

Ancient Order of Hibernians



# The Dooley Dispatch

## January 2025

**Celebrating 46 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

Editor – Patrick Shea 804.516.9598 ([pshea1128@gmail.com](mailto:pshea1128@gmail.com))

Photographer – Patrick Shea ([patrick.shea@aohrichmond.org](mailto:patrick.shea@aohrichmond.org))

Webmaster – Patrick Shea ([pshea1128@gmail.com](mailto: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

### President's Message

Next Meeting – Tuesday January 14, 2025 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

Dear Brothers,

I wish peace to all men of goodwill and I feel blessed to be surrounded by you. This is my first President's Letter and I look forward to working with and getting to know each of you better this year.

Friendship - I am grateful to Dan Caffrey for his 3<sup>rd</sup> time as President and for his leadership and friendship. Thanks to Joe McGovern as our 2025 Vice-President, Charley O'Connor as our new Recording Secretary, and the faithful brothers returning to their leadership positions. Our Division is fortunate to have many past presidents still active and performing vital roles. I cannot think of an organization with the depth and breadth of experience to draw upon than the Dooley Division. The friends I have made and the friendship I have seen truly defines what we as brothers and our sisters in the LAOH display in our everyday lives.

Unity - As we roll along in 2025, the State AOH Convention will be held in Richmond in July 2025 and I look forward to joining our brothers from across the Commonwealth. Our own Vince Eikmeier will be taking over the AOH State President role and I look forward to his leadership. It will be great to have the other divisions here in our town as a united group.

Last and not least, the Christian Charity – Thank you to our Chaplain, Fr. Jim Arsenault for his spiritual guidance and leadership in prayer in our meetings and in our lives. I take strength in his guidance and leadership to become a better person. I am the luckiest man alive to have you as my brothers and the support you bring to me and each other. I am blessed and look forward to a wonderful 2025.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Mike Valacer

Chaplain  
Jim Arsenault

President  
Mike Valacer 516-4004

Vice President  
Joe McGowan 703-593-7866

Recording Secretary  
Charley O'Connor 514-8023

Financial Secretary  
Tim McDonnell 678-9674

Treasurer  
Fred Gerloff 305-2662

Chairman of Standing  
Committee  
Dave Woychik

Marshal  
Dan McLaughlin

Sentinel  
Peter "PJ" George

Historian  
Brian Hegarty 814-3517

Right to Life  
Mike Smith 873-2198

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*

---

## Upcoming Events:

**AOH Dooley Division Business Meetings in 2025 at 7 pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each Month**, except for July and August, at St. Michael Catholic Church. 2025 Meeting Dates - 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 9/9, 10/7, 11/11, **12/9 (Officer Installation)**

### **Raffle Sales/Membership Drives after Masses:**

- **Feb 1-2, 2025 – St. Michael’s; 5:00 pm Sat; 7:45 am, 9:15 am, 11:15 am and 5 pm Sun.**
- **Feb. 22-23, 2025 – St. Mary’s; 5:30 pm Sat; 9 am and 11 am Sun.**
- **Mar. 1-2, 2025 – St. Bridget’s; 5:30 pm Sat; 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am Sun.**

**January 25, 2025, Saturday at 3:30 pm – Dooley Ceremony at Maymont;** proceed to Dooley’s Mausoleum for flower laying; Dooley Presentation in Garden Hall; Rare Olde Times for a Toast. Dooley DOB 1/17/1841.

**February 9, 2025, Sunday, 10 am Mass at St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church** – Providing and Serving Breakfast to Parishioners (Fr. Jim).

---

## AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For January 14, 2025 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 [jarсенault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarсенault@stelizcc.org)

### From Previous Meeting and since then:

- ***PJ George Jr*** – Passed on December 1. Services were held Friday, December 13 at St Anthony’s
- **Dennis Donovan** – died 62 years old. Family members of St. Benedict’s Parish. Benedictine Class of 1980.
- **Oscar Nauman** – recovering from car accident; facial reconstruction surgery.
- **Joanne Antenino** – myeloma.
- **Marty McAuliff** – cancer; brother-in-law of Brian Kiernan.
- **Katie McAuliff** – knee replacement – sister in-law of Brian Kiernan.
- **Taylor Ribar** – daughter of Marty; brain cancer surgery; Brian Kiernan.
- **Alesia** – Jim Whelen’s wife – back surgery.

- **Courtney McGowan - Pat McGowan’s sister-in-law** – breast cancer surgery, had double mastectomy. Has another surgery this month.

### From Prior Meetings:

- **Stokes McCune** – update - went to the hospital recently, TIA – mini-stroke, should have been released on Monday. Had Brain surgery, heart issues, lung issues. Stage 4 cancer.
- **Scott Nugent** – Finished initial treatment for his brain tumor. Ongoing treatment now
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Passed away October 25 – pray for the repose of his soul
- **Pat Naughton** – Diagnosed with glioblastoma
- **Margaret D’Antuono** – First Cousin of *Brian Kiernan* – pray for the repose of the soul
- **Ruth McMurtray** – Grandmother of *Colin McMurtray* - has back pain
- **Mark Ambrozy** – Friend of *Tom Nolan* – has cancer
- **Karen Lucas – sister of Chad Costello** – breast cancer, Stage 1.
- **Debbie Brokaw** – Wife of *Matt Brokaw* – diagnosed with colon cancer and starting chemo
- **Sean O’Grady** – AOH brother, bone marrow cancer and wife who was in a recent car accident.
- **Theresa** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. In recovery from surgery
- **Barbara O’Connor** – Wife of *Charley O’Connor* – has Multiple System Atrophy. In VCU at home hospice program
- **John Hegarty** – cousin of *Brian Hegarty* – Diagnosed with cancer. In chemo.
- **Debra Fitzgerald** – Wife of Past President *Jim Fitzgerald* – Had a bad fall and recovering.
- **Tom Murphy** – low oxygen levels
- **Jim Donohue** – Meniere’s disease
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of Scott Nugent – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Ongoing treatment.
- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings*’ mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery

November 2024

## John Fitzgerald Kennedy's Visit to Ireland

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Less than 24 hours after her husband was assassinated in Dallas, Jackie Kennedy was on the phone to the Irish Ambassador to the United States. The reason for her call was to request the presence of the Irish Army Cadets rifle drill team at President Kennedy's funeral. The request was formally conveyed by the U. S. Ambassador to Ireland, Matthew McCloskey, to then Taoiseach, Seán Lemass, on the evening of November 23, 1963. Mr. Lemass immediately gave the go ahead.

The Irish Defence Forces 37<sup>th</sup> Cadet Class would play at the Kennedy graveside as part of the funeral ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. President Kennedy had witnessed them perform a rifle drill at Arbour Hill in Dublin where he laid a wreath on the graves of fourteen leaders of the 1916 Rising during his visit to Ireland in June 1963. He described it as the finest honor guard he had ever seen. The cadets performed their rifle drill exercise just feet from the president's grave with commands in the Irish language echoing over the rolling grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy's term in office is best remembered for the role he played in the cold war. His response to the Cuban Missile Crisis, his determination to surpass the USSR in the 'Space Race,' and his shocking assassination in November 1963 are the events most often sited when speaking of his legacy. However, his charismatic personality, iconic image and impassioned oratory have stood the test of time.

His emotional and poignant speeches, whether delivered from the steps of Capitol Hill or in front of the Berlin Wall, connected with his audience, and often signaled landmark shifts in US domestic and foreign policies. His address to the joint Irish Houses of the Oireachtas on June 28, 1963, was one such moment.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was proud to be the First American President to visit Ireland during his term in office. Ireland is the country from which all eight of his great grandparents had fled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Kennedy described his visit to Ireland in June 1963 as one of the most emotional periods of his life. He had visited three times previously, with his father in 1939, after his service in World War II in 1945, and as a senator.

Kennedy would spend four days in the country visiting Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, and his family's ancestral home in Wexford. His arrival was long anticipated, and he was happily received by the Irish people. Although Kennedy was not the first White House President to have visited Ireland (this honor belongs to Ulysses S. Grant who visited in 1879 during his tour of Europe, two years after leaving office). JFK's status as the first Roman Catholic elected President to visit an independent Irish state heralded his visit as significant. The President also benefited from the advent of television. The young Republic had only launched its first television station, Telefís Éireann, two years earlier but Kennedy had long mastered the medium. His state visit was extensively recorded, and this included his twenty-five-minute personal address to the Dáil Éireann; which was also a first by a foreign head of state.

He spoke at length about the long, shared history of Ireland and the United States; the impact that Irish immigrants had in shaping and advancing America and its institutions, and the role they had, and continued to play in the defense of liberty and freedom of the world.

He also referenced and quoted several Irishmen who had played key roles in American history such as James Hoban, the architect of the White House; John Barry, the father of the US Navy; John Boyle O'Reilly, a noted

Fenian leader, poet and journalist, and Thomas Francis Meagher, the leader of the Irish Brigade in the Union Army in the American Civil War and later Acting Governor of Montana Territory.

President Kennedy presented one of the flags of Meagher's battalion, the 'Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>', to the Irish people and ended his address with a call to action, announcing that Ireland's hour had come and that her role on the global stage was to ensure 'peace with freedom'.

JFK's ascent to the pinnacle of US politics was an 'Irish' success story to be proud of and often his portrait could be found beside that of the Pope in Irish homes long after he had departed from Ireland. Ireland claimed him as their own.

When leaving Ireland from Shannon Airport he said, "This is not the land of my birth, but it is the land for which I hold the greatest affection, and I certainly will come back in the springtime."



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



«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Street»  
«City», «State» «Zip»