

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Dooley Dispatch

January 2024

Celebrating 45 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

President
Dan Caffrey 512-6288

Vice President
Mike Valacer

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Tim McDonnell 678-9674

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[Brian Hegarty](#) 814-3517

Right to Life
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Executive Secretary
[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 January 9, 2024 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message: President's Message:



Dear Brothers,

It's hard to believe that it's been 12 years since I wrote this President's Message for our newsletter. I was AOH Dooley President in 2010 and 2011 (2 years). Since then, we've had many outstanding Presidents and I want to thank all of those who have served. I've been fortunate to have served as the Executive Secretary during that time to assist our Presidents in doing their job. Our Past Presidents continue to be active and serve a vital role in our Division. I say this in part, to encourage other brothers to step up and serve as President. Thanks to Mike Smith for the great job he did last year. Thanks to Mike Valacer for stepping in as Vice President this year and being willing to serve as the President in 2025. Also, thanks to our other Officers for serving this year, some new and some returning. The AOH Dooley Division really lives up to the Friendship aspect of our Motto. I truly enjoy all the time we spend together throughout the year at Meetings and Events. We also serve the Christian Charity aspect of our Motto through our successful raffle each year and the amount of money that we can donate to worthy Charities including the Catholic Churches that most of us attend. The Unity we have is evident in all that we do. The most important parts of our meetings are celebrating our Irish Catholic heritage through Irish History, Irish Song and prayers. Thanks to Brian Hegarty for leading us in Irish History and to Vince Eikmeier for leading us in Irish Song over so many years. Also, thanks to our Chaplain, Fr. Jim Arsenault, for leading us in prayer at the meetings. I'm looking forward to a great 2024 for the AOH Dooley Division and am honored to be serving as your President.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Big Dan Caffrey

Upcoming Events:

March 16 – 17: Churchhill St. Patrick's Festival

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For January 9, 2024 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:

- **Scott Nugent** – On Dec 28 had a seizure. Taken to VCU for MRI. Found a brain tumor. Has surgery at Duke Medical Center on Jan 9 and then determining next steps.
- **Debra Fitzgerald** – Wife of Past President *Jim Fitzgerald* - On Christmas afternoon Debra suffered a fall at home which resulted in her being transported to the Henrico Doctors Hospital and subsequently admitted to the ICU. After consultation, we were advised that she has a cracked skull and bleeding on the brain, however surgery will not be necessary at this time. Her breathing tube was removed and the doctors advised she will be transferred to the step down unit.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Diane Woods** – Wife of *Jim Woods* – Complications from hip replacement, metal leaking into blood
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – Having kidney issues. Still recuperating
- **Tom Forbes** – Seeing entire staff working to keep his cancer away
- **Aunt Carol** – Diagnosed with liver cancer
- **Tom Murphy** – Has Covid and low oxygen levels
- **Jim Donohue** – Experiencing extreme vertigo attacks. Cataract surgery Jan 8
- **Greg Hill** – Cousin of *Tim McDonnell* - Being treated for esophageal cancer (48 with young family)
- **Mary Margaret McGowan** – Mother of *Patrick McGowan* – Spent a few nights in hospital. Is out and adjusting to assisted living.
- **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.
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – was hospitalized for kidney issues. Is home now recovering.

- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jack Griffin** – Moved to extended care in Northern VA. Being looked after by his son
- **Helene Zaepeel** – Mother-in-law to *Steve McGann* – Covid recovery/rheumatoid arthritis pain
- **Mercedes McGann** – Mother to *Steve McGann* – Recovering from a fall
- **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 Stelman** – 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
- **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

November 2023

Irish Medal of Honor Recipients

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest medal for valor in combat that can be awarded to members of the armed forces. During the waning days of December 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed a Congressionally approved bill creating 200 "medals of honor," specifically for enlisted Navy personnel. In July 1862, President Lincoln authorized 2,000 Army medals. Like the Navy medals, these were to be "presented, in the name of the Congress" to enlisted personnel who "distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities" during the Civil War.

As of January 1, 2022, 3515 Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Thirty-three countries are listed as the birthplaces of the recipients, and Ireland with 258, has the most by far. More than 2,100 (approximately 59%) have been awarded to service members with Irish heritage. Father Timothy O'Callahan, who was not only the first Catholic Chaplain to receive the Medal of Honor, but the first of any faith to be so recognized. Nineteen men have been awarded the medal twice. Five of these 19 men were born in Ireland. They are Henry Hogan from Co. Clare, John Laverty from Co. Tyrone, John Cooper from Dublin, John King from Co. Mayo, and Patrick Mullen (Co. of origin is not listed). Three double Medal of Honor recipients were Irish Americans: U. S. Marines Daniel Daly and John Joseph Kelly, and U. S. Navy's John McCloy.



Perhaps the most celebrated of the eight service members of Irish heritage is Marine Corps Sergeant Major Daniel "Dan" Joseph Daly (1873 – 1937) who is one of only two marines to receive the Medal of Honor twice and nominated for a third. Daly was lauded by Major General John A. Lejeune, Commandant of the Marine Corps, as "the outstanding Marine of all time." Outside of his celebrated military service spanning thirty years there is little known about Daly. Daly was born to an Irish American family in Glen Cove, Long Island, New York. He stood at 5 foot 6 inches tall and weighed 132 pounds, his physique was small compared to the other marines. Although described as "a quiet mannered, modest and unobtrusive" man, the young Daly was a respected amateur boxer. He was also a newsboy who competed against other newsboys for the best street corners for selling newspapers. In 1899, at the age of 26, Daly was motivated to join the Marine Corps for the Spanish American War. The War was over before Daly completed recruit training; however, it would not be long before he would encounter his share of battle from the Boxer Rebellion through the First World War.

Soon after Daly finished training, he was shipped to China to serve in Peking (now Beijing), during the Boxer Rebellion. Standing alone through a hellish night while his captain went to gather reinforcements, Private Daly fiercely defended the Tarter Wall which was a 45-foot-high brick wall situated south of the American diplomatic compound. Armed only with his bolt action M1895 rifle with fixed bayonet the young Marine single-handedly fended off repeated sniper attacks and about 400 soldiers tried to storm the wall until backup arrived. His valor in action that day earned him his first Medal of Honor, which he received in December 1901.

During the summer of 1915, a revolt in the Republic of Haiti had begun to jeopardize American lives and property. The 15th Company (Mounted), 2nd Marine Regiment, were ordered to carry out extensive patrols into the country's interior to seek out revolutionary fighters known as Caco bandits. At one point, several of Daly's comrades had been taken prisoner. He tunneled under the walls of the prison where they were being

held, killed the guards, and set his men free. However, what earned him a second Medal of Honor happened in October during a reconnaissance mission. The Company was crossing a deep river ravine when they were ambushed on three sides by enemy Caco rebels, and their horse carrying a heavy machine gun was killed. Gunnery Sergeant Daly retrieved the machine gun by defying heavy fire and engaging in knife fighting against seven Cacos. He strapped the machine gun to his own back and returned it to his men, thereby saving the 15th Company from disaster and was instrumental in capturing Fort Dipitie.

Daly was not yet finished. During World War I, at the battle of Belleau Wood, France during June 1918, while assigned to the 73rd Machine Gun Company, the Marines were outnumbered, outgunned under a heavy artillery barrage and pinned down. Realizing that staying put would lead to certain death, the 44-year-old Daly led a counterattack with a battle cry that made legends. First Sergeant Daly famously ordered an attack and leapt forward, shouting this battle cry to his beleaguered men: “Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?” in an effort to motivate the troops to continue to fight. Daly, armed with only a .45-caliber pistol and hand grenades, single-handedly charged, and eliminated the Germans. Daly’s repeated and fearless deeds of heroism at Belleau Wood merited him a third nomination for the Medal of Honor. His actions earned him the Army Distinguished Service Cross and the Navy Cross. The French Government presented Daly with the Medaille Militaire, the Croix de Guerre with Palm and the French Victory Medal.

Two-time Medal of Honor recipient Major General Smedley D. Butler said it best, he called Daly “The fightingest Marine I ever knew.” Daly was offered a commission many times throughout his 30-year career, but always turned it down on the grounds that he would rather be an outstanding sergeant than “just another officer.”

Daly retired from military service in 1929. SgtMaj Daly pursued a private life working a low-profile bank guard job on Wall Street in New York City for seventeen years. He died in 1937 having never married. He was married to the Marine Corp. Daly is buried at Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. In 1943, the Navy commissioned the USS Daly in his honor. Both of his Medals of Honor are housed at the National Museum of the U.S. Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia.

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»

