.O. FLOAT
16. RAYFIELD ALFRED, Chief, Metropolitan Fire Dept.
- 16A. COL. DAVID HACKWORTH (RET). America's most decorated  
living American soldier accompanied by other national military  
heroes.
- 16B. MR. TROY EVANS, Special Guest, Vietnam veteran and star  
of ABC's "China Beach". Riding in horse and carriage  
sponsored by Murphy's.
17. MASSACHUSETTS, HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE MARCHING  
BAND.
- 17A. CONGRESSWOMAN CONSTANCE MORELLA, MD-8
- 17B. REPRESENTATIVE FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. KAY  
McGRATH.
18. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsor: The Touchdown Club of  
Washington, Charlie Garrett, President.
19. CEAD MILE FAITE, Irish American Club Banner, Family of  
John Moore.
20. NEW JERSEY, PERTH AMBOY MARCHING BAND.
21. IRISH AMERICAN CLUB OF WASHINGTON  
P.J. Fitzgerald, Pres./Members.
22. WASHINGTON D.C. "GAELS",  
Irish Football Club.
23. IRELAND, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Guerin, General  
Manager, Shannon Airport followed by uniformed staff from  
Airport.
24. USSR, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Novoselov, Aeroflot Soviet  
Airlines, Washington, D.C. 1975 Chevy Caprice Classic.
25. MARYLAND, O'BRIEN'S TRAVEL SERVICE,  
1954 Antique Chevy Flatbed truck.
26. ROSCOMMON SOCIETY.
27. IRELAND, ST. JOHN'S INDEPENDENT ACCORDIAN BAND,  
Marching Band.
28. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT—Sponsored by The O'Neill  
Development Company, Marching Band.
29. MARYLAND, MARYLAND MEDIEVAL MERCENARY  
MILITIA, Washington/Baltimore.
30. VIRGINIA PATRIOTS PIPE AND DRUM CORP.  
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Evans, Directors

## DIVISION B

1. JOHN R. COSGROVE  
Marshal, Division B.
2. VIRGINIA, Brentwood Eagleettes Majorettes Drum.
3. WASHINGTON, D.C. DAHLGREN D.W. CADETS,  
Adm. McCain Ship Sea Cadets.
4. BLACKTHORN IRISH COTTAGE, The Blackthorn Stick  
Members.



5. ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.  
(All Divisions AOHLACH in order of precedence)
6. MARYLAND, ROCKVILLE H. S. PIPE BAND.
7. EMERALD SOCIETY OF D.C. FIRE DEPARTMENT.  
1. 1929 Ford Model Battalion Chiefs car Owner/Operator Al  
Lingwell, DCFD Retired, Ellicott City, MD.  
2. 1949 Seagrave Canopy Cab Pumper (Purple)  
Owner/Operator William Fitzgerald, LT DCFD, Great Falls  
3. 1948 Mack Pumper, Owner Pete Hardesty, MD. Operator  
Tim Jones, DCFD.
- 7A. NEW YORK, The Spirit of '76 Pipe and Drum Corps
8. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT—WASH-97.1 FM  
Sponsor—O'Doul's
9. POTOMAC VALLEY IRISH WOLFHOOUNDS,  
Falls Church, VA. John A.K. Donovan.
- 9A. JOLLY JESTER CLOWN GROUP.
10. VIRGINIA, STONEWALL JACKSON MARCHING BAND
11. MARYLAND—IRISH AMERICAN FAMILIES OF LAUREL.
12. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsored by  
MX Radio 107.3 FM.
13. IRISH DANCERS, Regan Wick Irish Dancing School,  
Washington, D.C.
14. PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia Mummers, Dick Green Spring  
Band. Sponsor by AGFA FILM.
- 14A. WHEELMEN, Antique bicycles, Bowie, MD  
K. Miller, & J. Weidner Captains.
15. NEW JERSEY, WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL  
MARCHING BAND.
16. ROSE OF TRALEE, Marguerita "Margo" Regan.
17. ANTIQUE CARS, Sponsor-Bellevue Hotel.  
1948 Packard-1923 Willys Knight Touring-1953 Packard;  
1954 Austin English London Taxi; 1981 Mercedes Roadster.
18. MASSACHUSETTS-THE COLONIAL PIPERS BAND,  
Boston, Rev. F.J. Crowley, Director.
19. POLICE EMERALD SOCIETY, WASHINGTON METRO  
AREA, U.S. Uniformed Division of Secret Service.  
President Bob McCullagh.
20. BLUE KNIGHTS, Va. 1 Law Enforcement Motorcycle  
Club-Maryland, Chapter #1.
21. PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY PIPE BAND (POLICE)
22. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsored by The Bottom Line  
and Mount Saint Mary's Alumni.
23. IRISH DANCERS, Donnelly School of Irish Dancing,  
Vienna, VA.
24. IRISH TERRIER PET BRIGADE.
25. KELLY ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, GMC Jimmy Truck.
26. WASHINGTON, D.C. ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL  
MARCHING BAND.
27. OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL  
ACTIVITIES CLUB.
28. COLONIAL MUSKATEERS PIPE AND DRUM CORP.
29. BRIDGET LAURIE SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING.

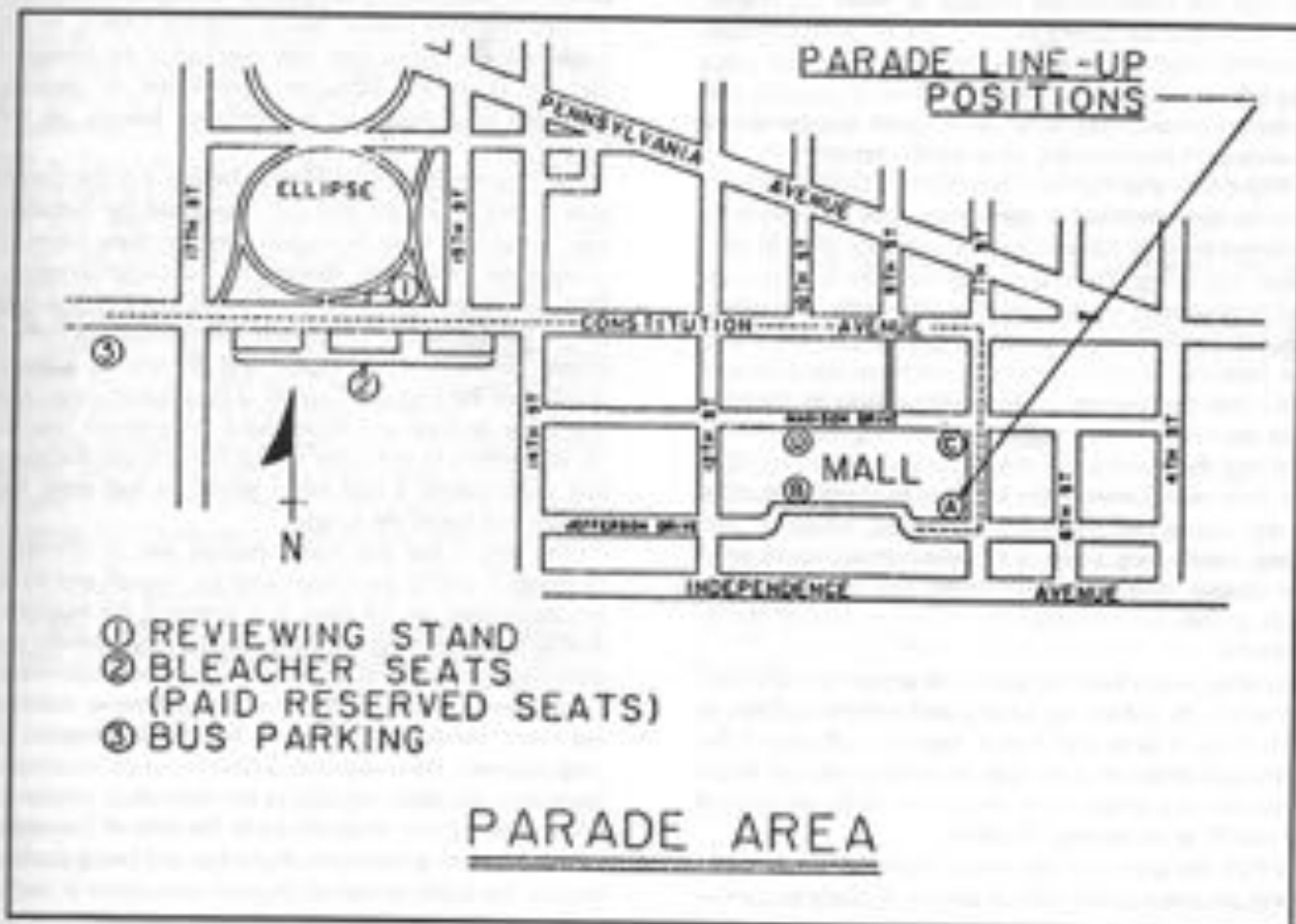
# DIVISION C

1. HONORABLE PATRICK J. HAYES  
Marshal, Division C.
2. CONNECTICUT, Rebels of '73 File and Drum Line.
3. L. C. SMITH 1951 ANTIQUE FIRE ENGINE
4. LANGLEY SAXONNETTES, Drill Team.
5. VIRGINIA, Shepherdettes, Pom-pom/Twirlers.
6. MARYLAND, Leonard Hall Jr. Naval Academy Marching Group.
7. MARYLAND, Capitol Keweenaw, Silver Spring.
8. RHODES TAVERN/DC HERITAGE SOCIETY, JAMES HOBAN HERITAGE Marching Group.
9. DELAWARE, Milford High School Marching Band.
10. MARYLAND, Boy Scout Troop 432, Scoutmaster Bob Morris.
11. IRISH NORTHERN AID.
12. MARYLAND, JOHN HANSON PATRIOTS PIPE AND DRUM CORP.
13. WASHINGTON, D.C. Jaunting Cart, Sponsored by The Three Penny Bit, Georgetown.
14. ON-DECK CIRCLE, For Metropolitan Washington Baseball.
15. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT, Sponsored by Inland's Four Provinces.
16. DELAWARE, Wilmington High School Marching Band.
17. MARYLAND, HIGH POINT ROTC.
18. CATHOLIC ALL-IRISH ATHLETIC BRIGADE.
19. BROOKLAND CLUB OF WASHINGTON, INC.
20. VIRGINIA, Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band Annandale.
21. THE RESERVE CONNECTION, President Terence Conway.
22. PENNSYLVANIA, York area High School Drillguard, color, drum line.
23. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Irish War Veterans, DC Post #17.
24. METROPOLITAN AREA, Sons and Daughters in Touch, Children of POW/MIA.
25. THE FISH MARKET, "El Porto" & Gas Light Antique Trolley.
26. JAMES HOBAN, Irish American Historical Society.
27. ED J. WHOLEY "Himself" Leprechaun.

28. VIRGINIA, FIREFIGHTERS EMERALD SOCIETY PIPE BAND, Mt. Jackson, VA.
29. GRUYNN PARK HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE ROTC.
30. MACGRUDER HIGH SCHOOL ROTC.
31. FITZGERALD COMMERCIAL MOVERS, Green antique truck.
32. WASHINGTON, Pioneers Ancient File and Drum Corp.
33. WASHINGTON, National Arboretum Young Adults of D.C.
34. MARYLAND, Gaithersburg Majorette and Drum Corps.

# DIVISION D

1. MRS. EILEEN McCONNELL, IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY, BLACKTHORN STICK, Marshal, Division D.
2. MARYLAND, DENNY DUNNEFACE PIPE BAND
- 3.
4. VIRGINIA, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Bishop Flaherty Council, Manassas, VA.
5. CITIZENS FOR A SOUND ECONOMY.
6. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT, Sponsor: Lick of the Irish.
7. VIRGINIA, BISHOP O'CONNELL MARCHING BAND.
8. O'NEILL-JAMES SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING.
9. DELAWARE, SMYRNA MARCHING BAND
10. SCHUPLATTER AND GEBURGSSTRACHETEN
11. MARYLAND, BULLETTE'S Marching Group
12. ANTIQUE TRUCK, Warfield and Sanford Elevator Co. D.C.
13. MARYLAND, SURREYVILLE MARCHING BAND.
14. FIRE ENGINE, 1915 LaFRANCE.
15. CONTINENTAL FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK, Continental Carriage drawn by two draft horses.
16. CALVERT CLOWNS OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #7872.
17. CONNECTICUT, WINDSON PIPE AND DRUM CORP.
18. MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE, Horse Contingent, Montgomery County.
19. VIRGINIA, STRATH JAMES PIPE BAND.



# The 69th "Fighting Irish" Regiment: A Review of the Contribution of the Irish to World War I and World War II

Michael J. Gibbons

(Mr. Gibbons is a proud Irish-American whose parents, Martin Gibbons and Agnes Mollay Gibbons, were born in County Mayo, Ireland. This article is dedicated to the generations of Americans of Irish blood who have served in the U.S. military.)

There is perhaps no better example of the Irish contribution in combat or combat-related activity in the U.S. military than that of the 69th "Fighting Irish" Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard. The 69th has not been called to active duty since World War II but still exists as a National Guard unit. A thorough treatment of the 69th's activities would involve a discussion of its record well back into the past century, as well as its more recent history. The focus of this article is primarily on the 69th's activities in the World War I and World War II.<sup>1</sup>

Before focusing on the 69th and one of its more illustrious officers, it is worthwhile to examine the question of why the Irish, who have served in the U.S. military in countless numbers, seem to be inclined to take up arms. It is this question that gives rise to interesting speculation on the nature of the Irish character. Is it fair to say that the centuries old struggle to throw off English rule in Ireland has caused those of Irish blood to be cause oriented? Might it be that natural fear of combat plays less heavily on the mind of the Irishman (it is a fact that Irish-born Americans have won more Congressional Medals of Honor than any other ethnic group)?

Might it be that the deep Irish faith in God and closeness to Him, instilled in generation after generation of Irishmen by Saint Patrick, and the certitude of a life after death that brings the Irishman to treat the ever present reality of combat — death itself — differently than others would? To what degree does the spirit of adventure and the carefree, at times reckless, nature of the Irishman enter into the picture, or his stubbornness to have his own way? How much might strong feelings of patriotism motivate the Irishman? Is the explanation to be found in the deep-seated need of the Irishman to create a situation where justice prevails? Might economic, religious, and ethnic intolerance, faced by the Irishman in Ireland, or in the United States in earlier times, and his reaction to such problems influence his proclivity toward things military?

To what extent have the great Irish storytellers and Irish historians, by preserving an oral and written tradition of Irish military facts and heroic legends, influenced the individual Irishman to pursue the military calling? Might there not be a simple need for the Irish to be recognized for excelling on the field of battle?

While the answer to the overall question of the Irishman's attraction to the military and particularly to combat

is not easily answered, it is probably fair to say that the explanations suggested here, and others not considered, bear on the question. It may well be that one or more of these factors propel the Irishman toward the life of arms. A brief review and analysis of the accomplishments of the 69th in World War I and II may suggest answers to some of the questions raised above.

An examination of the activities of one of the 69th's battalions in World War I is particularly revealing. The most active (and in the opinion of many one of the best) fighting units in the U.S. Army in World War I was the 69th "Fighting Irish" Infantry Regiment. This Regiment was under the command of Captain William J. Donovan, an Irish American whose grandparents emigrated to the United States from County Cork. Captain Donovan later founded the Office of Strategic Services, America's first centralized intelligence organization, and years later attained the rank of Major General. The 69th Regiment took the fight to the German Army in pitched battles in France, in places the men of the 69th will never forget: Luneville, Baccarat, Champagne, Chateau-Thierry, St. Michel, Argonne Meuse, Sedan, and the Ourcq. In the battle near the Ourcq river, well over half of the thousand men in Donovan's battalion were killed or severely wounded in a display of extraordinary bravery on the field of battle.

The performance of the 69th at the battle of the Ourcq River offers an insight into just how good the battalion was. An excerpt from Donovan's personal diary, helps us understand the 69th Regiment's accomplishments. Donovan stated that "In 8 days of battle, our Division had forced the passage of the Ourcq, taken prisoners from 6 enemy divisions, met, routed and decimated a crack division of the Prussian Guards, a Bavarian division and one other division and driven back the enemy's line for 16 kilometers. In every day of that fighting our Battalion had participated. It had never retired, it had gone the farthest and stayed the longest."

How was it that this Irish battalion was so effective? Donovan is said to have been hard on himself and hard, yet reasonable, on his men. It is reported, for example, that he believed in rigorous physical training, perhaps the most rigorous in the U.S. Army, and in mental alertness. There were continual offensive and defensive training exercises, involving live fire, in his overall program of preparedness. There was also a clear focus on maximum readiness. No detail relating to the individual soldier or his equipment was insignificant in the eyes of Donovan. Later, after tasting the rigors of combat and being pushed beyond the limits of normal physical endurance in multi-



day battles, Donovan's men came to rely on sheer stamina to carry out their mission. It was then that they would truly understand what his demanding preparatory work had done for them. The value of preparation aside (there was none better than Donovan's), the traditional military value of wanting to excel on the field of battle and deep-rooted faith seem also to have played a major role in the Battalion's success.

Any consideration of why the 69th Regiment knew such phenomenal success would be incomplete without an analysis of Donovan and his uniqueness as a military officer. Sparing the comforts extended to fellow officers during World War I campaigns, Donovan remained with his men. He insisted on experiencing the discomforts associated with daily life during ground action and remained on the front lines long after other officers would have withdrawn to the safety of rear positions well behind the front lines.

Donovan's raw courage is exemplified by his behavior during action on the Hindenberg Line near the Kriemhilde Fortress toward the end of World War I. Donovan was a Lieutenant Colonel at this point and was in command of the U.S. Army 165th Infantry Regiment, which included his original Battalion, the First Battalion. Understanding fully that many of the men were recruited into the Regiment to replace those who were lost in the battle at the Ourcq, Donovan knew that his presence at the front among his troops was more necessary than ever. Not long after being hit by German fire and sustaining a serious knee wound, Donovan learned that the Germans were about to charge toward positions held by his men. Although in considerable pain, Donovan (using a bull-horn) urged his men to take the fight to the Germans. The grit shown by his men, many of whom were not very experienced, in savage hand-to-hand combat turned the tide — the German charge was repulsed. Only after he was certain that the momentum had shifted to the American side, and that his men were no longer in grave danger, did Donovan allow himself to be carried from the battlefield. He had remained at the front for five hours after being wounded, had concealed his condition from his men, and had given them the leadership they needed. For his courage and leadership that day, he later received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

While Donovan was in many ways the quintessential soldier, he was nonetheless a man whose humanity was equally, if not more, striking. At the end of World War I, Donovan led his Regiment back to New York to a rousing welcome from thousands of New Yorkers. After a day during which there were the usual events associated with a victory celebration — parade, speeches, accolades, crowds, camaraderie and the final goodbyes — Donovan

stood in the black of the night with his brother Vincent and remembered all the young men who were internally loyal to him but would never come home. Whereas others may have allowed a sense of self-satisfaction to overcome them after all the praise of such a glorious day, Donovan thought of the relationship between his troops' loyalty to him and its consequences for so many men. As he stood there reflecting on these men who had been so faithful and who had paid the ultimate price, he wept.

The 69th was the first national guard unit to be called up to active duty for action in the Pacific Campaign during World War II. It was made a part of the 27th U.S. Army Division (U.S. Army 165th Infantry Regiment). Its men served honorably and heroically at Makin in the Gilbert Islands, on Saipan in the Mariana Islands, and on Okinawa. Lieutenant Colonel Gerard W. Kelley led one of the battalions within the Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. Hart another, and Lieutenant Colonel John F. McDonough a third. Colonel Gardiner J. Conroy was the Regiment Commander.

As it has throughout its history, the 69th Regiment retains to this day its largely Irish American flavor. The 69th has continued to recruit successfully from Irish American communities in the New York area since World War I. While retaining its distinctive Irish American character, it has taken in many non-Irish American recruits. With its proud fighting record, there can be no doubt that, if called to action in future wars, the 69th Regiment will serve with distinction.

<sup>1</sup>Factual information on World War I is based in large part on Brown, Anthony Case, *The Last Hero: Wild Bill Donovan*. New York: Time Books.

<sup>2</sup>Factual information on World War II is based in large part on Crowl, Philip A. and Love, Edmund G., *U.S. Army in World War II: The War in the Pacific—Seizure Of the Gilberts and Marshalls*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1955 (Copyright by Albert C. Smith).

<sup>3</sup>See the listing of Irish-born recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor following this article. That listing comes from Griffin, William D., *The Book Of Irish Americans*. New York: Times Books, 1990, pp. 93-94.

<sup>4</sup>The accomplishments of Donovan's battalion are subsumed under the broader category of the Rainbow Division in *The Last Hero: Wild Bill Donovan*. See footnote 1.

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2. Crowl, Philip A. and Love, Edmund G., *U.S. Army in World War II: The War in the Pacific—Seizure Of the Gilberts and Marshalls*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1955 (copyright by Albert C. Smith).
3. Griffin, William D., *The Book Of Irish Americans*. New York: Times Books, 1990.



# Irish-Born Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor



The Medal of Honor is the highest decoration awarded to members of the American armed forces. It is conferred by the president, in the name of Congress, upon one "who, while serving in the armed forces distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty."

Instituted by Abraham Lincoln, the medal was first presented in 1861. The 302 Irish-born recipients constitute the largest group of immigrants to receive this award.

## CIVIL WAR

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Christopher Brennan  
John Brennan  
Michael Burke  
Thomas Burke  
William Campbell  
Hugh Carey  
David Casey  
Thomas Connor  
James Connor  
John Cooper  
Thomas Cosgrove  
John Crotty  
Thomas Cullen  
Timothy Donoghue  
Patrick Donohy  
William Downey  
Thomas J. Fallon  
Thomas Flood  
Christopher Flynn  
George Ford  
William Gardner  
Richard Geeson  
James H. Gribble  
John H. Harvey

John Highland  
Patrick Highland  
Michael Hudson  
Patrick Irwin  
Andrew Jones  
William Jones  
John Kane  
Joseph Kelle  
Thomas Kelly  
John Kennedy  
Hugh Logan  
John Lomenigo  
Richard E. Mangum  
Edward S. Martin  
James Martin  
Peter McArdle  
Charles McAnally  
Bernard McCarver  
Michael McCormick  
Patrick H. McEnroe  
Patrick McGinley  
Owen McGough  
John McGowan  
Thomas McGraw  
Patrick McGuire  
Alexander U. McKale  
George McKee

Michael McKerver  
Patrick Monaghan  
Robert Montgomery  
Charles Moore  
Charles W. Moran  
Dennis J. F. Murphy  
John P. Murphy  
Thomas C. Murphy  
John J. Nolan  
Peter O'Brien  
Timothy O'Connor  
George C. Patti  
Thomas Phelan  
John Pinner  
Peter Rafferty  
John Rannahan  
George Reynolds  
Thomas Riley  
John Robinson  
Thomas Robinson  
Peter J. Ryan  
Patrick Scanlon  
Bernard Shields  
William Smith  
Timothy Spillane  
Joseph Stewart

Timothy Sullivan  
William Towner  
George William Tynell  
M. Emmet Urell  
John Walsh  
Richard Welch  
Thomas Wells  
Edward Welsh  
Christopher W. Wilson

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James Bell  
Edward Brannigan  
James Bragan  
Patrick Burke  
Richard Burke  
Edmond Butler  
Denis Byrne  
Thomas J. Callen  
Thomas Carroll  
George Carter  
John Connor  
Charles Daily  
Charles H. Dickens  
Cornelius Donovan  
John S. Donnelly  
James Dowling  
William Evans  
Daniel Farver  
James Fegan  
John H. Foley  
Nicholas Furea  
Michael Glynn  
Patrick Golden  
Frank Hamilton  
Richard Hearnery  
Thomas F. Higgins  
Henry Hogan  
Bernard J. D. Irwin  
David Keating  
John Keenan  
Charles Kelley  
Philip Kennedy  
Thomas Kerrigan  
David Larkin  
James Lambson

Patrick Leonard  
George Lloyd  
Patrick Martin  
William McCabe  
Bernard McCann  
Michael A. McGinn  
Michael McLoughlin  
James McNally  
William McNamara  
Robert McPherson  
John Mitchell  
John J. Mitchell  
John Moran  
James L. Morris  
Wyles Mullen  
Edward Murphy  
Jeremiah Murphy  
Philip Murphy  
Thomas Murphy  
Thomas Murray  
John Nihil  
Richard J. Nolan  
Moses Orr  
John O'Sullivan  
William R. Parnell  
Frederick Phelan  
James C. Reed  
Joseph Robinson  
David Roche  
Patrick Ragan  
David Ryan  
Dennis Ryan  
Thomas Sullivan  
John Tracy  
William Wallace

## INTERIM, 1864 TO 1870

Thomas Burke  
James Carr  
  
KOREAN CAMPAIGN,  
1871  
John Coleman  
James Dougherty  
Patrick H. Green  
Michael McNamara

## INTERIM, 1871 TO 1880

Thomas Cramen  
John Dempsey  
John Flanagan  
Hugh King  
Patrick J. Kyle  
John Lavery  
John O'Neil  
Patrick Ryan  
Thomas Smith  
James Thayer  
Michael Thornton  
  
WAR WITH SPAIN  
George F. Brady  
Thomas Cavanaugh  
Thomas M. Doherty  
John Fitzgerald  
Philip Goughen  
Michael Gilmore  
Michael Korney  
John Maxwell  
Daniel Monaghan  
John E. Murphy  
Edward Sullivan

## PHILIPPINE

INSURRECTION  
Cornelius J. Leahy  
Thomas F. Prendergast  
Patrick Shanahan

## CHINA RELIEF

EXPEDITION...  
BOXER REBELLION

James Conroy  
Martin Hunt  
Joseph Killeen  
Samuel McAllister

## INTERIM, 1901 TO 1911

Thomas Caley  
Edward Floyd  
John King  
Patrick Reid  
Thomas Stanton

## WORLD WAR I

Joseph H. Thompson

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PARADE 17 MARCH

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10

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951-0000



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PARADE 17 MARCH

24

FEBRUARY  
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548-1717

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PARADE 17 MARCH

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3

MARCH  
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3003 M Street, N.W.  
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333-8282



PARADE 17 MARCH

PARADE 17 MARCH

10

MARCH  
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- 1985 EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER  
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- 1984 CYRIL COUNT McCORMACK  
*Son of Irish Tenor John McCormack*
- 1983 FRANCES SHEA  
*Rear Admiral USN, Director, Navy Nurse Corps*
- 1982 \*REV. GILBERT V. HARTKE O.P.  
*Founder, Dept. of Speech and Drama, Catholic Univ. of America*
- 1981 SAMUEL W. BOGLEY  
*Lt. Governor of State of Maryland*
- 1980 JAMES P. GLEASON  
*County Executive—Montgomery Co., Md.*
- 1979 WALTER F. McARDLE  
*President, McArdle Printing Co.*
- 1978 MAURICE CULLINANE  
*Former Chief, Metropolitan Police Dept.*
- 1977 \*GEORGE MEANEY  
*President AFL-CIO*
- 1976 PATRICK J. HAYES  
*Director, Washington Performing Arts Soc.*
- 1975 \*WILLIAM T. HANNAN, ESQ.  
*Irish Community activities*
- 1974 \*WILLIAM T. HANNAN, ESQ.  
*Chairman, Bishop's Relief Fund*

\*Deceased

## GAELS

- 1990 \*SUSAN KELLY LONG  
*Benefactor of Irish-American Community and Revitalizer of Irish-American Club*
- 1989 MANUS "JACK" FISH  
*Retired Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service*
- 1988 MICKEY BRENNAN  
*President, D.C. Friends of Ireland and Labor Leader*
- 1987 BRENDAN SHERIDAN  
*Artist and Musician*
- 1986 MSGR. R. JOSEPH DOOLEY  
*Chaplain, Metropolitan Police and Fire Departments*
- 1985 JANE CALLAHAN GUDE  
*Chairperson, "Ireland's Children"*
- 1984 DR. COLIN OWENS  
*Founder Washington Chapter, Gaelic League; Professor, George Mason University*
- 1983 COMMANDER JAMES K. RULAND  
*Irish American activities, Founder Brendan Cup Committee*
- 1982 CORNELIUS (CONNIE) J. COAKLEY  
*Founder, Seton Centers, Irish-American Activities*
- 1981 CHARLES LUCEY  
*Editor, Author of two books on Ireland*
- 1980 HARRY AND MARGARET SCHREKENGOST  
*Founders, "Blackthorn Stick," Irish Dance Group*
- 1979 \*MARGARET COAKLEY  
*A Founder of the Irish-American Club*
- 1978 \*PEGGY HANNON O'NEILL  
*Founder of the first Irish Dance School in Washington*
- 1977 SEAN COAKLEY  
*Past President Irish American Club*
- 1976 (NO GAEL SELECTED)
- 1975 CHARLES CAREY & JOHN A.K. DONOVAN

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# Brendan Sheridan — Cover Artist

By Mary Anne Gibbons

Once again this year, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is delighted to recognize and thank Brendan Sheridan, a local musician, artist and writer, for designing the cover of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Magazine. Most Irish music enthusiasts know Brendan as that talented elf who holds up the middle section of the Irish Breakdown, the popular house band at Murphy's of Alexandria for the past eight years.

With his lively cohorts, Brad Hayford and David Teeple, Brendan has performed for the past decade in most of the Irish pubs in the D.C. area. Brendan's tenure as a local musician extends even longer. In fact, the Irish Breakdown in one form or another is now the longest running act in town. The Irish Breakdown has created nine albums to date, including their most recent release "Sea Shanty." Brendan's stained glass and other works of art also decorate many of the local Irish pubs.

Brendan Sheridan was born in Oldcastle, County Meath, in the Republic of Ireland. He has had a longtime interest in music and drawing and performed in Ireland before making the United States his home. After moving to the United States in 1971, Brendan worked as a graphic artist in the Garment District in New York. His U.S. singing career started at John Barleycorn, an Irish pub on Second Avenue in New York. Brendan then moved on to perform in Boston, and eventually landed in

D.C. Brendan states quickly that Washington, D.C. is his favorite place to perform, because the pub crowds are so warm, enthusiastic and appreciative of Irish music. Brendan is particularly delighted to see the influx of new Irish immigrants in this area in recent years and hopes that they will help to rejuvenate the local "Irish scene."

Brendan's wife, Sally Truitt, is also an artist, creating jewelry and playing bluegrass. Brendan's other family in the U.S. include a son, Rory, age 10, and a daughter, Maeve, age 13. Brendan looks forward to returning home to Ireland this summer to visit his relatives there. Meanwhile, among Brendan's many dreams is a desire to organize an Irish Cultural Society to share Irish music, dance and art.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee honored Brendan by selecting him as Gael of the Year in 1987. The Parade Committee again extends heartfelt best wishes and thanks to Brendan Sheridan for his continued willingness to share his many talents with the local Irish community and his many fans. We especially thank Brendan for another beautiful Parade Magazine cover.

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*Mary Anne Gibbons is a member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the editorial staff of the Parade Magazine.*





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# Audie Murphy

By Jack Foley

Audie Leon Murphy was born June 20, 1924, the seventh child of dirt-poor sharecroppers in north Texas. Audie's mother bore 13 children, of whom 9 survived, before her husband left the family for the oil fields of West Texas and, within another 2 years, she died. From the age of 5 Audie worked in the cotton fields and the highest grade he finished was fifth, at age 14. Among his peers, as he grew, he stood out for his energy, penchant for pranks, quick temper, generosity to family and friends, a keen hunting eye, and an incredibly accurate shot with sling or .22. Even before his family broke up he was determined not to settle for cotton farming or small town life. Twice in the year after his mother died he tried to enlist in the paratroopers and in the Marines. Size — he was small and slight — as well as age defeated him. But on his 18th birthday, in 1942, the U.S. Army took him.

After basic and advanced training Audie was shipped to North Africa with the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division. Not till his company landed in Sicily, though, did he see any combat. Over the next 2 years he spent 400 days in the front lines from Anzio to Salzburg. Wounded three times, he distinguished himself by his uncanny sense of terrain, deadly one-shot, audacity, and, perhaps more than courage — of which, in conditions of constant terror, he showed plenty — a ruthless determination to kill the enemy before they killed him.

By the end of the war Audie Murphy had earned 29 medals and citations, including the Purple Heart (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the distinguished Service Cross, and two Silver Stars, as well as a battlefield commission as Second Lieutenant.

On January 26, 1945, in a frozen woods in the Alsace region of France bordering Germany, he jumped on a burning tank destroyer and, single-handedly and utterly

exposed, covered the withdrawal of his undermanned unit with machinegun fire against two companies of German troops backed up by six tanks. The duel ended in a German withdrawal, and, for this feat, Audie Murphy won the Congressional Medal of Honor. But if you read his best-selling memoir, *To Hell and Back*, you will find no mention of it, nor of any of the other medals. The "most decorated American soldier of World War II" remained ambivalent about his medals. More than once he said, "The only real heroes are the dead ones."

For the rest of his life Audie suffered from what is now called post-traumatic stress Syndrome — nightmares, insomnia, a mortal boredom, and restlessness relieved by compulsive womanizing and heavy gambling. Two marriages failed. But at the same time he built a movie career no one thought would get off the ground. Well into the 1960's, despite the audience drain from movie house to TV living room, new Audie Murphy westerns continued to make money. Some of his nonwesterns, like *Red Badge of Courage*, *The Quiet American*, and his biggest hit, *To Hell and Back*, in which he re-enacted his war exploits, can be found in the classics rack at the local video store. Toward the end of his life he also began writing country/western songs, later recorded by Jimmy Dean, Roy Clark, and Charlie Pride. He was in the midst of putting together business deals to pay off old debts and finance new movies when he died in a plane crash on May 28, 1971. Today his grave is featured on tours of Arlington National Cemetery, not far from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Recent biographies of Audie Murphy include Don Graham's *No Name on the Bullet* and Charles Whiting's *Hero: The Life and Death of Audie Murphy*. *To Hell and Back* has been reissued in the Military Classics Series published by TAB Books, Inc.

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# A Taste of Irish Life

*By Barbara Macken and Jane Murray*

They say that you don't go to Ireland for the food. They are wrong!

Ireland abounds in fresh seafood, beef, and of course, lamb. Maybe "they" didn't try the wonderful restaurants that we discovered all over the emerald island. In July, when we were there, the wild salmon were running and fresh strawberries and blueberries were in season.

When we first left our Dublin hotel, a friendly and centrally located hotel called *Burwell's*, to reconnoiter the city, we discovered *Bewley's Cafe* on Grafton Street. *Bewley's* is an old but simple tea and coffee shop in the heart of the city. Upstairs, we were served our scones and sticky buns by a uniformed waitress, while downstairs was self-service. The atmosphere reminded us remotely of the late *Reeve's Restaurant* here in Washington. The reasonable prices lured us back for both breakfast and afternoon tea. The coffee was delicious, the pastries were fresh, and the surroundings were very Dublin.

On our last night in Dublin, we discovered the *Soap Bowl* just around the corner from our hotel. We suspected that we were in the upper brackets when we rang the doorbell for entry to the small townhouse restaurant. We sat in comfortable chairs in the downstairs bar where we sipped our drinks and studied the menu. When the meal was ready to be served, we moved upstairs to an intimate dining room with lovely antiques and a fireplace. Although it was probably our most expensive three course meal, it was an extravagance well spent.

*Danby House*, in *Ballyshannon*, Co. *Donegal*, is a large country house overlooking the *Erne Estuary*; the elegant atmosphere in this family-owned and run guest house, dating from the 1820's, was enchanting. Once again, drinks were served in a parlor, as we perused the menu. While seated in the main dining room, our entrees of chicken rolled with spinach, and lamb were served in gourmet style. Desserts were selected from a lavish buffet. This mid-week special was moderately priced.

When in *Clilden Co. Galway*, you must dine at the *High Moors Restaurant*. To reach this small and elegant restaurant on a hill outside town, you must traverse a narrow one lane path. Along with the food, the panoramic view of the bay as it leads to the Atlantic Ocean is breathtaking. The friendly atmosphere made our meals of *Connemara lamb* and fresh seafood all the more enjoyable. Our dessert was a meringue concoction filled with fresh blueberries and strawberries. This restaurant is only open in the summer and we recommend reservations.

After several soft rainy Irish days and a trip to the Aran Islands, we spent two nights in *Kilcolgan, Co. Galway*. Luckily for us, *Moran's Oyster Cottage* was just down the road from our Bed and Breakfast. This thatched 200 year old restaurant is highly regarded locally and priced mod-

erately. They specialize in oysters, smoked salmon, crab, prawns, and mussels. An American couple now retired in Ireland recommended the Irish Coffee. Needless to say, we followed their advice and ended a rainy evening with a warm feeling for both the restaurant and the company.

We arrived in *Dingle town* just as the Irish Folk Music Competition was drawing to a close. As we cautiously drove the narrow streets searching for our Bed and Breakfast, we had the sense of a bustling Irish town. *Doyle's Seafood Bar* has been recommended to us because the peninsula is known for its excellent seafood. Much to our dismay, *Doyle's* was closed on Sunday. The *Half Door*, just next door to *Doyle's* was open, so we gave it a try. We were pleasantly surprised at the variety of fresh fish, so we tried something new — "John Dory," a pleasant white fish. We are sure that it has a different name here in the States, but we haven't come across it yet! To help with the walk back to our room, we ordered Irish Coffees. They were so good, we ordered a second round. The young waiters and waitresses were congenial, the atmosphere cozy, and the meal well worth the expense.

Once settled in our Bed and Breakfast with flocks of grazing sheep outside our window, we set out to walk the town of *Kenmare, Co. Kerry*. After window shopping, we selected the *Lime Tree Restaurant* as our gourmet meal of the day. This informal restaurant is set in a charming renovated old stone building. It is known for its fresh produce, cooked lightly with delicate sauces and home grown herbs. The service was pleasant and the food quite good, although expensive.

We attempted to arrive in *Cork City* with time left to browse through the city shops, but being used to the longer store hours in the States, we were unsuccessful. The *Oyster Tavern* is difficult to find down a small alley, or as they say, "off Patrick Street." But once we found it, we sat in large leather chairs and sipped on glasses of wine as we glanced over the menu. The decor reminded us of a "men's club" and we considered the possibility that at one time women may not have been permitted to dine alone in this establishment. However, we were treated royally. The specialties of the house are prime Irish steaks and fresh local seafood. The portions were generous and cooked to perfection. A weekday fixed price dinner was available.

In *Drinagh, Co. Wexford*, we found the best Bed and Breakfast of our trip, the *Tudor Lodge*. Our choice for dinner that evening was the *Granary Restaurant* in *Wexford Town*. We started with cocktails in the *Cellar bar* before dining upstairs. The old world atmosphere was homey, with booths and tables available. Once again, we met a couple from the States, this time a school Superintendent from the Boston area. As it turned out, we had a mutual acquaintance. In addition to the good food, we

*(continued on the following page)*

# Sons and Daughters In Touch

By Janice Raleigh

Did you know my Dad? Did you serve with him in Vietnam? Can you please tell me about him? You see, none of us really had the chance to get to know our fathers.

Sons and Daughters in Touch wants to know if you can provide this information. The group is made up of some of the sons and daughters of the men who died in Vietnam or in its aftermath who were brought together by Wanda Ruffin, Projects Coordinator of the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We had all written to her after seeing an article describing the search by her daughter, Wende, and Tony Cordero to find information on their fathers in the 1990 Memorial Day issue of a Sunday magazine.

It was clear we all shared many common bonds at the first meeting. As children we felt ostracized, we didn't have a father, and in many instances, even though we were proud of our fathers, we simply stopped mentioning where and how they died because of the look or the lecture we get about Vietnam. Many took on the role of the other parent; it was instinctive, even though some were very young. Finally now, we can share with someone our experiences and feelings, all with no fear of retribution because they, too, had lived through it.

Obtaining more information about our fathers is a priority. Several members have enjoyed reunions with their father's friends or fellow servicemen through recent publicity and their own efforts. As one of our members was leaving the Veteran's Day ceremony, she noticed a group of Veterans with an emblem similar to the one she had kept from her father's days as a Navy Seal. Her father just happened to be one of those Veteran's CO and he has since introduced her to several others who knew her father. One way you can help in this effort is through the

In Touch program sponsored by our parent organization, the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers are looking for information on their loved ones. Through the use of a computer network and a cameraman's efforts, this project is linking people seeking answers and understanding together.

Understanding is what Sons and Daughters in Touch is all about. We serve as an internal support group, but our goals are not only to begin the healing process for ourselves, but to reach out to other children of deceased or MIA veterans to help them begin healing. Over 450 of us are in the group nationwide, and besides the DC Metro area group, another is forming in Minnesota. Sons and Daughters hopes to expand these groups throughout the year.

This year and for the past several years, the Friends, and now Sons and Daughters, will be placing roses and special messages at the Memorial on Father's Day for all who made requests. A nationwide gathering at the Memorial on Father's Day 1992 is planned to bring us all together to recognize this date and the Memorial's 10th anniversary.

Sons and Daughters in Touch is proud to participate in this salute to the Armed Forces. Many of us are of Irish ancestry, but the group is diverse. If you would like more information about the Father's Day Rose Project, joining the Sons and Daughters in Touch, the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and/or participating in the In Touch program, please call (202) 628-0726 or you can write to 1224 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005. Remember, you may have the key that can unlock a door and provide answers for someone.



## A Taste of Irish Life, continued.

enjoyed conversation with new friends from home and shared experiences of our travels through Ireland.

Since our breakfasts were included with our accommodations, and we followed the advice of a family friend to picnic each day, we were able to search out the best of Irish dining.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Take Away
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. One-Nilly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Overtaking
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Margins
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Automatic Level Crossing
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Flyover
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Chippings
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Stall
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Interval
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Book
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Dual Carriage Way
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Coach

- A. Rest Area/Overlook
- B. Gravel
- C. Divided Highway
- D. Passing
- E. Orchestra Section
- F. Intermission
- G. The Back Burner
- H. Seven Thirty
- I. Carry Out
- J. Make a Reservation
- K. Bus
- L. Pension
- M. One to Nothing
- N. Railroad Crossing
- O. Shoulders
- P. Overpass

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Answers: 1. G, 2. H, 3. L, 4. I, 5. A, 6. M, 7. D, 8. O,  
9. N, 10. P, 11. B, 12. E, 13. F, 14. J, 15. C, 16. K



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## Revisiting The 1983 Parade Rear Admiral Frances Teresa Shea

Rear Admiral Frances Teresa Shea was selected to serve as the Grand Marshal of the 1983 St. Patrick's Day Parade of Washington D.C.

As we honor the Irish contribution to the military during our 20th anniversary, we are reprinting an article that appeared in our 1983 Parade Magazine.

Rear Admiral Frances Teresa Shea has been selected to serve as the Grand Marshal of the 1983 St. Patrick's Day Parade of Washington, D.C. This year we are especially proud to present Admiral Shea as an exemplary member of the Irish-American community. We also take great pleasure in selecting a woman to lead this year's parade down Constitution Avenue and represent the Irish-American community for the day.

Rear Admiral Shea is the Director, Navy Nurse Corps, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. In August 1980, she assumed the additional duty of Commanding Officer, Naval Health Sciences Education.

Rear Admiral Shea was born in Chicopee, Massachusetts. She is currently residing in Virginia. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Joseph College, Hartford, Connecticut and her Master of Science Degree in Nursing Service Administration from DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois. She also attended the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois where she established credits in Operating Room Technique and Management.

In 1951, she was appointed Ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps. Advancing progressively in rank, she attained the rank of Rear Admiral in July, 1979. She is the fourth woman to be selected for flag rank in the U.S. Navy and the 14th Director of the Navy Nurse Corps.

Rear Admiral Shea's distinguished nursing career included serving as Clinical Instructor, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Springfield, Massachusetts from 1950-51. Her first assignment in the Navy was as a charge nurse at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia from 1951 until 1954. She resumed her civilian experience when she served as an instructor in Medical-Surgical Nursing at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Springfield, Massachusetts from 1954-1955. While retaining a commission in the Naval Reserve, she continued receiving civilian experience as an Assistant Operating Room Supervisor at the Veterans Administration Research Hospital, Chicago, Illinois from 1956-1959 and as Head Nurse at the same facility for approximately another year. Rear Admiral Shea resumed active military experience when she was assigned as the Operating Room Instructor at the Naval Hospital, St. Albans, New York from 1960 to 1962. From 1962-1964 she served as a charge nurse at the Naval Hospital, Rota, Spain. From 1965-1968 she returned as a recruiter at Richmond, Virginia. In 1968, she reported to the USS Repose as

Operating Room Supervisor and handled Vietnam casualties until 1969. She returned to Operating Room Instructor duty at the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Massachusetts from 1969 to 1971.

At the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, she assumed responsibilities as Assistant Director for Nursing Services from 1971 to 1974. She transferred to the Naval regional Medical Center, San Diego, California as Director, Nursing Services. When serving in this capacity, she was selected as Director, Navy Nurse Corps.

Rear Admiral Shea is authorized to wear the following military decorations: Meritorious Service Award with bronze star, Navy Commendation and Navy Unit commendation. In addition, she is authorized to wear the following campaign and Service medals: National Defense, One Star; Humanitarian Service; Vietnam Service, Four Stars; Armed Force Reserve; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; Vietnam Civil Action and Republic of Vietnam.

Rear Admiral Shea is a member of several associations including the American Nurses' Association, the Association of Operating Room Nurses, the Association of Military Surgeons, the California Society for Nursing Service Administrators, and the San Diego County Directors of Nursing Council. She also serves as a military representative to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services and as Chairman, Health Care Committee, Interservice Training Review Organization.

Rear Admiral Shea has retired and now resides in the San Diego area.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee salutes her for her long and distinguished career in the military.



Rear Admiral Shea receives her Grand Marshal plaque, in 1983, from Matt Harmon, Parade Committee Chairman.



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The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is a non-profit organization registered in the District of Columbia founded for the sole and express purpose of organizing and producing the St. Patrick's Parade in Washington, D.C.

The corporation will neither make or allow to be made, any expression or sign which in the judgement of the Board of Directors is deemed to be political, sectarian, or in any way violates the purpose of the Corporation.

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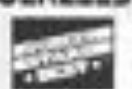


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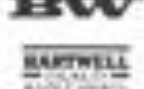
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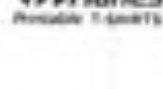
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# St. Patrick's Day: Touched by the Muses

By Terri Hastings

The written word fairly sparkles at this time of year! The language exposes quick imagination and wide-ranging association of thought. Enthusiasm is everywhere. Convivial pubs provide a setting for camaraderie, humor, tall stories, and recollections of bold deeds, past and present. What to bring with you to an Irish pub? You can bring yourself, alone or with friends and family; a sense of humor; a hearty appetite; and a willingness to enjoy the fine musical entertainment offered nightly with no cover charge. Particularly during St. Patrick's Day festivities the dynamics are "legato" — or smooth — and the pleasures of music, traditional and modern, awaken the large Irish capacity for joy. For now it's "really" touched by the Muses we are.

Things are looking up! In uptown Washington, D.C., a half-block from the Woodley Park/Zoo metro stop on the Red line, you'll find Murphy's of D.C., which shares a building with the Ethiopian Cultural Center. Nearby on Connecticut Avenue is Ireland's Four Provinces. Near the U.S. Capitol and the beautifully renovated Union Station are Kelly's Irish Times and the Dubliner, as well as the facilities of the Phoenix Park Hotel. On Georgetown's M Street there's Garrett's. In Rockville, Maryland, you can visit Hagan's Four Courts, directly across from the Rockville metro station. Bethesda has several pubs, Flanagan's, Malarkey's, and Nantucket's Landing, all accessible to the Bethesda metro stop. In Old Towne Alexandria, Virginia, there's Ireland's Own and you can enjoy the dynamics of Murphy's Grand Irish Pub — both are conveniently located near several bus lines.

Eyes fairly dance with happiness during the festivities of St. Patrick's Day and all year long. The Greater Washington Ceili Club continues Irish dancing and live music at a new time and location listed in the calendar which follows. The Blackthorn Stick Ceili also has dancing and music to enjoy. The Nation's Capitol Feis, sponsored by the O'Neill-James School of Irish Dancing and the Ancient Order of Hibernians is held in this area each year.

Other activities to enjoy throughout the year include sporting and other events sponsored by the enduring Washington Gael's Gaelic Athletic Association. Listen for the next installment of your favorite story with the Voices in the Glen and enjoy the diversity of the Greater Washington Folklore Society. The Irish American Cultural Institute also features a number of programs, as does the Police Emerald Society.

Other opportunities to celebrate throughout the year include the annual Glen Echo Irish Folk Festival which features musicians, dancers, and crafts of Ireland and related cultures. The festival is held on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend from 12:00 Noon to Midnight. Alexandria also hosts an annual Irish Festival sponsored by the Ballyshaners on the first Sunday of August. The Irish American Club offers unlimited activities. To find out what is going on in the area with the Irish, you can contact Pat and Flo Cady at (301) 839-1768.

In Washington we are lucky to have Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington, the Gaelic League of Washington, which was founded here in 1980 by Dr. Colín Owens and others. Dr. Owens, who is a professor of English at George Mason University, and who was named "Gael of the Year" in 1984, has a new book out, a collaborative effort with Dr. Joan Radnor of American University. The textbook which they've edited is about twentieth century Irish drama and contains eighteen plays. The book is available from Catholic University Press and is entitled *Irish Drama 1900-1980*. Dr. Owens is also a member of the Yeats Society of Washington and a published member of the James Joyce Society of Washington. For additional information about the Yeats Society of Washington contact Professor Joseph Sendry, English Department, Catholic University, (202) 319-5488 or (202) 319-5489. To learn more about the James Joyce Society of Washington telephone Michael Heneighan (703) 978-0347.

Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington also publishes *An Nuaidheacht*, a comprehensive listing of events in the Greater Washington area. For inquiries about *An Nuaidheacht* telephone Liam Hannanher (703) 354-3762. A portion of *An Nuaidheacht*, *feilire*, or calendar, is reprinted here. The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. wishes to express enthusiastic thanks to the Gaelic League of Washington. Enjoy and participate in the fun and excitement of the festivities!

If Ireland is your cup of tea for celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the Irish Tourist Board, located in New York City, has excellent photo packets about Ireland and is quite prompt in sending the information. The staff is professional, informative, and friendly. They'll also give you great ideas about golf packages at world championship courses in beautiful, serene settings, walking tours, fishing, shopping, and bed and breakfast accommodations, et cetera. For an island vacation of your dreams call the Irish Tourist Board's toll-free number 1-800-223-6470, Monday-Friday during business hours. You know you're always welcome in Ireland!

Also for the traveller, the Smithsonian National Associate Program offers several types of study tours and seminars throughout the year. This year Dublin has been named by the European Community as 1991's "European City of Culture" and a Trinity-Smithsonian Seminar package for August, "A Portrait of Dublin" is available. For study and seminar brochures write to: Smithsonian National Associate Program, Washington, D.C. 20560 or just dial (202) 357-4700.

Erin go braugh!

Sources: Dr. Colín Owens, Professor, Department of English, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, Tel. (703) 323-2220. *An Nuaidheacht*, Gaelic League of Washington, February-March 1991, Vol.11, No.3. *feilire*, information compiled by Judy Walsh.

# Calendar

**Feb.-Mar. (Thurs.) Seminar in Contemporary Irish Society,** 7-9 pm, Center for Irish Studies, Catholic U. Info: (202) 319-5488.

**Feb. 1 (Fri.) Northern Virginia C  il  ,** Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Niblick Rd., Vienna, Va. 8 pm-midnight. Live music. \$6. Info: (703) 978-8265.

**Feb. 1-Feb. 24 "Mrs. Warren's Profession"** by George Bernard Shaw, presented by The Washington Stage Guild at Carroll Hall, 924 G St., NW. Tickets \$12 and \$15. Info: 10 am-6 pm, (202) 529-2084.

**Feb. 2 (Sat.) Baltimore C  il  ,** St. Plus X Hall, 6428 York Rd., Towson, Md. 9 pm-1 am. (301) 747-6868.

**Feb. 2 (Sat.) Irish American Cultural Institute Fundraiser/Testimonial Dinner** honoring C  il  n Owens. Women's National Democratic Club, New Hampshire Ave., Washington, D.C. \$75. Info: (703) 683-3531.

**Feb. 3 (Sun.) Parade Benefit, Flanagan's,** 7637 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, Md. 3-8 pm. (301) 986-1007.

**Feb. 3 (Sun.) Clismaclaver Concert,** Old Brogue Pub, Great Falls, Va. 5-8 pm. \$3. Info: (703) 759-3309/451-4492.

**Feb. 3-April 7 "Pygmalion,"** play by George Bernard Shaw, Arena Stage. Info: (202) 488-3300.

**Feb. 9 (Sat.) Peggy O'Neill C  il  ,** St. Luke's Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Va. Info: (703) 241-1978.

**Feb. 10 (Sun.) Parade Benefit, Murphy's Pub of D.C.,** 2605 24th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 3-8 pm. Info: (202) 462-7171.

**Feb. 15-17 (Fri.-Sun.) Irish American Club Ski Trip to Camelback and Shawnee** in the Poconos. Shane O'Brien (301) 937-8188 or Priscilla Byrne (301) 229-8309.

**Feb. 16 (Sat.) Blackthorn Stick C  il  ,** Holy Redeemer School, 9715 Summit Ave., Kensington, Md. 8 pm-midnight. Info, reservations, call 5-7 pm, (301) 474-4641.

**Feb. 17 (Sun.) Parade Benefit, Malarkey's Cafe-Saloon,** 7201 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, Md. 3-8 pm. (301) 951-9000.

**Feb. 17 (Sun.) Brendan Mulvihill and Donna Long Concert,** Old Brogue Pub, Great Falls, Va. 5-8 pm. \$3 (703) 759-3309 or 451-4492.

**Feb. 22 (Fri.) Irish Evening** sponsored by Howard County Poetry and Literature Society at Howard Community College with Celtic Thunder and poetry reading by Eil  an N   Chuillean  in. 8 pm. Fee. Info: (301) 596-2058.

**Feb. 23 (Sat.) Greater Washington C  il   Club c  il  ,** music by Celtic Thunder. New Location: women's Club of Bethesda. 8 pm-midnight. BYOB. \$6 Mbers., \$8 others. (301) 229-7124.

**Feb. 24 (Sun.) Poet Eil  an N   Chuillean  in** speaks on the process of writing for the *Conradh na G  ilge* monthly meeting. See page 1 for details.

**Feb. 24 (Sun.) Parade Benefit, Murphy's Pub,** 7113 King St., Alexandria, Va. 3-8 pm, (703) 548-1717.

**Feb. 24 (Sun.) Donegal Stones Concert,** Old Brogue Pub, Great Falls, Va. 5-8 pm \$3 (703) 759-3309 or 451-4492.

**March 1 (Fri.) Northern Virginia C  il  .** See Feb. 1 for details.

**Mar. 3 (Sun.) Mary Black in Concert** at the Birchmere, Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Va. 8:30 pm. \$15 (703) 549-5919.

**Mar. 4 (Mon.) Dublin City Ramblers Concert,** Four Provinces Pub, 3412 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. For information on the cost and the time, call (202) 244-0860.

**Mar. 3 (Sun.) Parade Benefit, Garrett's,** 3003 M.A. St., NW, Washington. 3-8 pm (202) 333-8282.

**Mar. 6-Apr. 7 "Making History,"** American premiere of Brian Friel's play. Washington Stage Guild, Carroll Hall, Paul VI Institute, 924 G St., NW, Washington. Evenings 8 pm, matinees 2:30 pm. \$15 and \$12. (202) 529-2084 between 10 am and 6 pm.

**Mar. 7 (Thur.) Project Children Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Day Benefit Celebration.** Departmental Auditorium, Constitution Ave., 6:30 pm. reception; 7:30 pm dinner; entertainment by the Capitol Steps and various Irish musicians. \$100. (202) 298-7784.

**Mar. 7-10 & 14-16 "Major Barbara"** by George Bernard Shaw, Tawes Theatre, U. of Maryland, College Park. (301) 405-2201.

**Mar. 8 (Fri.) Annual St. Patrick's Concert** with Mick Moloney, Eugene O'Donnell, Seamus Egan and many friends, Gaston Hall, Georgetown University. 8 pm. Free.

**Mar. 9 (Sat.) Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade.**

**Mar. 9 (Sat.) Celtic Thunder Concert,** Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., off Rt. 123, McLean, Va. Ticket Center (202) 432-0200.

**Mar. 10 (Sun.) Parade Benefit. The Four Provinces,** 3412 Conn. Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 3-8 pm. (202) 244-0860.

**Mar. 13 (Wed.) Chieftains and James Galway in Concert,** Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 8:30 pm.

**Mar. 15-17 (Fri.-Sun.) Festival of St. Patrick.** Irish book sale, films, sale of Irish linens and lace, lectures. Free but contributions welcome. Paul VI Institute, 9th & G Sts. NW, Washington, D.C. (202) 347-1450.

**Mar. 15 (Fri.) Patrick Street Concert,** Barrs of Wolf Trap, Vienna, Va. 8 pm. \$14 Ticketron. (703) 938-2408.

**Mar. 16-Apr. 21 "She Stoops to Conquer,"** play by Oliver Goldsmith, Arena Stage, (202) 488-3300.

**Mar. 16 (Sat.) Tommy Makem Concert with Celtic Thunder,** Lisner Auditorium, Washington, D.C. 8 pm. Tickets \$17.50, \$14.50, \$12.50 at Ticketron and Ticket Center. (301) 770-3124.

**Mar. 16 (Sat.) Blackthorn Céili.** See Feb. 16 for details.

**Mar. 17 (Sun.) "American Literary Perceptions of the Irish,"** Professor James P. Myers, Jr. Conradh na Gaeilge monthly meeting. See page 1 for details.

**Mar. 17 (Sun.) St. Patrick's Day Parade,** Constitution Ave., Washington, 1 pm.

**Mar. 17 (Sun.) Shamrock Planting,** Arlington House (Lee Custis Mansion), Arlington Cemetery. 1:30 pm. (703) 557-0613.

**Mar. 17 (Sun.) National Symphony Orchestra Encore Family Concert** with guest soloist Seamus Egan. Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 2 pm and 4 p. \$12.50, \$7.50 & \$6. Instantcharge or box office (202) 416-8800.

**Mar. 17 (Sun.) Linn Barnes and Allison Hampton Concert** sponsored by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning. Harmony Hall, Fort Washington, Md. 3 pm. \$10, \$8 includes reception (301) 292-2839 or 292-8331.

**Mar. 21 (Thur.) Boys of the Lough Concert,** Barrs of Wolf Trap, Vienna, Va. 8 pm. \$14 Ticketron. (703) 938-2408.

**Mar. 30 (Sat.) GWCC Céili.** See Feb. 23 for details.

**Apr. 3 (Wed.) "Living Treasures: a Celebration of American Folk Traditions,"** concert and performance by bluesman John Jackson and Irish American dance champion Michael Flatley. National Geographic Society Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. 5:30 pm \$4, 8 pm \$10. Cosponsored by National Geographic and the National Council for the Traditional Arts. (202) 857-7133.

Notice of events to be listed in the Féilire/Calendar should be sent to Judy Walsh, 4916 49th Ave., Hyattsville, Md. 20781. (301) 864-2385.

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(March 17)

To

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rganized labor's task in the last 15 years of the 20th century is to restate the role of workers in our civilization. This must be done in a way that reflects the determination of workers to do more than survive, to be more than producers. We must make it clear that workers will participate in the shaping of their economic environment, and will be recognized for their contributions. This is no more than human beings are entitled to. But it is also no less.

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