



**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

The Dooley Dispatch

September 2016

Celebrating 37 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Next Meeting – Tuesday September 13th 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church



President's Message:

Welcome back! Hope all had a summer full of fun, good spirit...and air conditioning. The McDonnell Clan lost ours for 11 days in August....but eh, who was counting?

Since our last business meeting in June, several of us with family & friends took in the Dooley Division Night at The Diamond featuring the hometown Flying Squirrels vs. the Portland Sea Dogs. Highlight of the night was a home run by Sea Dog

and future All Star Andrew Benintendi. Just six weeks later Andrew was starting in left field at Fenway Park as one of the Red Sox "Killer B" contingent. WhadidItellya? This guy's gonna be a star!

We had a strong contingent attend the AOH/LAOH National Convention at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City. Great to share some craic and tend to Hibernian business with brothers from around the country. Word is that

authorities are still searching for the bloke who was terrorizing the locals by leading a bunch of Irish guys in a raucous version of "A Soldier's Song" on the city bus. No harm...just bringing a wee bit of the old sod to the land of Miss America.

Renovations at our parishes have altered one event during the summer, and a couple coming up. We celebrated the Mass of Our Lady of Knock at All Saints School, right down the street from our home parish of St. Paul's. St. Paul is undergoing asbestos removal in the Worship Space, however our business meetings in the fall should not be affected. We will still have them in the Commons per usual.

Our Veteran's Day Mass is also scheduled to be held at All Saints. St. Michael's is also undergoing another phase of renovations which will require us to take our Commodore Barry picnic a few miles away in the West End to the Columbian Center (home of Knights of Columbus Council #395). We were able to keep it on the same scheduled date, Sunday, September 25th. Thanks Brian Kiernan and Steve McGann for helping to secure the space for us on short notice. A little further down the calendar, we'll still have our table and kick off the raffle season at the Celtic Fest on the weekend of October 22nd-23rd.

Looking forward to seeing you all this fall!

In Ar Mana,
Jim McDonnell



Commodore John Barry, Hero of the American Revolution

Born in County Wexford in 1745, little is known of his early life. His father was a poor Catholic tenant farmer who was evicted by his landlord, forcing the family to relocate to Rosslare.

There Barry's uncle was a captain of a fishing skiff, apparently imparting to young Barry a love of the sea. Barry signed on as a cabin boy at an early age and must have shown great aptitude as a seaman; he obtained his first command, The Barbadoes out of Philadelphia, at the age of 21. He quickly earned an impressive reputation as a ship's master and was soon sought out by the leading merchants of Philadelphia. As captain of The Black Prince, Barry set the record for the fastest day of sailing ever recorded in the 18th century.

When war with England appeared imminent in 1775, Barry immediately offered his services to the fledgling congress. He was given the important task of outfitting merchantmen as the first Continental Navy Ships and readying them for sea. Among those converted was his own Black Prince, rechristened Alfred. It was aboard the Alfred that a Lt. John Paul Jones would be the first to hoist the flag of the new nation aboard a ship of the Continental Navy.

Barry's efforts at creating the first ships of the Continental Navy were soon rewarded with his own command, the Lexington, which was the first in a series of successful commands he was to hold during the Revolution. Space does not permit a full account of all of Barry's service during the revolution, but in summary:

- Barry was the first to capture a British war vessel on the high seas
- Barry captured the most ships (prizes) of any captain during the revolution.
- When deprived of a ship when the capture of Philadelphia seemed imminent, Barry formed a regiment of sailors and marines and fought at the battles of Trenton and Princeton
- Barry captured two British ships after himself being severely wounded
- Barry fought the last naval action of the Revolution

Barry's most famous naval encounter, and the one that most truly shows his character, was while commanding the Alliance where he fought the two British Sloops Atlanta and Trepassy. During the battle, Barry received several wounds and was taken below deck for treatment. Barry's second in command soon appeared before him to tell him that the ship was severely damaged and asking permission to strike the colors. A furious Barry replied, "No Sir, the thunder! If this ship cannot be fought without me, I will be brought on deck; to your duty, Sir." At that point the battle dramatically turned, and both British ships surrendered. The British Commander was brought to the wounded Barry and presented him his sword. Barry received it and then immediately returned it; "I return it to you, Sir. You have merited it, and your King ought to give you a better ship. Here is my cabin, at your service. Use it as your own."

After the Revolution, Barry would become the first commissioned officer of the United States Navy. It would be under his direction that the great frigates of the United States including the USS Constitution would be built. Under his tutelage, the great naval heroes who checked the most powerful

navy in the world in the War of 1812 would be trained. Barry was also well known for his charity, supporting funds for the care of widows and orphans of sailors and a leading member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Barry would die in 1803 from the complications of Asthma. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence gave his eulogy and fittingly summed up Barry's life and service: "He fought often and once bled in the cause of freedom, but his habits of War did not lessen in him the peaceful virtues which adorn private life."

The paternity of the US Navy is often hotly debated. In fact, the U.S. Navy explicitly states that no one man can be the Father of the US Navy, this may be the only battle the Navy has ever shied from. The case of Barry and Jones both have merit, but if a father is someone who stands by and cares for their "child" until it is self sufficient, then certainly Barry has the better claim.

Irrespective of titles, we must ensure that the patriotism and devotion of John Barry to his country is never eclipsed.

Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

- Business meetings second Tuesday of the month except July, August, and December.
- Remaining 2016 Meetings - 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13 - Officer Installation
- September 17, 2016, Saturday at 7 pm – Halfway to St. Patrick's Day at Rare Olde Times. Please reply to Daniel Caffrey at kkcaffrey@hotmail.com with # attending.
- September 25, 2016, Sunday – Commemorate Commodore Barry Day (9/13/1803- date of death) at 1 pm at The Columbian Center (KofC 395), 2324 Pump Rd, Henrico, VA 23233 – Family Picnic. Food, beverages provided by AOH. Lots of fun for all.
- October 22-23, 2016 Central VA Celtic Festival at Richmond Raceway; www.vacelticfestival.com Kickoff the selling of 2015 Dooley Raffle Tickets and the Recruiting at Double Booth (FAMILY Event).
- November 13, 2016, Sunday, Memorial Mass at St. Paul's for deceased military veterans and Dooley Division members at 11 am Mass at All Saints School.
- December 11, 2016, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party.
- December 13, 2016, Tuesday - Officer Installation for 2017 Officers by State AOH President at St. Paul's Church.

Joseph Jowaisas in need of a ride to meetings and events. He lives at 6161 River Rd #15. Please call him at 288-2428, if you can assist him.

Prayer List –

- **Please pray for the repose of the soul for Mary Griffin, wife of Jack Griffin**
- **Bill McKay** who continues to struggle with back pain
- **Patrick McGowan's uncle, Jerry Meranda**, is having dementia problems
- **Hugh Naughton's wife Jessie** is in pain again, **brother John** is recovering from stroke, progress is slow. **Brother Mike** knee surgery.
- **Fr. Zahn's brother Thomas** for spinal bifida.
- **Fr. Zahn** for spinal stenosis.
- **Elaine Peters (Bruce)** serious sickness.

Contact Steve McGann, Chair of AOH Dooley Division Sick Comm., at mcgannsteve@yahoo.com

Pictures from the Past
Major James H. Dooley Division
First Meeting September 16, 1979



Not many of the old gang left, Jerry Gorman second row second for the left, Jack Cassells same row far right, and John Barrett back row second from the right.



March 17, 2009 Dooley Division Present Commonwealth's First Lady with Irish Crystal and Shamrock

(L-R) Mark Collins, Jack Cassells, Hugh Naughton, Joe O'Brien, Ed Barry, Anne Holton, Pat Naughton, Tom Murphy, and Jim Cremins. Anne Holton is the wife of Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine .

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Hibernian Friendship



Members of the AOH and LAOH celebrate Our Lady of Knock at St. Paul's temporary location, All Saints School