



Hibernian News



Volume 6 Issue 8

Irish Born Americans in Korea...the "Forgotten War"

August 2005

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On July 12, 2005, John Kenny, America's Ambassador to Ireland, dedicated the Korean Memorial in Lixnaw, Co. Kerry honoring the thirty-five brave Irish who gave their lives to the cause of protecting freedom and justice in Korea. Twenty-nine of these brave souls were men, born in Ireland, who fought in American uniforms under UN auspices. The other six were five men and one woman who wore the religious attire of the Catholic and Anglican Churches; but they, too, sacrificed themselves in order to help others.

In the United Nations' first peacekeeping action, people from around the world fought and served together to protect the people of South Korea from tyranny and dictatorship. These Irish responded to the call and courageously gave their lives in defense of liberty.

As members of the American military fighting under the United Nations to defend the Korean people, these twenty-nine men gave their lives, continuing the proud service of those Irish before them. During the first UN sanctioned use of force, these men died alongside so many others of their adopted country to advance the ideals of freedom and human dignity. Along with a coalition of nations, they fought to instill these principles in a land threatened by tyranny and dictatorship. Like those before them and those who

continue to fight for these ideals, even to this day, we should honor the sacrifices made by the service men and women that stand in the face of danger to protect our way of life.

Ireland and the United States have always shared a special relationship, with so many of America's heroes either Irish born or of Irish descent. These twenty-nine soldiers who gave their lives are no less heroes of Ireland than they are of America. Ireland sent millions of immigrants to the US in hope of a better life. Some sought only economic gain, but many took on the responsibility to fight for the values their adopted country shared with their homeland.

Since its instatement in 1861, two hundred fifty-eight Irish born soldiers have received the Medal of Honor, America's highest tribute for service "above and beyond the call of duty" in military conflict. Without a doubt, Ireland has the most foreign born recipients of this distinguished decoration with one hundred twenty more than the next country. In its nearly one hundred fifty year history, there have only been 3,460 medals awarded and only three since the end of the Vietnam War.

Five of only nineteen double recipients of the Medal of Honor were born in Ireland and three more are of Irish lineage. In World War II, the most decorated soldier was Audie Murphy, another Irish-

American. Both Americans and Irish should take pride in the great history that binds our two nations.

Honoring its foreign-born soldiers in 2003, President George W. Bush granted these twenty-nine heroes of the Korean War the citizenship of a grateful nation, fifty years after the cessation of hostilities. Through their bravery and commitment to a country they adopted, they were in turn adopted as sons of America in tribute to their heroic deeds.

The ideas of liberty and freedom are not only defended with bullets and bombs but also through prayer and helping others. The five Columban priests and one Anglican nun who sacrificed their lives no doubt held these invaluable beliefs by helping the people of war-torn Korea. Their commitment to the idea of aiding the powerless is what moved them to go to Korea, and their devotion to God is what fueled this belief. They, like so many before and after them, have gone bravely into conflict zones to help soldiers and people who were being terrorized. They, too, are no lesser heroes than those who died in battle.

Please see the related poem (pg. 2) by our own Joe Ryan, who within 90 days of arriving in America found himself in Korea.



"Let Us Do the Cooking" **Authentic Irish Breakfast**

September 11, 2005

An authentic, delicious Irish breakfast is now being served every second Sunday of the month at an unbelievable price of only \$7.00 p/p!

9:30 AM-12:30 pm

Something for the whole family!!!



The traditional breakfast consists of Eggs, Irish Bacon, Irish Sausages, Home-fried Potatoes, Black & White Puddings and the Grilled Tomato...a must! Children's Breakfasts of Pancakes & Sausage are only \$3.00 each. Juice, coffee and tea included.

A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

August 2005

It has surely been a sad month for members of our division with the passing of our beloved and longtime friend, Division 2 Treasurer, Richard "Poncho" Villa. Ponch passed away on July 27th after a short illness and we extend our sympathies to his family.

Stories abound about Ponch regarding division finances. He never took his duties lightly. I have seen many event chairmen cringe under his questioning regarding the expenses and revenues for an event. He was also known for his ability to produce, on a moments notice, a computer generated accounting of debits and credits. Needless to say we as a division, are where we are due in no small part to Ponch's financial wizardry and steadfastness. We must also remember Ponch as the 30 year Navy veteran where I suspect his ability to cook for 10 or 1000 was born. We remember him as a cook for IBM who would pass on a particularly good recipe just for the asking. And we will remember him for his wit and humor.

If ever the Irish term "*Ní bheidh a léithéid arís ann*" applies to someone, it applies to Ponch for the "*The likes of them will never be again.*" Ponch you will be sorely missed.

All the best!

Kevin Cummings, Division President

Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- Aug 12 Great Irish American Pub Quiz -7 pm \$5 per team of 4
- Aug 17 Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm
- Aug 21 Int'l Celtic Festival—Hunter Mtn. Bus Trip
- Sept 11 Irish Breakfast - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ~ Div 2 Hall
- Sept 14 Irish Set Dancing Lessons - 7 PM ~ Div 2 Hall



Richard C. Villa

"Poncho"

July 27, 2005

May he rest in peace

There will be a combined memorial gathering for members of the AOH and Newburgh Elks on Saturday, September 10, 2005 at 12 Noon in Hibernian Hall.

To honor the memory of Poncho, who was instrumental in building the BBQ pit next to the hall, there will be a Chicken BBQ dinner served along with good memories

A \$5 donation in Ponch's memory will be accepted.

AOH-DJW Corporation News

Brothers,

Just a short note of thanks to all members for their support during the last four years. I am not completely gone, just not as high-up on the ladder.

Please keep supporting the club and give the new board all the help you can.

John Greehy,
Past President, AOH-DJW Corporation

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Recording Secretary

"An Irish Man's Dream in Korea"



For I was born in Ireland and it seems many years ago.

For now I'm in Korea and the time goes very slow.

For when I think of Freedom won, I think of great Irish men who paid for it in blood they did.

I dreamed I stood in the G.P.O. the time was Easter week.

The cry for freedom was loud and clear it could not be denied.

Patrick Pearse lay fatally wounded, with his rifle in his hand.

His eyes he seemed to say, forgive Lord for the men I have killed. For I did it for the freedom of my land that I love so much.

And if I come to you tonight I ask you lord, please forgive me.

I was a good soldier here on earth. Now make me a good soldier for heaven

From my dream I awake.

Then I realize to be a good soldier here on earth.

First you must be a good soldier for heaven and the summit some day I know I will reach.

The summit not of the mount top, but the summit of life I mean.

That is the day true happiness I will find.

True love will be mine forever.

True love I will give

True love I will receive

True love will be mine forever.

Joseph Ryan—Korea 1953
Proud Member, Division 2 AOH



"Halfway to St. Patrick's Day"



with
Chris Turpin



**Saturday,
September 24, 2005**

**Hibernian Hall
7:00—11:00 pm**

**Tickets are
\$25 prepaid or \$30 at the door
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
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Thanks and More Thanks! To Chris Turpin and friends for the great night on July 30th and to all who turned out for the music. **Thanks** to all the members who showed up at the Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections. Things wouldn't happen without your dedication! **Thanks** to our Friday night cooks Mike Shannon (with help from the lovely Cheryl) and especially Pat Healey who is always willing to jump in when there is no cook. **More Thanks** to Mike Shannon for taking on the burden of running the Hunter Mtn. Bus Trip (Hint: he could use some help the day of the trip) and for running the 13 Run Pool. **Thanks** to Pat Finn, Dennis Malone and Pat Healey for stepping up when the Division needed them and as always, **Thanks** to Jim Ryan for running the bar on Fridays, Saturdays and for cooking at all the other functions. Jim your Shepard's Pie at the Chris Turpin event was out-of-this-world!!!

Friendly Reminder - Dues in the amount of \$50 for calendar year 2005 are now very past due. Final letters will be mailed out shortly. Avoid being dropped from the membership roster. Please make your check payable to AOH Div. 2 and get it to Dennis Malone, Division 2 Financial Secretary either by mail or drop it off at the hall.

Save-The-Date—The 12th Annual Irish Heritage Festival will be held this year **September 17th & 18th** at the county park in Montgomery. The two day event draws large crowds and big name performers. In the past, genealogy exhibitions, history lessons, bagpipes, authentic foods and libations and a whole lot of fun for the entire family. More information to follow.

Calling all Friday Nite Cooks - Summer is winding down but we are always looking for a few good cooks to show off their special talents. You don't have to be trained at the Culinary Institute of America to do it...just be able to flip a few burgers on the BBQ grill. Sign-up and leave a list of what extras you need and we will do the rest.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Knock ~ August 21st— National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. 12 Noon Mass and crowning ceremony. The day concludes with a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person. Children under 12 are \$10. No tickets sold at the door. For more information contact Cathleen McCormick at 845-342-6674 or Anita Coleman at 845-986-7784.

We are trying it again—Giant Basket of Cheer
We had success with the popular Basket of Cheer so we decided to try it again. A \$5 ticket (3 for \$10) gives you a chance at winning a basket filled with top-shelf liquors including Grand Marnier, Jameson, Bailey Irish Cream, Celtic Crossing, Irish Mist, Boru Vodka, Chivas Regal Scotch, Tanageray Gin, Cutty Sark Scotch, Wild Turkey and more. Hurry don't miss your chance to win. Tickets available by calling or stopping at the bar.



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