



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2014



Brother Hibernians, _____



Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 24th at 8pm. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made our Christmas parties so special despite the terrible weather conditions. Congratulations and many thanks are also due to the Sheridans, all our volunteers, a very overworked bartender Frank McDonagh, and especially Bill and Trish Lee for a very successful Pot O'Gold final drawing party. We hope all of the winners enjoyed their winnings over the holidays. Thank you to all who purchased tickets. Because of your support, the division will be able to continue to assist those in need in our community, support those organizations that help so many, and to offer our scholarships. Congratulations to Larry DeGennaro and Brian Booth who respectively have been elected as our Aide to Grand Marshal and Battalion Commander for the 2014 Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News... Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of:

Jim O'Brien's wife Joan, Larry Dolan Jr.'s bride Alison, and Ed Coffey's son-in-law Mark Collins. Brendan Malley, one of our past multi-term Division presidents, has a severe case of COPD is strapped with a portable oxygen tank but his spirits are ok, Mike Smith has begun his dialysis treatments, Frank Aiello is doing quite

well recovering from his leg circulation problems, John Kennedy has completed his chemo and radiation treatments and is being assessed to see if additional treatments are necessary, and Jim Whelan could use some prayers as he undergoes surgeries in Columbia Pres to repair a detached retina in one eye and red "floaters" in the other which have seriously effected his vision. Congrats to Nick Doyle who became a grandfather again thanks to Alexander David, to John Dolan whose daughter Dr. Eileen became Mrs. Jim Sulzer, to Tom Fennell and Walter Wettje whose son and daughter respectively became Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Fennell. Jim Walsh, Mike Smith, Pete Dunne, Pat Tully, and Bob Farrelly are all residents of the senior citizen's enclave on Cortwood Road in Orangeburg. John Draper, Sr. is planning one last Adopt-a-Soldier shipment for the troops overseas. There is a box at the pub to collect your donations. Many thanks to John for all his hard work.

You all should take a bow for your generosity in regards to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, our annual Pot O'Gold fund raiser, our Adopt-a-Family fund, and especially for the recent fundraiser for the John O'Hara family.

As always, please remember in your prayers our wounded warriors and their families.

Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.

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President
FRANK McDONAGH

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

Jan. 21 County Meeting

Jan. 24 Division Meeting

Feb. 2 Super Bowl Party

Feb. 8 Valentine's Dance

Feb. 22 Emerald Ball

Feb. 23 NYC Parade
Aides' Reception

Pearl River, N.Y. 10965
28 Railroad Avenue

Ancient Order of Hibernians



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The fat-off weigh in was well attended, in fact we may have to repair the floor in the pub. One member stepped on the scale and it read "Will one of you please get off?". It's all in fun and for a good cause, good luck to all. One entrant weighed in with his jacket on and had to weigh in again. He was 11 lbs. lighter without the coat, tools, hammer and one brick. As per our secrecy policy we can not tell you it was Phil Lane.

Rumor is John Gannon is in need of a vacation. Wonder why he kicked Pete Dunn in his new knee. Anybody need keys, for anything, see Johnny O. If you lost keys he probably has them.

Super Bowl Pool is moving along, there still are boxes left. Sign up and pay. Pay means when you take a box you leave the money. Guess who did not. *Hint* - he is big, drives a truck, likes keys and is related to Putin. No names.

Belfast Richie is going to be the guest speaker at the next meeting. Congratulations to Billy Ford on his son's marriage. Fran Corbett has found out that what goes up must come down. But don't forget make them pay.

Attended the swearing in of our town board members. A certain Councilman was actually on time and did not make any faces during the ceremony. Very disappointed. Thanks to all who contributed to the family fund for Christmas. Because of your generosity several families enjoyed a Merry Christmas.

Pete Dunne



VALENTINE'S DANCE

**The Valentine's/Mid-Winter Dance
will be
February 8th
with the Roddy Harrington Band
\$30 per person**

Food 7:30, band starts at 8:30

Call John McElligott at 845-638-9374
for tickets and more information

LAOH

Hi Ladies,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. January will be a busy month. I just want to go over a few things:

Annual dues (\$30) are due in January and must be paid by the end of March to avoid a penalty. Congratulations on the installation of all the new officers, without your support our organization would not succeed. Our Christmas Party for St. Zita's will be held on Sunday, January 12 at 1:30. Contact Loretta Reidy at lfrtr@yahoo.com or at 914-318-5184 to help out or donate bake goods. The parade committee is looking for help with the parade, contact Mary O'Sullivan at maaos1@verizon.net or 845-735-3682 (*meetings are the 3rd Wed. of the month*). We will also need volunteers to help sell raffle tickets outside ShopRite, 7 - 11 and Rockland Bakery (1/18,24,25 - 2/8,9,14,15,16).

Our annual St. Brigid Mass will be held on Saturday, February 1 at 4:30 Mass at St. Margaret's Church with refreshments afterwards for all. Please try to attend and bring your Sash if you have one. A special group has formed to help send 2 special needs children to Lourdes, France. A special Mass will be held on Sunday Feb. 9 at St. Margaret's Church at 12 noon with refreshments afterwards in Toner Hall. They are also selling raffle tickets with a drawing to be held at Del Arte's Restaurant on January 28. I have been asked to start to collect Box-Tops for Education from an AOH member whose daughter is teaching in a very poor area. She plans to use these to buy supplies for her students. Please support this endeavor. You can leave them at the pub in an envelope with my name on it. It is an easy but worthwhile fundraiser.

End of year reports - Financial, treasurer, history and Catholic Action are all due to the county by Jan. 31. If you have any questions please give me a call. Mark your calendar because The Emerald Ball is fast approaching on Feb. 22, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza. You can purchase your tickets online using PayPal by visiting the web at www.rocklandcountyaoh.com. This year's Business People of the Year are our own Colette Curry and Leslie Murtagh. This January meeting will be my last as President of Division 3 and I just want to thank all of the Ladies who have supported me during these past 4 years. Your friendship has meant a lot to me. Congratulations and best wishes to incoming president Katie Basler.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Joan Moore, *President*
845-735-8793 (h) • 845-536-2742 (Cell)
or email: joan55mmoore@msn.com

EMERALD BALL

February 22, 7pm

Crown Plaza Hotel in Suffern

Tickets \$100 pp

For more info or to order tickets or journal ads, visit:
www.rocklandcountyaoh.com

Honorees

Grand Marshal - James McDonnell

Aide to Grand Marshal - NYC Neil Cosgrove

Hibernian of the Year - James Tesseyman

Businesswomen of the Year - Collette Curry & Leslie Murtagh

Parade Commander - Det. Joseph Sullivan, OPD

History



Lt. Michael P. Murphy was the subject of a previous division history article a few years back. However, given the renewed interest in the events of Murphy and his squads last mission detailed in the newly released movie "Lone Survivor", it was believed that it was worth repeating. Certainly the story of the honor and courage of Lt. Michael Murphy can never be told too often nor forgotten.

Lt. Michael P. Murphy was born May 7, 1976 in Smithtown, N.Y into a family where Irish traditions and the virtues of public service ran strong. His paternal grandfather was the definitive Irish American, being literally born on the boat taking his family from Ireland to a new life in America. Murphy's grandfather would serve as a member of the Fighting 69th in World War II. Murphy's father would volunteer for Viet Nam and be seriously wounded before returning home to a career as a Suffolk County Prosecutor. Murphy's Mother traced her roots back to relatives who were members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and fought for Ireland's freedom. Murphy grew up among other family members and friends who were police officers and firefighters. It is small wonder that the need to serve others seem to be in his DNA.

Stories of Michael Murphy as a young boy depict a good-natured daredevil who excelled in sports as well as academics, a varsity football player who earned a National Merit Scholarship. Yet even when very young, stories depict a young man of deep moral character. While in Middle School, Murphy's parents were called to the school because young Michael had been in a fight. It would turn out that Murphy confronted three other students who were bullying a disabled student. This would not be the first or the last time that the boy who seemed to succeed at everything he tried would come to the aid of an underdog, well justifying his nickname of 'the protector.'

Upon graduating from Penn State University with majors in Political Science and Psychology, Michael had offers to attend several law schools. However, again, the "call to serve" was too strong, and he selflessly put off his promising and secure personal future on hold to serve others. As per everything in his young life Murphy set

Lt. Michael P. Murphy Congressional Medal of Honor

his sights high and began training for one of the most elite military units in the world, the Navy SEALs, a program that despite stringent entrance requirements 85% of those accepted cannot complete the rigorous training. Murphy won his trident and was commissioned an Ensign, and would subsequently be promoted to Lieutenant. As a SEAL, Murphy served on missions in Jordan, Iraq (twice), Qatar, and Djibouti in East Africa.

In 2005, Lt. Murphy was deployed to Afghanistan and was the leader of a four-man SEAL squad. As a reminder to his team as to why they were there, Murphy wore on his uniform the shoulder patch of Ladder 43/Engine 53 of the FDNY on his uniform. Murphy was given a mission, code named Operation Redwing, to lead his squad into the 9,000-foot high mountains that form the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan in search of a high-value Taliban target. Within hours after being secretly inserted into enemy territory, three local goat herders stumbled on the squad's position. There was no way the squad could hold these civilians prisoner behind enemy lines. With full knowledge of the threat that these civilians posed to the security of himself and his team, Murphy followed the moral principles that had marked his life, he released them with full knowledge of the risks involved rather than kill unarmed civilians. Murphy's justice was repaid by betrayal; the goat herders immediately reported the SEALs presence to the Taliban.

Using their innate knowledge of the local terrain, an estimated 140 Taliban fighters surrounded Murphy's four-man squad. An intense firefight ensued. Despite having inflicted an estimated 80 enemy casualties, all four SEALs were wounded multiple times and were running low on ammunition. Attempts to contact their base for aid were ineffective, as the rock the team was using for cover was blocking transmission. Lt. Murphy, already severely wounded and knowing the risks, left the cover of his position and walked into a fully exposed position to get a clear signal to make a call to his base for help. During the course of his message, Murphy was shot again in the back, causing him to drop his phone and rifle. He picked them both up and continued his message providing the information necessary so that his squad could receive support. He finished his message, severely wounded with: "Roger that, sir. Thank you." He returned to cover where he continued to engage the enemy until receiving another and fatal wound.

Sadly, the story of Operation Redwing has no happy ending. Only one man from Murphy's squad would survive though severely wounded, having been blown clear of the fighting after the explosion of a rocket propelled grenade. An attempt was made to extract Murphy's squad, but the Helicopter carrying eight navy SEALs and eight Army Night Stalker commandos was itself ambushed as it attempted a rescue, killing all on board. Among the rescuers killed was Quartermaster 2nd Class James Suh, considered by many to be Murphy's best friend in the service. Eleven Navy SEALs were killed that day, making it the deadliest in the history of the SEALs.

Did you Know that....

- Timothy Murphy, the son of Donegal immigrants was a hero of the pivotal battle of Saratoga in the American Revolution. An expert marksman in Morgan's Rifle Corps, Murphy successfully prevented the British Troops from rallying at a key point in the battle by specifically targeting the officers General Simon Fraser and Sir Francis Clerke, disrupting the British chain of command and turning the tide in the Americans Favor.
- The most decorated American Combat Soldier of WW II was Audie Murphy. Among the many citations and decorations bestowed upon him, Murphy was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor when a German force of six tanks and supporting infantry attempted to envelope their position. Murphy ordered his men to withdraw while he singly handedly held off the German attack for over an hour by using the machine gun on a disabled and burning American tank, saving his company.
- A veteran of two World Wars, William "Wild Bill" Donovan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor while an officer in the famed "Fighting 69th" during WWI. He would later server his country in World War II by forming the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) a command that carried out intelligence and espionage work behind enemy lines and was a precursor to today's Special Forces and the CIA.
- In the Korean War, Irish-American pilot Capt. Joseph McConnell Jr. , became history's first triple jet ace by shooting down 16 MiGs.
- Among the thousands of Irish-Americans on "THE WALL", the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, there are also twenty Irish immigrants: 19 men and 1 woman (nurse 2nd Lt. Pamela D. Donovan, from Dublin Ireland.)

Lt. Michael P. Murphy was awarded the first Congressional Medal of Honor to be presented for service in Afghanistan. Those who question America's moral compass would be well to remember the supreme price Murphy and his men paid for acting with morality and honor as opposed to the enemy who shortly after this battle posted videos on the internet of themselves looting and desecrating the bodies of these brave men. To us as Irish Americans, it is well to remember that our heritage and culture have helped form special Americans who have, and more importantly continue to, distinguish themselves in the service of their country.

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