

Ancient Onder of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

May, 2014



Brother Hibernians, _____



Brother Hibernians,

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, May 30th at 8pm.

Welcome aboard to new members: Michael Doyle, Kevin Farry, James Malloy, Brian Murphy, Patrick Brennan, Matthew Reid, Douglas Catherwood, Patrick Reynolds, Kevin Hardy, David Schlasser, Patrick Hegarty, Brendan Fennell, Kieran O'Meara, John Mullins, Richard Halpin, and Peter Belhouse.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners. Many thanks to Ed O'Dea and all who volunteered to make our mass special and to Kevin McNulty, Neil Cosgrove, Brian Booth, and Phil & Linda Sheridan for running a great Communion Breakfast and to our guest speaker Denis Troy as well.

The Billy Keenan fundraiser was a tremen-

dous success and a sincere thank you goes out to all of you who supported it and please keep Billy and his family in your prayers.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...

Please say a prayer for the repose of the soul of Larry McKeever who his family referred to as "the Big Guy". Mike Murray can use some of your best wishes after losing all the toes from one of his feet. John Kennedy is back in Helen Hayes and Billy Kenny is back at home and both really need your prayers.

Please remember to say an extra prayer for our wounded warriors and their families.

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

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CALENDAR ____

May 18 Poker Classic

May 26 Memorial Day

Parade

May 30 Division Golf

Outing

July 10 McDermott

Golf Outing

28 Kailroad Avenue Pearl River, N.Y. 10965

Ancient Order of Hibernians



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE _

Along with our new stout, the pub has decided to feature a new craft beer on tap each month. The current one is an India Pale Ale from Defiant Brewery. Please stop by and try a pint.

Sean Collins has done a great job sprucing up the upstairs hall. We have also installed two new 50 inch flat screens to supplement our 70 inch TV.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have been helping with the improvements.

This months history details the extraordinary courage of a young Irish immigrant, only in our county a few years, while serving in Viet Nam.

Many believe that the actions of Lance Corporal Gallagher merit the recognition of our nations' highest honor, the Medal of Honor, and the decision made to not recommend him for this award is flawed.

We note that just recently President Obama just awarded 24 Medals of Honor to Veterans from WW II through Viet Nam, who, like Lance Corporal Gallagher, had previously been awarded service crosses, based on a congressional mandated review.

We are asking that the case of Lance Corporal Gallagher be given the same consideration.

There is currently a petition to name a Navy Destroyer after Lance Corporal Gallagher and we shall place a link to that petition and a copy of this letter on the Division site.

We encourage you as we approach Memorial day to consider sending your own letter to Congress asking that a young Irish Immigrant who, as so many before distinguished himself in the defense of his adopted land, be given the full recognition of his heroism.



Have a Wonderful

MEMORIAL

DAY

Weekend!

LAOH

I hope you are all enjoying this mild weather that we are finally having. With the long awaited arrival of Spring, LAOH Div. 3 is looking forward to some wonderful events such as:

Our Ascension Thursday Mass at Saint Aedan's followed by dinner at Slattery's where we will be honoring Alice Fogarty for the tremendous amount of work she has done in the Irish community, it is a very well deserved honor!

Kate Anne Basler, President

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, MAY 26th _

Formation will start at 9:45 AM with the Parade beginning at 10:15 AM Sharp from the former HSBC Bank, now First Niagara Bank, across from the bowling alley on North Middletown Road.

Members that desire to participate in the parade will march South to East Central Avenue and then down East Central Avenue to Braunsdorf Park in the heart of Pearl River.

12th ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2013

BLUE HILL GOLF COURSE

New format. Shot gun start at 12:30pm.

Bar-b-que Lunch and Dinner will be held

at

Emmett's Castle at the course!!

Contact Dan McDermott at (845) 623-6367 for more details.

Gallagher

Lance Corporal Patrick Gallagher



The Honorable Senator Charles Schumer U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

I am writing to you to draw to your attention the life of a gallant Irish American immigrant from New York who displayed incredible heroism and died in the service of his adopted country while serving in Viet Nam. I request your assistance Senator in introducing legislation requesting the Pentagon to review the actions of Lance Corporal Patrick Gallagher at Cam Lo on 18 July 1966 for the purpose of upgrading his Navy Cross to our Nations' highest award for valor: the *Medal of Honor*.

Patrick (though known among friends as "Bob") Gallagher was born in Derrintogher, County Mayo, Ireland on February 2, 1944. At the age of eighteen, as so many Irish men and women before him, Patrick immigrated to the United States and the promise of a new life filled with opportunity. He quickly started on the immigrant dream: studying law while working in real estate and even getting involved in local politics as a campaign worker for Senator Robert Kennedy. In 1966, Patrick was drafted for service in Viet Nam. Despite pleas from a heart sick sister living in the states to avoid the horrors of war by simply returning to Ireland, Patrick was committed to his new

home in America and instead swore her and other American relatives to secrecy to avoid worrying his family in Ireland. Patrick returned to his native land to visit his family where he told no one that upon his return he would be joining the United States Marines.

Patrick shipped out to Viet Nam as a member of Hotel Company, 2/4 Marines, 3rd Division. On the night of 18 July 1966, while serving in a forward position at Cam Lo with three other Marines who were sleeping, their position came under grenade attack by enemy forces. The first grenade Patrick was able to kick out of their position where it exploded only to be followed by a second grenade that fell between two of his comrades. Without hesitation and in an unselfish act of valor, Lance Corporal Gallagher threw himself on the grenade to personally absorb the full brunt of the explosion and save his comrades. Pinned under Gallagher's body, the grenade failed to go off. Lance Corporal Gallagher continued to lie on the grenade as his three comrades escaped the position despite the fact that two more enemy grenades were thrown into the position to explode around him. His comrades, now in a position of safety and still miraculously unhurt, Gallagher then rolled off the grenade at his squad leader's order and threw the grenade where it immediately exploded upon hitting the ground.

For his "extraordinary heroism and inspiring valor" Gallagher was awarded the Navy Cross. It is said that Gallagher was informed at that time that the only reason he had not been awarded our nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, was only that "the grenade had not exploded and killed him, if it had, he would certainly have been a shoe in." This account has been verified by Gallagher's former Executive Officer who has stated that, over his protests, the Medal of Honor citation he had written up was downgraded to a Navy Cross before being submitted to higher authority by his battalion. Again the only reason given for not recommending Lance Corporal Gallagher for the Medal of Honor was that Lance Corporal Gallagher's unselfish act of sacrifice and heroism had not been fatal. As you know Senator, there is no requirement, nor has there ever been, that a person must die to receive the Medal of

Honor, the Medal is awarded for the act of valor performed, not what happened to the individual performing it.

Even the "luck of the Irish" is not infinite Senator, and it appears that Corporal Gallagher had expended his allotment in trying to save others. Two months after receiving the Navy Cross, and due shortly to return home, Lance Corporal Gallagher was killed while on patrol.

While certainly the Navy Cross is a prestigious honor worthy of the highest respect, I believe that the actions of Lance Corporal Gallagher on that night in Viet Nam embody both in action and in the spirit the very definition of why the Medal of Honor was established. Whether through misunderstanding of the criteria for the award of the Medal of Honor or some other factor, the decision to downgrade the recommendation that Lance Corporal Gallagher be awarded the Medal of Honor appears flawed. We take heart that recently, due to the initiative of the Congress in mandating the Pentagon conduct further review, 24 heroic veterans who had been previously been awarded service crosses when their actions merited our Nation's highest honor have had their awards upgraded. We applaud this action; there should be no statute of limitations on appropriately recognizing valor and doing right by those who sacrificed so much for our nation. I ask that the case of Lance Corporal Gallagher be given similar recodnition.

I therefore call upon you Senator, as the senior member of New York's Congressional Delegation, to do right by an adopted son of New York and America. I request that you and your colleagues introduce legislation directing the Pentagon to review Lance Corporal Patrick Gallager's award for valor for upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

Neil F. Cosgrove

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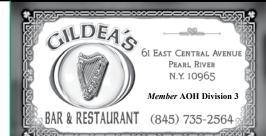
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