



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

March 2023

Brother Hibernians _____



It is still Irish American Heritage Month ...

I hope this month's newsletter finds you and your family well and everyone had a good St. Patrick's Day and St. Patrick's Day parade here in Pearl River. Thanks to those who came out and marched with our Division. This gives us one more chance to recognize the Division 3 honorees – Larry DeGennaro as Hibernian of the Year, Kevin Haugh as Aide to the Grand Marshal and Dennis Madigan as Battalion Commander.

After the very busy couple of weeks, thanks, too, to those who made Friday's meeting. We'll try to get back on a 'regular' schedule with the newsletter preceding the meeting for next month's meeting on April 21st.

Noted above is that it is still Irish American Heritage Month. There is some great content on the national website, highlighting a different Irish America for each day of the month – please take some time to take a look, or better yet, share with your children:

<https://aoh.com/>

In the upcoming month, our scholarship process will continue with the Irish history exam. Applicants will be contacted with details. As soon as we have a definitive date for our Hibernian Mass and Communion Breakfast where we present the scholarships, we will let everyone know.

Welcome to our newest members sworn in at the February meeting: John Heim of Blauvelt, Sean Lavine of Harrington Park, Brian McKay of Orangeburg, Alan Monohan of Orangeburg and John Nolan of Pearl River.

Good & Welfare –Please say a prayer for the repose of the soul of our brother Patrick Kelly – may he rest in peace. Also, please continue to pray for Craig Basler, recovering from a car accident and Dennis Toal, steadily recovering from double-knee surgery.

As always, we pray that you and your family are healthy and safe.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



- **Lenten Fridays** – Fish Dinners available every Friday in Lent: <https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Fish-Fry.png>
- **Golf Committee Meetings** – Every Thursday, from March 30th, starting at 7pm, at the Hibernian House in the upstairs Hall. (see article)
- **Comedy Night at the Hibernian** – Friday, April 28th, 8pm, doors open at 7:30. Tickets are going fast and you can buy a table – see Dennis Madigan with any questions.
- **Division 3 Golf Outing** - Friday, May 12th, at Blue Hill golf course. More details to follow.

Annual Golf Outing



Division 3 sponsors only two major fundraisers a year, and our spring event is our annual golf outing. The outing takes a tremendous amount of effort by a large group of people and that effort will continue every Thursday evening, with organizational meetings of the Golf Committee – meeting will be held upstairs at the Hibernian House, at 7pm.

This year's outing is in memory of our brother, Ciaran Green, whom we lost far too young in December. We want to make this a great event, both as a memorial and as a fundraiser. We'd like to thank Tom Lynch for taking over as chair of the committee, as well as Sean Walsh for his years at the helm. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved in a great event and to meet lots of your brothers!

Seniors' Luncheon



Congratulations to Larry DeGennaro and his team for another great St. Patrick's Day seniors' luncheon. Following form, the weather was dicey, yet the crowd was big (over 90 seniors attended) and there was a lot of corned beef cooked and consumed. Thanks to all the entertainers that day, those members there the day of, those who helped with all the food prep, and to the many students (special shoutout to Chris Power and the huge Albertus Magnus contingent) who volunteered their time to make, in the words of one senior, "the best day of the year." See the following pictures:



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Officer Philip Fitzpatrick: Patrolman and Poet



Philip Fitzpatrick was born in Aughavas, Co. Leitrim in 1892. Like so many of his generation, he emigrated to the United States and settled in New York City. He joined the NYPD in 1926 and was assigned to Mounted Squad 1 in Manhattan. He would serve with distinction for over 21 years as one of 'New York's Finest' and would prove more than worthy of the title.

However, in addition to protecting the streets of New York, Patrolman Fitzpatrick had another talent that few realized until many years after his death; he was a talented poet. Fitzpatrick came from a family having a long musical tradition going back through the generations. His best-known poem was a tribute to the County of his birth, "Lovely Leitrim,"; the story of an immigrant dreaming of returning to his homeland and seeing once again the sights he once knew and now cherishes in his heart. He also wrote a moving poem about his experience as a father saying goodbye to his son Charles as he leaves to join the Marines in WW II.

Fitzpatrick also wrote a poem to honor his fellow police officers, whom he described as "*Soldiers of Peace*." In the poem, he describes the fear well

known to all police families that when he "*kisses his wife and children goodbye, there's a chance he will see them no more.*" For Officer Phillip Fitzpatrick, the line was sadly prophetic.

On Tuesday, May 20, 1947, Patrolman Fitzpatrick was off duty and having lunch with his friend Patrolman George H. Dammeyer at a tavern located at 1703 Third Avenue and East 96th Street on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. While they were dining, two career criminals armed with pistols entered the tavern after having just robbed another location nearby, where they pistol-whipped their victims. The criminals proceeded to demand money and valuables from everyone in the tavern, pointing their pistols at both the customers and staff.

Despite the great risk to their own safety, Patrolman Fitzpatrick and Patrolman Dammeyer bravely attempted to apprehend the criminals. During the altercation, Patrolman Fitzpatrick was shot twice in the stomach and suffered grievous wounds while struggling with one of the perpetrators. However, Patrolman Dammeyer managed to shoot and kill both of the criminals.

Patrolman Fitzpatrick succumbed to his wounds and passed away on May 26, 1947, leaving behind his wife Mary and five sons. In recognition of his bravery and sacrifice, Patrolman Fitzpatrick was given an Inspector's funeral and was posthumously awarded the NYPD Medal of Honor. His son Charles, whose leaving for the Marines he had memorialized, was given his father's Shield, No. 15348. Phillip Fitzpatrick had never made it back to his home County of Leitrim. He was remembered as a proud Irishman, a devout Catholic who was a member of the Holy Name Society and a committed member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

(continued)

It would not be until twenty years after his death that Phillip Fitzpatrick's poem "Lovely Leitrim" gained notoriety by singer Larry Cunningham. Despite admiring the song, Cunningham released it as a 'B-Side' because he knew that RTÉ (Ireland's dominant radio station) would never play it. While Cunningham was correct, the hand of radio producers was forced when the song was frequently requested. "Lovely Leitrim" would go on to be a number-one record, displacing the Beatles' "Day Tripper," selling over a million copies. The song has become an unofficial anthem for County Leitrim.

Sadly, many do not know that behind the ballad "Lovely Leitrim" stands a son of Leitrim who is memorialized on the walls of NYPD headquarters at One Police Plaza.

To his County and the People of New York, he was 'faithful unto death, the motto of the NYPD.