

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Dooley Dispatch

May 2023

Celebrating 44 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Editor – Pat Shea 804.516.9598 (pshea1128@gmail.com)

Photographer – Patrick Shea (patrick.shea@aohrichmond.org)

Webmaster – Patrick Shea (pshea1128@gmail.com)

**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

Chaplain
Jim Arsenault

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Mike Smith 873-2198

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Financial Secretary
Tim McDonnell 678-9674

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Sentinel
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Historian
[Brian Hegarty](#) 814-3517

Right to Life
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[Dan Caffrey](#) 512-6288

Raffle Chairman
[Jim Woods](#) 747-9286

Chair of the Sick
[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

*All phone numbers are area
code (804) unless otherwise
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday February 8, 2022 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message: President's Message:



April was a busy month for our division. Over two hundred St. Elizabeth parishioners attended a breakfast we hosted after Mass recently. There was great fellowship and everyone was really appreciative of the great spread put out by our brothers. That same weekend a large contingent of golfers were teeing it up in Myrtle

Beach. We enjoyed beautiful weather and had a lot of fun down there. We wrapped up April by attending the All Saint's Catholic School annual breakfast. The speaker this year was an alumnus named John Williams, an aerospace engineer at NASA. He is currently working on the Artemis Mission that will take us back to the moon. Mr. Williams shared his family's deep ties to the Catholic church and his fond recollections of his time at All Saints. The entire student body sang Amazing Grace and we all agreed it was a spectacular way to start the day.

This month kicks off with the Montpelier Celtic Festival on May 6th. It is being held at the Montpelier Center for Arts and Education. There will be great music including the Benedictine Pipe and Drums Corp and the Donneybrook's. We will have a booth to recruit and get an early start to the 2024 raffle season. Our monthly business meeting will be Tuesday, May 9th at St. Michael's Lake House.

The state AOH Board is putting together a slate of officers to present at our state convention this summer. I ask you to consider filling the role of state treasurer for a two-year term. You will receive plenty of support and mentorship from the outgoing Treasurer. Also, it's not too early to start thinking about next year's Divisions officers and committee chairs. Most of the roles only require a few hours each month. Please share your talents with the division.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Mike

Upcoming Events:

June 9, 2023, Friday, at 6:35 pm; Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game Outing (Family), The Diamond, 3001 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230 - (Tim McDonnell - Chair) (ph 804-678-9764; tmc1918@gmail.com – let Tim know how many tickets).

(TBC) 4th of July Picnic at Columbian Center (Family Event) with the KOC 4th Degree Assembly. Ashland Parade.

July 28-29, 2023, Fri. thru Sun.- AOH State Convention in Alexandria, VA. Registration info available later.

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For May 9, 2023 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

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **PJ George's Father** – Fell from vertigo. Hard to stand.
- **Mary Margaret McGowan** – Mother of *Patrick McGowan* – Spent a few nights in hospital. Is out and adjusting to assisted living.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Dan Caffrey** – Recovering from hip surgery
- **Betty McGowan** – Wife of *Joe McGowan* – Recovery from head surgery
- **Theresa** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. Undergoing surgery.
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of Scott Nugent – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Beginning treatment.
- **Ramon Colarte** – *Tim McDonnell's* FIL – Diagnosed with prostate cancer. Currently undergoing treatment.
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – was hospitalized for kidney issues. Is home now recovering.
- **Nancy Namen** – Wife of *Joe Namen* – Recovering from ankle surgery
- **Andy Cox** – Diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the right lung. Having

further tests and putting together a treatment plan.

- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jack Griffin** – Seems to be doing better and should be heading home soon.
- **Helene Zaepeel** – Mother-in-law to *Steve McGann* – Covid recovery/rheumatoid arthritis pain
- **Mercedes McGann** – Mother to *Steve McGann* – Recovering from a fall
- **Lori Forbes** – Wife of *Tom Forbes* – Continuing blood pressure/neurological issues
- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Anne Gillikin** – Wife of *Ed Gillikin* – Recovering from an operation on October 25.
- **Bob Boyle** – Had bypass surgery and is recovering well
- **Kelli Smith** – Wife of *Mike Smith* – Kelli had Gamma Knife surgery and she is at home and feeling good. The doctor said it went really well. They will do scans every six months or so to monitor her progress.
- **Melissa Stellman** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Has Stage 3 colon cancer. Finished chemo in early Sept.
- **Phyllis Collins** - Mother of *Mark Collins* – She is currently in the hospital
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Dealing with tremors in his hand
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke
- **Edward Maynes** – is having an upcoming heart procedure (date is not yet known)
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings'* mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of *John Kennedy* – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery

- *Mark Atchison* – Brother **Daniel Atchison** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- *Billy Spicer*'s brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it.

- **Pat Saizan**, sister of *Larry Keefe*, suffering from Lymphoedema

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

Richmond Squirrels Baseball Friday June 9, 2023 6:35 pm

Sign up on the Dooley website: https://aohrichmond.org/sign-up-forms/?sheet_id=71

AOH State Convention July 28-29 Alexandria, VA Details to follow

The Ballymurphy Massacre: You Can Remember the Truth, but You Can't Remember the Lies

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

Ballymurphy is a small predominantly Catholic cluster of housing estates, in the city Belfast, west of the city center. Back in the 70's, it was one of the poorest areas in Belfast. The houses were built to an extremely poor standard and there were no shops or facilities. Job prospects were low, with some estimates that 50% of all adults were unemployed.

The poverty of Ballymurphy was so significant that it caught the attention of Mother Teresa. Aware of the situation, Mother Teresa and four other Sisters of Charity moved into the heart of Ballymurphy in October 1971 and stayed for 18 months.

The poverty in areas like Ballymurphy did not happen by chance. This was a conscious effort by the Unionist government to maintain power in favor of Unionist people in Northern Ireland. A number of policies were enforced to make this happen, one such policy as being that you could only vote if you owned property something which significantly fewer Catholics did. There were even areas that had Catholic majorities, but the electoral boundaries were divided up in such a way that Unionists still had more voting power.

Nationalist people in Northern Ireland were second-class citizens. They could not get certain jobs, especially in government. Catholics were also heavily discriminated against when it came to social housing. A single unionist man would get chosen for social housing over a Catholic mother with children. The Nationalist people also felt that the Northern Ireland police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary were heavily biased against them. So Ballymurphy became a focal point for the violence that would go on in Northern Ireland.

So, when the British Army was deployed to restore law and order to Northern Ireland in late August 1969, they were initially welcomed by the Nationalist people, who believed that they would be a neutral force

who would protect them from the RUC. Unfortunately, this was not the case and opinion turned against the army. Once Nationalists realized that the army was there to restore things to as they had been, into a Unionist country for Unionist people, the Nationalists began a campaign for equal rights. Civil demonstrations were met with violence and the army also began to develop a reputation of becoming more and more heavy-handed against the Nationalist people. As violence ramped up, so did the IRA activity.

In 1969, the IRA split into two groups, the original IRA and the Provisional IRA. The original IRA had been leaning into socialism, as they were looking to unite workers from both sides of the sectarian divide. The Provisional IRA wanted to use force to collapse the Northern Ireland Government and force the British Government to withdraw from Ireland altogether. The IRA split happened four months after the arrival of the British Army, and the Provisionals were committed to 'armed defense of the Nationalist Areas', from Loyalists and now the British Army.

In their search for IRA members, the army continued to target young Catholic men from Nationalist areas. So initially, the resistance from areas like Ballymurphy came from women, who thought that the army wouldn't touch them. Whenever the army was coming in, the women would come out of their homes and begin banging tin lids on the ground, to warn people that the army had arrived (that was the Nationalist pronouncement that 'the British are coming'). As the clashes between the British Army and the Provisional IRA grew and became more violent, the Loyalists demanded that the Unionist Prime Minister, Brian Faulkner introduce internment, which was the ability to detain suspected paramilitaries and keep them indefinitely without charge or trial. So began Operation Demetrius in Ballymurphy. An elite, aggressive, fighting unit of the British army known as 1 para was selected to carry out this operation.

On Monday August 9, 1971, Internment Without Trial was introduced by the British Government. The British Army directed the campaign against the predominately Catholic community with the stated aim to "shock and stun the civilian population."

Doors were broken in, baton rounds were fired through windows, and people were dragged from their beds. There are accounts of family members being threatened, verbally abused, and physically assaulted by the soldiers. In some cases, entire families were arrested. The intelligence that the army received was quite poor and as a result, many innocent people were scooped up. The Republican community in Belfast got wind of the operation the night before so was able to disappear before they would be picked up.

Later that evening, a Loyalist mob had gathered to watch what was going on in Springfield Park in Ballymurphy. They began breaking windows and intimidating the Catholic residents. Scared for their lives, residents began evacuating their homes. To do so they would cross over a grassy area known as Finley's field. During this time some soldiers set up sniping positions on the roof of a building on Springmartin Road, which overlooked Springfield Park.

Bobby Clarke was crossing over the ground when he spotted the soldiers. He broke into a run, and then afraid he would be shot, he began zig zagging. He was hit on the side and fell to the ground. Bobby was seriously injured in the shooting but ultimately survived.

Father Mullan was a 38-year-old Catholic priest, whose house was directly in front of Finley's park. Word reached him that Bobby was shot and lying in the field. Father Mullan phoned the army, to warn them that they were shooting innocent civilians and then went to Bobby's aid, waving a white handkerchief above his head at the soldiers on the roof. He was a few meters away from Bobby when he was struck in the back with a bullet. He fell to the ground and tried to crawl away but was shot again. Some sources say he was praying in English and Latin before bleeding to death after about 20 minutes. Nineteen-year-old Frank Quinn was then shot in the back of the head as he ran to aid the wounded men. He died instantly. The soldiers on the roof would later claim that they were aiming at a gunman.

Tensions were rising in the community as local youths fought back against the army's horrendous campaign. Families were fleeing their homes in Springfield Park as they came under attack from loyalist mobs. Parents frantically searched for their children. Local men were still being removed from their homes, beaten, and interned without reason. Local people had started to gather at the bottom of Springfield Park. Without warning the British Army opened fire from Henry Taggart Army base aiming for the gathering of locals at Springfield Park. Noel Phillips was shot in the back side. An injury that was later described in his autopsy as a flesh wound. As he lay crying for help, Joan Connolly, mother of 8, went to his aid. Eyewitnesses heard Joan call out saying "It's alright son, I'm coming to you." Joan was shot in the face. When the gun fire stopped Noel Phillips, Joan Connolly, Joseph Murphy, and many others lay wounded. Daniel Teggart, a father of 14, lay dead

having been shot 14 times. A short time later a British Army vehicle left the Henry Taggart Army base and entered the field. A soldier exited the vehicle, and to the dismay of the local eyewitnesses, executed the already wounded Noel Phillips by shooting him once behind each ear with a handgun.

Soldiers then began lifting the wounded and dead and throwing them into the back of the vehicle. Joseph Murphy, who had been shot once in the leg, was also lifted along with the other victims and taken to the Henry Taggart Army base. Those lifted, including Joseph Murphy, were severely beaten. Soldiers brutally punched and kicked the victims. Soldiers jumped off bunks on top of victims and aggravated the victims' existing wounds by forcing objects into them. Mr. Murphy was shot at close range with a rubber bullet into the wound he first received in the field. Mr. Murphy died three weeks later from his injuries.

Joan Connolly, who had not been lifted by the soldiers when they first entered the field, lay wounded where she had been shot. Eyewitnesses claimed Joan cried out for help for many hours. Joan was eventually removed from the field around 2:30am on August 10th. Autopsy reports state that Joan, having been repeatedly shot and bled to death.

There were two more days of mayhem before the Ballymurphy massacre ended. Between 9th and 11th of August eleven people were brutally murdered, with many more people shot and wounded.

Less than six months after the events at Ballymurphy, members of the same military unit involved in Ballymurphy were sent to Derry to help control the crowd at an anti-internment march. The events of that day would lead to the death of fourteen innocent people in a day that would become known as Bloody Sunday. Instead of dismantling the IRA, Operation Demetrius caused such outrage that it led to a large increase in membership to the Provisional IRA. Bloody Sunday and the Ballymurphy massacre have a lot of similarities, the largest one being that it was carried out by the same battalion of the British army, 1 para. The big difference between the two is that there were no journalists present or camera crews documenting the events at Ballymurphy like there was at Bloody Sunday.

The findings of an inquest presented in May 2021 stated by Justice Keegan said, "*the use of force was clearly disproportionate.*" British Prime Minister Boris Johnson issued a letter of apology to the families of victims, that read "*Those who died over that terrible period were innocent of any wrongdoing. The events at Ballymurphy should never have happened. You should never have had to experience such grief at the loss of your loved ones. The duty of the state is to hold itself to the highest standard and that requires us to recognize the hurt and agony caused when we fall short of those standards. I am truly sorry.*"

This is only one event out of the many centuries of abuse and mistreatment of the Catholic population at the hands of the English. The truly amazing thing is it took nearly 50 years to admit guilt, and if you know anything about Irish history, this is a fact that should not be surprising.

To order green jackets and sashes, click on the picture:



Ancient Order of Hibernians
Dooley Division
Patrick Shea
3312 Hard Rock Court
Henrico, VA 23230-1945

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street»
«City», «State» «Zip»

