



## Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

# The Dooley Dispatch

## November 2019

**Celebrating 40 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

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Next Meeting – Tuesday November 12, 2019 7:00 p.m. St. Michael Church



### President's Message:

Brothers,

First off and on the behalf of the Division, Thank You to all those who served in our nation's Armed Forces. May God bless you and forever hold you in the palm of His hands.

Once again we head into our favorite season of the year – our raffle sales season! We started with a grand Division turnout for our "Trip to Ireland" raffle sales at the Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games on October 26 – 27. Thanks again to our chairman Jim Woods and all the brothers who participated. We had good weather both days, though Sunday morning rains delayed us a bit. We were joined again by the lovely ladies of the LAOH, who no doubt improved the overall looks of the tent and those gathered therein. Special thanks to the lads from St Patrick's tent who made sure we had a steady supply of medicinal spirits.

One other event we had outstanding Division support for—Jack Cassells wake. Thanks to Big Medium Dan Caffrey for making all the arrangements, and thanks to all who made donations for the wake expenses and any to the scholarship fund. Please see me or Dan if you wish to contribute.

We have some important business to wrap up at the November 12th business meeting: Voting on the 2020 slate of Division Officers, and voting on Gael of the Year. We install our new officers at our December 10 meeting. This is not a regular business meeting but one where we encourage family to come out to support our newly elected officers. In September, the Division voted on hosting the 2021 VA State Convention and while that is a long-way off it is not too early to start thinking about chairing a committee for this event.

Watch for information and volunteer opportunities for upcoming events, especially our annual Christmas Party on December 8th. This is always a grand family event and I encourage all to attend. Best place to keep up with Division events is via our website, [aohrichmond.org](http://aohrichmond.org). Pat Shea does a great job keeping it up to date for us.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Steve McGann

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### Upcoming Events:

**Dooley Division Business Meetings in 2019 at 7 pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each Month**, except for July and August, at St. Michael Catholic Church. 2019 Meeting Dates - 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, **12/10 (Officer Installation)**

**October 6, 2019 – John Barry Picnic** St. Michaels 1:00 – 4:00 pm

**October 19, 2019 – Jack Cassels Funeral Mass** St. Mary's 10 am. Reception to follow at Rare Ole Times

**October 26 & 27, 2019 – Central VA Celtic Festival at Richmond Raceway**; [www.vacelticfestival.com](http://www.vacelticfestival.com) Kickoff the selling of 2020 Dooley Raffle Tickets and Recruiting at Double Booth (FAMILY Event).

**December 8, 2019, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party.** (Chair Mike Muldowney).

**December 10, 2019, Tuesday – Officer Installation** for 2020 Officers by State AOH Officer at St. Michael's Church.

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### AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For November 12, 2019 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or [jarsenault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

#### From Prior Meetings:

- **Fr. George Zahn** - Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Weak. Forgetting things.
- Chad Costello's brother-in-law (**Doug Dakins**, Alisha's brother). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon. Doc removed a large stage 3 tumor and is confident he got the margins and will be fine after chemo.
- **Paulie McFadden** skin condition and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, back pains.
- Jim Whelen, wife Alesia's Mom, **Norma Oakley**, had cancerous kidney removed a couple weeks ago, cancer in spleen/lungs, in hospice care.
- Mike Muldowney's dad, **Michael James Muldowney**, age 91, minor stroke.
- **Steve McGann**, recovering from complications – prostate biopsy.
- Hugh Naughton's wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back issues and other ailments.
- Steve McGann's sister, **Patricia McGovern**, passed away May 5th, after a long fight with leukemia.

- **Brian Kiernan** – recovering from a leg infection.
- Tim McDonnell's friend, **Rob Northern** – recurrence of cancer.
- **Fr. Jim Arsenault's mom**
- Jim Woods – **Uncle Philip** cancer in jaw.
- Brian Kiernan – first cousin brother-in-law **Jim**, stage 3 cancer.
- John Mulligan, **Jack Rowe**, 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> kidney surgery.
- Billy Spicer's brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it. Also his heart is very weak. And he has emphysema as well. He's been doing better recently.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of Larry Keefe, reoccurrence of breast cancer.
- Gary McAuliffe's wife, **Betty McAuliffe**, macular hole in retina needs surgery.
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems. Keep in your prayers.
- **Jocelyn Costello** (Chad's Daughter) – Pinched nerve in neck
- **Maureen Mooney** (Jack Griffin's Sister) – Confined to bed
- **Tom Murphy** – Had heart procedure and waiting results
- **Don Brophy** – Did not have surgery and on the mend. May need surgery at a later date
- **Dick Canning** (Mike Canning's Dad) – Had a mini-stroke. He is on the mend.

#### From October Meeting:

- Johnny Cates – Friend **Bruce Heilman** – In hospital
- Steve McGann – **Nick Gruss** – Having a biopsy
- PJ George – Mom **Diane George** – Knee replacement surgery
- **Fred Gerloff** - Had biopsy on esophagus. Starting procedures to prevent full blown cancer.
- Mark Atchinson – Brother **Daniel Atchinson** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.

#### Since October Meeting:

- **Tom Forbes** – Diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Had scan. Awaiting results.

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

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Major James H. Dooley Division  
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America  
Veterans of US Military Service



Mark Anthony  
Marc Atchison  
David Cathell  
Charles Costello  
John Costello  
Tom Forbes  
Ed Gillikin  
Jack Griffin  
Joe McGreal  
Hugh Naughton  
Jack Sheehan  
Mike Sweeney



Mike Canning  
Vince Eikmeier  
Rev Adrian Harmening  
Steve McGann  
John Mulligan  
Ed Rossmore  
Joe Wiegand



James Fitzgerald  
Paul McFadden  
Rev David McGuire  
Don Reaves  
Tom Schreiner



Bill Johnson  
Ed Maynes  
Luke Reid

Contact John Costello, Financial Secretary, if you are a veteran and not identified on this page  
(including US Coast Guard, National Guard, US Navy Armed Guard or reserve components)  
(owenson357@comcast.net, (804) 920-1769).

## Mike Quill - *Irish Rebel, Irish Patriot and Leader of the Pack*

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



A fearless organizer, a humanitarian, a man whose wit, charm, personality, passion and commitment created one dynamic leader. He was none other than Michael Joseph Quill, founding father of the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU). An Irishman to the core, Mike Quill was born in Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry, Ireland on September 18, 1905. He was raised in turbulent times, fought the Black and Tans, gone against the Treaty and fought the Free State Army during the Irish Civil War. And when he came to New York, fought the thugs the transit bosses used to terrorize subway workers to keep them in their place. He was a born leader staging his first sit-in strike as a young man at the Kenmore saw mill. Quill was blacklisted as both a defeated Republican fighter and a sacked industrial activist. Penniless, he headed for America.

Life for Quill and transport workers would soon be changed forever. Quill found work on the independent subway line in New York City among thousands of immigrant Irishmen. Together they endured appalling working conditions, long hours and low pay. He held various other jobs until becoming a change maker on the Interborough Rapid Transit, the IRT. The IRT times were tough and the 12-hour seven-day work week was all too common. The IRT was becoming a haven for the diaspora of Irishmen who were on the wrong side of the Irish Civil War. Why were there so many Irish working in the subways? Because they spoke English. They could read, write, make change and communicate with the riding public. Quill states *“Negro workers could only get jobs as porters. They were subjected to treatment that makes Little Rock and Birmingham seem liberal and respectable by comparison. I saw Catholic ticket agents fired by Catholic bosses for going to Mass early in the morning while the porter covered the booth for half an hour. Protestant bosses fired Protestant workers for similar crimes - going to church. The Jewish workers had no trouble with the subway bosses - Jews were denied employment in the transit lines.”*



As a new IRT employee, Quill worked almost all the change booths in the system and while he did so began to organize the workforce. Quill would set up his signature soap box at lunch hour while management were in the workshops. It was these daily shop gate meetings which helped make him a popular figure on the transit property.

Quill states *“We were no experts in the field of labor organization, but we had something in common with our fellow workers. We were all poor, we were overworked, we were all victims of the 84-hour workweek. In fact, we were all so low down on the economic and social ladder that we had nowhere to go but up.”*

Quill's greatest inspiration was James Connolly, leader of the Transport Workers Union in Dublin who was executed by the British for his part in the 1916 Rising. Quill studied Connolly's basic theories. Years later when he was President of the TWU he had only two pictures on the wall in his office – Abraham Lincoln and James Connolly.

Quill's efforts paid off as the Transport Workers Union held its first meeting in April 1934. No one was lukewarm to Mike Quill - workers loved him, management hated and feared him. Like him or not, no one could dispute his ability to organize. Beginning with just 400 members, Quill fought successfully to organize and represent all 14,000 employed by the IRT. In the next largest subway, the Brooklyn Manhattan Transit (BMT line) a successful sit-down strike in 1937 led to more victories and brought the total union membership to 45,000. By now, Quill's political influence was also taking shape. Fully aware of the power of both organizing and politics, Quill was elected to the New York City Council in 1937. Word of Quill's organizing success quickly spread and in the mid to late 40s



membership was extended to airline, utility and railroad workers. From the earliest days of the Union, Quill insisted that TWU stand up for all workers regardless of race, color, or creed and he himself led the way.

Quill once stated *“Most of my life I’ve been called a lunatic because I believed I’m my brothers’ keeper. I organize poor and exploited workers. I fight for civil rights of minorities and I believe in peace. This is my religion.”*

He was an unequivocal, relentless foe of all forms of anti-Semitism and relentlessly fought against racial prejudice. He staged rallies against anti-Semitism and faced down racism whenever it raised its ugly head especially among his own members. His commitment to fight racism was evident time and time again and led to a friendship with Martin Luther King Jr. early in King’s crusade for racial equality.

Despite all his success Quill is probably best remembered for his role in the citywide transit strike back in 1966. A strike that brought New York City’s transit system to a grinding halt. Mayor-elect Lindsay did not want to negotiate with Quill until he was sworn in as mayor. Quill came out swinging at Mayor Lindsay when he was sworn in as mayor on January 1, 1966. Quill cited Lindsay’s “abysmal lack of knowledge of the fundamentals of labor relations.” He torn into Lindsay as “a pipsqueak, a juvenile” and he found his intellect lacking: Quill said, “we explored his mind yesterday and found nothing there.” And, of course, in that thick Kerry brogue he expertly mispronounced the mayor’s name as “Linsley.” By a judge’s injunction the strike was ordered to end but an ailing Mike Quill was steadfast.

In Quill’s own words *“The judge can drop dead in his black robes and I don’t care if I rot in jail. I will not call off the strike.”*

Quill and seven other union leaders were arrested for refusing to obey the judge’s order. In jail, Quill’s condition worsened. He was sent to the hospital and remained there under arrest. At the time the settlement was reached on January 13, 1966 it was a tremendous victory. The package was worth over \$60 million and included raises which would increase wages from \$3.18 to \$4.14 an hour and included another paid holiday, increased pension benefits and other gains. Quill was finally released three weeks after his arrest. He spoke at a press conference that day and paid tribute to the thousands of TWU members that night. It would be his last address.

On January 28, 1966, Michael Joseph Quill died. Mike Quill did not hesitate or equivocate. He died as he lived, for what he believed in. In some respects, he left the way his hero, James Connolly, had gone out – with defiance and bravado. Fighting the good fight for TWU and its members. On occasion of Quill’s death one speaker paid tribute to him. The speaker was none other than Martin Luther King Jr.

*“Mike Quill was a fighter for decent things in life – Irish Independence, labor organization, and racial equality. He spent his life ripping the chains of bondage off his fellow man. This is a man the ages will remember.”*

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**MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION**

