



# Hibernian News



Volume 9 Issue 2

## Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr., Ace Pilot

February 2008

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Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr., whose memory was preserved by the naming of McGuire AFB, was born in Ridgewood, N.J., on Aug. 1, 1920. He left Georgia Tech University in his third year to join the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941, reporting to Randolph Field as an aviation cadet.

During World War II, his first combat assignment was flying patrols over the Aleutian Islands and Alaska flying the P-39 Airacobra. While scoring no aerial victories in the Aleutians, McGuire was able to hone his natural and instinctive gifts as a pilot. Returning to the United States in December 1942, he transitioned to the P-38 Lightning. In March 1943, he was sent to the South Pacific as a P-38 Lightning pilot.

Over time, McGuire became one of the finest pilots ever to don an Air Force uniform. His skill at maneuvering the large twin-engine P-38 was legendary, and he eventually became one of the top scoring airmen in Air Force history. Had it not been for his heavy administrative duties as Commander, 431st Fighter Squadron, McGuire would surely have become the United States' leading ace. His short life was full—Charles Lindbergh bunked with him and flew as his wingman on a few highly unusual if unauthorized missions. On December 25, 1944, McGuire reached the zenith of his career—downing at least seven Japanese fighter aircraft over two days over Luzon, Philippines. He was two

victories away from Maj. Richard I. Bong, the USAF's all-time aerial victory leader. However, after cheating death many times on his way to 38 aerial victories, McGuire's tremendous achievements soon came to a close.

On Jan. 7, 1945, McGuire was leading a group of four P-38s over a Japanese-held airstrip over Negros Island. After descending through cloud cover, McGuire's flight attacked a lone Ki-43 "Oscar" they discovered. Unfortunately, the pilot of this aircraft was an instructor pilot with thousands of hours in that type of aircraft, and kept McGuire and his wingman at bay. Another aircraft, a Ki-84 "Frank" appeared on the scene from a nearby airstrip, and locked onto McGuire. In the battle that ensued, McGuire's P-38 presumably entered into a low-speed stall and crashed. McGuire was killed on impact.

Maj. McGuire was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his outstanding duty performance. McGuire's other decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross with three devices, two Silver Stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Purple Hearts, and 15 Air Medals -- all before he was 25 years old.

He was a special man. McGuire AFB in New Jersey was dedicated to his everlasting honor in January, 1948.

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

February 10, 2008

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.

(The next Irish Breakfast will be held on March 9th)



## A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and friends,

February 2008

The first month has passed and all is well. We are still trying to put together a calendar of events, again all suggestions are welcome. February appears to be a slow month, but have no fear we are gearing up for a busy March - check your newsletter for further details on the annual dinner dance the NYC parade and the other St. Patrick Season celebrations.

We have a number of members who have forgotten to submit their dues for 2007 and at this time, we the board of officers have to make a decision as to their status with the division. Please check your standing and hopefully you will correct the situation.

On a livelier note our own Kevin Cummings has been installed as an Aide to the New York City Grand Marshall representing Orange County. Kevin is an asset to the Irish community and his work both in the division and in the county makes him most deserving of this high honor. May his day and the memories it will hold be as rewarding to him as is our luck for knowing and working with him.

We have started throwing darts on Friday nights at the club. While we are improving, we could use a couple of steady throwers (ringers) to possibly challenge Division 1 or others in the future. Come on down to the club on Fridays to lend a hand or just enjoy the company of fellow members and their families (kids welcome).

A special thanks to all (Members, wives and friends) for making the belated Christmas party a great success!

Fraternally Yours,

John Greehy, Division 2 President



## Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- Feb 3 Super Bowl Sunday Party—Hall. Doors open at 12 noon**
- Feb 10 Irish Breakfast - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ~ Div 2 Hall**
- Feb 20 Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 PM**
- Feb 24 Aide to GM Dinner—NYC Parade. Antun's Queens. 3—7 PM**
- Mar 2 Irish Day—Burke HS, Goshen. Fun for all. 12—6 PM**
- Mar 15 Div 2 Annual Dinner Dance. Anthony's Pier 9. 8 PM — Midnight. \$60 p/p**
- Mar 16 Mid-Hudson Parade—Goshen 2:00 PM. Gov't Center.**
- Mar 17 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade—Bus trip to NYC**

### Vice-President's Gaelic Phrase-of-the-Month

**Tiocfaidh ár lá = Our day will come**  
**Phonetically: chuck-hee awr law**

## Lenten Friday Night Fish & Chips

AOH ~ Division 2—Hibernian Hall, Cornwall, NY



*Back by popular demand...*

**Lenten Fish & Chips Dinner**

**Friday, February 29, 2008**

**Serving from 6:00 pm till 8:30 pm**

Lightly battered Atlantic white fish, a generous portion of traditional Irish cut potatoes and creamy coleslaw. All perfectly prepared to order and served piping hot to your table along with a basket of homemade Irish Soda bread and butter

**\$10 per person**

**Children age 10 and under \$5.00**

Reservations not necessary—but are greatly appreciated.

Call 845-534-2528

## NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Bus Trip

The bus trip to the NYC parade will take place on Monday, March 17th. The cost per person is **\$35**. Price includes food and drinks on the way down and back. Bus will leave from Destinta Theaters. Additional information regarding times of departure and return will appear in the March newsletter.



## Super Bowl XLII Party

**Sunday, February 3, 2008**



Doors open at 12 Noon for friendly card games and darts.



Starting at 3:00 PM and if you are staying for the food and the game there will be a \$10 p/p cover charge. Price of admission includes bar snacks and all food. Food will be served starting at 4:30 pm and includes the following pre-game menu:

Chili with all the fixing  
 Hot Dogs, buns and all the fixings  
 Mixed Deli Sandwiches, Home made Potato Salad  
 & Creamy Cole Slaw, Chips, Dip

Food will again be served at ~ 7:30 and includes the following half-time menu:

Extra Cheesy Baked Ziti  
 Jack Daniels BBQ Chicken  
 Oriental Beef and Broccoli in a Brown Garlic Sauce  
 Shrimp with Pasta and Mixed Vegetables in Garlic Sauce  
 Sausage and Peppers, Roasted Potatoes  
 Green beans and Carrots, Bread and Salad

Tickets are on sale at the bar and buying one to this popular event is highly suggested and appreciated.

### Ice Cold "Beer by the Bucket" Specials:

6—12 oz. bottles of Bud, or Bud Lite, or Coors Lite — \$10.00  
 6—12 oz. Bottles of Heineken or Corona — \$15.00

Perfect Pints of Guinness, Smithwicks and Harp—\$3.00



## Annual Dinner Dance—Save-the-Date!!

### Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2

invites you to attend our

### Annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Anthony's Pier 9  
Route 9W, New Windsor, NY

**Saturday, March 15, 2008**  
**8:00 PM – Midnight**

*Biachlár an Lá*

**Full deluxe Corned Beef Dinner, Carved Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala, Pasta Primavera, Stuffed Sole, Eggplant Rolatini, Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Bread, Cake, Coffee and Tea**  
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**The Cornwall Celtic Set Dancers**

**\$60.00 per ticket**

**Raffle For A Huge "Basket of Irish Cheer"**

**For tickets call the Hibernian Hall at 534-2528**  
**or any of the members below:**

**Kevin Cummings**  
**562-8651**

**Pat Healey**  
**562-0611**

**Dennis Malone**  
**534-2097**

**Kevin Moore**  
**562-5226**

**Mike Shannon**  
**691-1342**

## That's One Giant Basket of Cheer!!!

Tickets are now on sale for a chance to win a giant basket of cheer filled with top shelf Irish favorites and domestic liquors such as Michael Collins Irish Whiskey, Tullamore Dew, Celtic Crossing, Jameson Whiskey, Brian Boru Vodka and much, much more. The basket is on display at the hall. Come on down and have a look at what you can win. The drawing will be held at our annual dinner dance on March 15th. Tickets are \$1.00 each—6 for \$5.00. Help support your division!



## 2008 Annual Dues are Due!

In a effort to help members remember that the **\$50.00** dues for 2008 are due in January, we are including this notice.

If you should change your address, phone number, or e-mail; please let me know by writing to:

**AOH Division 2**  
**Attn: Dennis Malone**  
**PO Box 206**  
**Cornwall N.Y. 12518**

by phoning 845-534-2097 or by visiting:  
<http://www.div2aoh.org/update.htm>

Every member is important to us, so please do not fall through the cracks.

Dennis Malone  
Financial Secretary  
Division 2



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*cead mile failte*



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