



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

March 2026

Brother Hibernians_____



It's just a little more than a week to Easter Sunday, and we hope this finds you and your family well and everyone had a good St. Patrick's Day. We look forward to seeing you **Friday, March 27th at 8pm** at our monthly meeting. We'll discuss planning and action items around upcoming events such as our Communion Breakfast, distribution of scholarships and our annual Golf Outing (more in the newsletter below).

A special shout-out to the officers and bartenders of the Hibernian House for making the St. Patrick's season so successful – great entertainment upstairs and large crowds upstairs and down throughout the day. Also, a big thank you to Larry DeGennaro and the team that served the feast to the 120+ senior citizens who attended our St. Patrick's celebration holiday luncheon. Also, congratulations to those Division 3 members who were honored at the parades this year including Chris Vergine as Businessperson of the Year, Dan Mulligan, Aide to the NYC Grand Marshal, Quinton Van Wynen III as an Aide to the Rockland Grand Marshal and John Edwards as a Rockland Parade Battalion Commander.

In the upcoming month, our scholarship process will continue with the Irish history exam. Applicants will be contacted with details. This will all culminate with our Hibernian Mass and Communion Breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd.

I'm sad to note that Defiant Brewery will be closing after this upcoming weekend. Defiant and Neil Acer, our Brother and the owner, have been a huge friend and help to the Hibernian House over the years, getting us what we need whenever we need it. Stop down to Defiant and have a farewell beer, all while we all hope they are able to figure out the next chapter in the Defiant story (I don't think that story is over!).

Also, a lot of work has begun on the Golf Outing. Please see following articles on a number of these activities.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the soul of our brother Patrick Murphy, also the son of member Sean Murphy, and for Eileen Moran, mother of member Joe Moran – may they rest in peace. Please continue to keep John Crilley, Kevin Haugh, Jack Lynch (father of Tommy), and Ann Walsh (mother of Sean and grandmother of Tyler, Dylan and Liam) in your prayers.

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



Event	Timing	Details
<i>The Rummies</i> – Acoustic	Sat., 4/4; 5–8pm	Great music and a great time upstairs in the Hall; no cover and a 50/50.
Benefit for Kevin Haugh	Sat., 4/18, 3-7pm	At Pearl River Elks – SAVE THE DATE!
Hibernian Mass & Communion Breakfast	Sun., 5/3; Mass at 9am, breakfast follows	Mass at St. Margaret's and breakfast back at the Hibernian
PR AOH Annual Memorial Golf Outing	Fri., 5/8	Bluehill Golf Course – see fliers
New Member Night	Fri., 5/15	More details to come

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 with organizational meetings of the Golf Committee. We have been meeting on Tuesdays at 7:30pm at the pub.

This year's outing is in memory of Phil Lane whom we lost in 2024. Phil came to the AOH with a strong love for Irish culture and history, having played Irish music as a youth. He brought with him both a love of all things Irish, along with a practical ability to get things done. Phil was a leader at the Pearl River AOH, serving as Vice President of the Division, as well as serving as President of the Hibernian House. We miss his energy, as well as his enduring good nature, every day since.

We'd once again like to thank Scott McMaster for chairing the committee for another year. ***What do we need from you?*** Aside from lot of volunteers, we're assembling gift baskets for the raffles. If you're a season ticket holder – whether it be a sporting event, to a particular venue or even a vacation spot – if you'd like to make a big impact, consider making a donation of tickets to a game or something like that. On the volunteering front, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved in a great event and to meet lots of your brothers! Sign-ups will be posted in the pub.

Seniors' Luncheon



Congratulations to Larry DeGennaro and the team for another great St. Patrick's Day seniors' luncheon. We had a great volunteer staff helping out before, during and after the 'main event', including a deep team in the kitchen, where 120+ seniors had a full corned beef meal. A special shout out to all of the student volunteers including the great group that showed up from Albertus Magnus (thanks, Chris Power, for organizing as always!). And a big thank you to Fergal Hayes for performing throughout the luncheon. Much gratitude to all!



Hibernian Mass



On Sunday, May 3rd, we'll have our annual Hibernian Mass and Communion Breakfast. The Mass will be held at St. Margaret Church at the regular 9am Mass, and the Communion Breakfast will be held in the upstairs hall at the Hibernian House immediately thereafter. We will recognize our ten high school scholarship recipients at both events, presenting them their scholarship checks at the breakfast. As an Irish Catholic organization, this is an important event on our annual calendar, and we ask all members to attend both events if you can. We should be very well represented at the Mass, as our Chaplain, Father Raaser, is usually the celebrant.

You don't have to be a family member of a scholar to attend. The breakfast is only \$10 per individual (\$20 for families). In order to get a headcount estimate, let us know if you're coming at praoh3@gmail.com. Thanks to John Edwards for organizing the event for us again. More details to come, but let us know any question at praoh3@gmail.com.

Hibernian House



As we wrap up the St. Patrick's season, thanks to all who came out and a special thanks to the Hibernian House officers and the entire team that had to pitch in to make it happen. A special congratulations to our own Q who was honored as our Aide to the Grand Marshal at the Rockland parade.

Also, a big 'thank you' to all those who closed out the annual Fat-off with the final weigh-out the Saturday before St. Patrick's. The 2026 fat-off was a great success. Congratulations to Chuck Parnow and Bob Winkleman for winning this year's competition. Thank you to all of the participants. In total the division lost over 150 lbs!!!! Great job by everyone. All proceeds benefit the Hibernian House Friend in Need Fund.

We're looking forward to another musical event in the Hall upstairs, as the Rummies once again have an acoustic performance on Saturday, April 4th. It's the Saturday of Easter weekend, so in between the various family-related events of the weekend, take a couple of hours 'off'.

Finally, you may not notice it, but we've completed critical work on the exterior of the building's siding and gutters. This addresses some critical water management issues, as well as lines us up for the final phase of our Grant project. Thanks to Sully, Dennis Madigan and others for seeing this through to completion.



Our own Pearl River AOH contingent, with Battalion Commander John Edwards, getting ready to step off.

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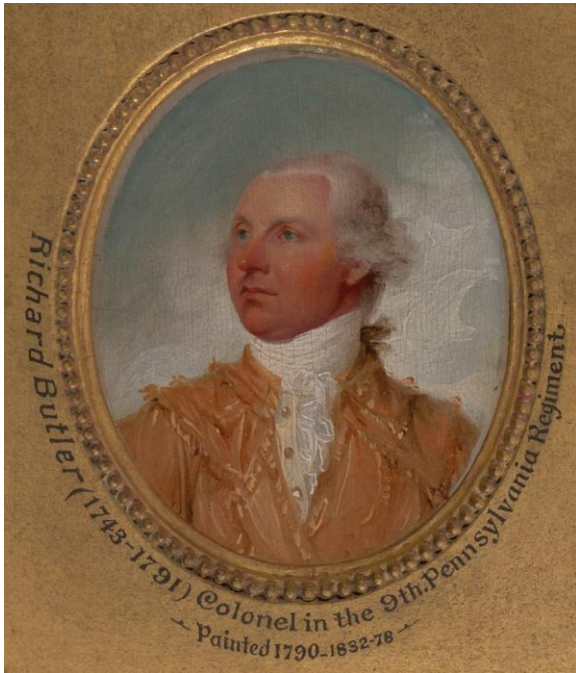
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The Fighting Butlers

Across the Revolutionary War, five Butler brothers—sons of an Irish immigrant gunsmith—served as officers in the Continental Army. They fought in some of the most important campaigns of the war and continued their service into the early years of the American republic. Their story reminds us that the struggle for American liberty was strengthened by immigrants who carried with them a deep tradition of resistance to tyranny.



General Richard Butler, one of the five Butler Brothers who served America's cause during the Revolution and after

The Butler story begins with Thomas Butler Sr., a gunsmith believed to have descended from the historic Butler family of Ireland, an old Irish line rooted in the country for centuries. In 1748 he and his wife, Eleanor Parker, emigrated to the American colonies and eventually settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a frontier town on the edge of the American backcountry.

There Butler established a gunsmith shop supplying rifles to settlers and frontiersmen. His greatest legacy, however, was the five sons he raised—**Richard, William, Thomas, Percival, and Edward**—all of whom would serve as officers in the American cause. Together, they became known in the Continental Army as “the Fighting Butlers” whose service stretched across the war.

Service Across the American Revolution

During the American Revolution, Thomas Butler Sr. was appointed Chief Armorer of the Continental Army; his sons appeared repeatedly wherever the fighting was hardest.

Richard Butler, born in Dublin, served with Daniel Morgan’s rifle corps during the Saratoga campaign and became one of the most respected officers in the Continental Army.

William Butler, also Irish-born, developed a reputation as an experienced frontier officer. He later took part in the Sullivan–Clinton Expedition, the campaign against the British-allied Iroquois in New York.

Thomas Butler distinguished himself at Brandywine and Monmouth, where he held a narrow defile under heavy attack, allowing American forces to withdraw in good order.

The younger brothers, Percival and Edward, joined the army as teenagers and endured the harsh winter at Valley Forge alongside the rest of Washington’s army.

Their service continued after the Revolution as the new nation began building its institutions. Percival Butler later became the first Adjutant General of Kentucky, while Edward Butler served as Adjutant General of the United States Army during its early years.

The Butlers at Stony Point

One of the most dramatic episodes in the Butler family's service came during the American assault on Stony Point, NY on July 15, 1779.

The British fortification on the Hudson River was considered nearly impregnable and guarded a vital supply route. General Anthony Wayne planned a daring nighttime bayonet assault and selected Colonel Richard Butler to command the left column of the attacking force.

Advancing silently through marsh and water with unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets, Butler and his men closed with the British defenses under cover of darkness. Among the officers advancing with the column was Edward Butler, serving in his brother's regiment.

The assault succeeded. The Americans stormed the fort and captured the garrison in one of the most daring operations of the war. The victory at Stony Point electrified the American cause and demonstrated the growing confidence and discipline of Washington's army. The battle effectively ended British military in the North as they turned to the southern colonies.

“The Butlers and Their Five Sons”

By the end of the war the Butler brothers had earned a reputation throughout the Continental Army.

Family tradition holds that following the victory at Yorktown, General George Washington raised a toast honoring: “The Butlers and their five sons.”

The Marquis de Lafayette, to whom Richard Butler served as one of aides presented Butler a fine sword in recognition of his service. Lafayette, is also to have remarked that when he needed something done well, he would “have a Butler do it.”

The Last Order

The most tragic chapter in the Butler story came not during the Revolution, but in the early years of the new republic.

In 1791, the young United States sent an army into the Northwest Territory (modern Ohio) during a growing frontier conflict between American forces and a Native confederacy in the region. The expedition was commanded by Major General Arthur St. Clair, with Major General Richard Butler serving as second in command.

On November 4, near the Wabash River, the American force was surprised and overwhelmed. The battle became known as St. Clair's Defeat, the worst military disaster ever suffered by the United States Army in a battle with Native American forces.

Richard Butler fought throughout the battle despite being badly wounded. As the American lines collapsed, later accounts describe his brother Edward Butler finding him near the army's camp. Edward was also attempting to save their brother Thomas, who had been severely wounded in the fighting.

Edward urged Richard to let him carry him from the field. Richard refused, realizing that he was mortally wounded and Edward could not carry them both. Richard gave Edward a direct order to save their brother instead.

Edward placed Thomas on a horse and escaped as the enemy overran the camp. Richard was seen still fighting with a pistol till the end.

A last Act of Irish Defiance in the Butler Tradition

The Butler story also reveals something of the stubborn independence of Irish America.

Thomas Butler continued serving in the United States Army long after the Revolution. In 1801 the Army ordered officers to cut off their traditional queue, the long-braided ponytail worn by soldiers of the eighteenth century. Many officers complied. Thomas Butler refused, believing that the general issuing the order was overstepping his authority.

He considered the order unnecessary and beneath the dignity of a veteran officer who had fought for the country's independence. Rather than comply, Butler chose to face a court-martial.

The dispute became well known in early army circles. Butler accepted the punishment but never surrendered his position or his queue. Family tradition even holds that when he died, he ordered a hole cut in his coffin so that his queue could hang through it; ensuring that even in death he would not obey the order.

An Irish Legacy for America 250

The story of the Fighting Butlers reminds us that the American Revolution was not fought by native-born colonists alone. Immigrants from Ireland stood in the ranks, commanded regiments, and helped secure the independence of the United States.

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, their story deserves to be remembered.

From a gunsmith's shop on the Pennsylvania frontier to the battlefields of the Revolution, the Butler brothers carried with them the heritage of Ireland and helped forge a nation.

They were, in every sense, a gallant band of brothers.