



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

INCORPORATED
Organized in New York City, May 4, 1836

JOSEPH DUELK, JR. DIVISION NO. 1

P. O. Box 337, Monroe (Orange County), New York 10950

Vol. 29 No. 5 Newsletter / Ad Journal

May 2009

Editor — Joseph McMahon - 764-0772



Next Meeting — Friday, May 8 • 7:30 p.m.
Paddy Naughton Hall, 10 North Main Street, Monroe • (845) 783-0205
JOSEPH DUELK, JR. — Vietnam Memorial, Washington, D.C.
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DIVISION 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Division Meeting	Second Friday of each month	7:30 pm
Darts	every Friday night	
Traditional Irish Music Seisiún	Every Sunday	1:30 pm
Quiz Night	Saturday, May 16	
AARP Drivers Education	Wednesday, May 20	
Ascension Thursday	Thursday, May 21	
Fleming's Fling	Saturday, May 23	

Deadline for Newsletter — Third Tuesday of each month
DIVISION NO. 1 WEBSITE • <http://aohdiv1.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Cairde,

As we approach the half way point of our year, I would like to get some feedback from our members as to how we are doing. Email me at knockawn@yahoo.com, or drop a letter in the mail to the address on the front of this newsletter, with your thoughts on how the executive board are performing; include any suggestions on events/functions we could put on at the Hall. Every members input is greatly appreciated.

As you are aware, we do a lot at Division 1 to help keep our tradition alive. We have our traditional Irish music seisiúns every Sunday . . . Irish Set dancing, under the tutorage of Brian Reynolds, every Monday night . . . Irish Step dancing on Thursdays . . . Quiz night once

every 6 weeks or so . . . Irish Rebel Sing Song, and Kids Movie Night every third Friday of the month . . . as well as numerous other events throughout the year.

We may take this for granted, but can you imagine what we would do if all of this did not exist? Our children and grandchildren would miss out on an opportunity to learn the traditions and beliefs of our forefathers . . . and I am sure would not thank us later in life.

That is why it is incumbent on us, as Hibernians to support as much activity at the Division as humanly possible:

Catholic Action Chairman Bob Burns has organized our annual Joseph Duellk Jr. Mass for Saturday June 13 at 9:00am., in Sacred Heart Church. Please mark it in your calendar, and try to attend. Full

information is elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our National Constitution encourages civic participation from our members, and we are lucky to have so many from our division involved in our community in various capacities. Trying to join the list is our Recording Secretary Joseph McMahon, who is running for membership of the Monroe-Woodbury School board.

Our Financial Secretary Ed Dennehy has informed me that membership cards are in, and will be handed out to members at the May 8 meeting. Also, there are a number of Hibernians who have not paid their dues for this year . . . or, who have paid this years, but not paid last

(Continued on page 3)

**Attendance has been low at various division functions.
Please make an effort to show up at 1 or 2 functions every quarter.**

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Irish Breakfast

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lunch or dinner.

See Bar committee.

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Mark Your Calendars:

Quiz Night - May 16th — come with a four person team to try and win the pot. There might be a category about the Holy Days of Obligation?

AARP Drivers Education Course — given at our AOH hall (10 North Main Street, Monroe) on May 20th at 9:00 am. The cost is \$20. Contact Steve Gibbons to register 726-0855 or email at gibbons75@gmail.com

Fleming's Fling — the scholarship fund's main event will be Saturday, May 23rd. You can contact Leo O'Grady for more details.

AOH County Convention is on Sunday June 7th at 2:00 pm at the Hall in Monroe.

AOH State Convention is on July 8 - 11 at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Albany. If you are interested in representing our Division as a delegate, please let any of the Board members know.

The Division Picnic will be June 27 at a new venue this year. It will be at the Hil-Mar Club off Route 208 in Monroe. Date and time in next month's newsletter. Read about the venue on their website: <http://www.hil-marlodge.com>

Our Division's namesake, Joseph Duell Jr., was killed in action in Vietnam on June 14, 1968. Our 7th annual Memorial Mass to pray for Joseph is on Saturday June 13, at 9:00 am at Sacred Heart Church in Monroe (Main Church)

Afterwards a full Irish breakfast will be served at the Hall for \$4 to help defray the costs.

Following breakfast we will go to Joseph's grave at St. Mary's Cemetery in Washingtonville and lay a wreath on his grave. This has become a wonderful, solemn yet inspiring yearly event, as we lay the wreath, listen to the bagpipe music, and honor our namesake, Joseph Duell Jr., a true American hero.

Please make every effort to attend and wear your Green Jackets.

If you plan to attend, please call Bob Burns at 469-2026 so he can give Dennis a head count for the breakfast.

Our Division is having a 40th Anniversary Gala on October 25th. You will not want to miss this catered event with live music and at an outstanding location. Please contact Keith Reynolds for more information FlatFoot52@hotmail.com

Division Picnic

will feature:

- a swimming pool
- a certified life guard
- swimming races
- a new menu of food by Dennis

President's Message

(Continued from front page)

years. I am sure this is just an oversight . . . so many members belong to more than one organization and it is easy to forget. There is great pride in being able to say you are a longtime 'member in good standing' of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I have the utmost admiration and respect for our own members of Division 1, who have 20 . . . 30 . . . and in Jack Breheny's case, 40 years of service to the Order. Gentlemen, I congratulate you.

Speaking of long time members . . . our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hall family on the passing of John. I always found John to be a kind and gentle person, and a great Hibernian. He would stop by on Sundays to listen to the traditional Irish music seisiún, even as late as a few weeks before he died. John Hall will be greatly missed at Division 1 . . . may his soul, and the souls of all our departed brothers, rest in peace.

Please plan on attending the May 8 meeting, as immediately afterwards will be a JDJ Corporation meeting including elections to the building board.

Go mbeannaí Dia thú,
Brendan O'Dowd
Uachtarán

Next Quiz Night May 16th

Expect a question about these Holy Days of Obligation:

- Feast of the Circumcision
- Ascension Thursday
- Feast of the Assumption
- All Saints Day
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Christmas Day



The West Point Tattoo was a great success because of the excellent food and service provided by our Hibernian Brothers Brown, Edmonds, Reynolds, Walsh, and all the others that helped them including some of the children. Thank you for all who came to the event to participate and show your support of local bagpipers. Everyone enjoyed the excellent weather, music, scenery, but most of all each others company.

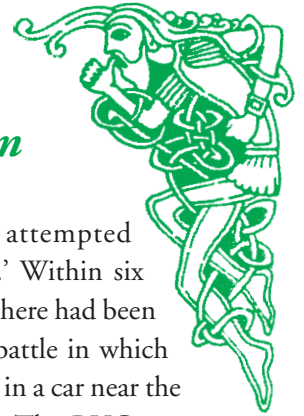


History

Bobby Sands

H Block Hunger Strike Who Died for Freedom

By Glenn S. Edmonds, Sr.



While trying to decide what to write for May's history column, I remembered this was the month in 1981 that a few (4 to be exact) H Block hunger strikers died for freedom. The four who died in May were Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh & Patsy O'Hara. I would like to focus on Bobby Sands for this article. Perhaps you will be reading this on May 5, the day Bobby died.

Bobby Sands was born in 1954† in a predominantly loyalist district in North Belfast. Realities of the tough ghetto life came early to Bobby, at age 7 he and his family were forced to move due to loyalist intimidation.



He was only a working-class boy from a Nationalist ghetto. His background, experiences and ambitions did not differ greatly from that of the average ghetto youth. In 1968, he was intimidated out of two jobs, and again by 1972 the family was forced to move. At eighteen Bobby joined the Republican Movement. Bobby wrote. "My life now centered around sleepless nights and stand-bys dodging the Brits and calming nerves to go out on operations. But the people stood by us. The people not only opened the doors of their homes to lend us a hand but they opened their hearts to us. I learned that without the people we could not survive and I knew that I owed them everything. "In October 1972, he was arrested. Released in 1976 Bobby returned to his family. He reported back to his local unit and straight back into the continuing struggle: 'Quite a lot of things had changed, some parts of the ghettos had completely disappeared and others were in the process of being removed. The war was still forging ahead although tactics and strategy had changed. The British government was now seeking to 'Ulsterise' the war which included the attempted

criminalisation of the IRA and attempted normalisation of the war situation.' Within six months Bobby was arrested again. There had been a bomb attack, followed by a gun battle in which two men were wounded. Bobby was in a car near the scene with three other young men. The RUC captured them and found a revolver in the car. He was subject to brutal interrogation and at trial he refused to recognise the court. The judge admitted there was no evidence to link Bobby, or the other three young men with him, to the bombing. Yet the four of them were sentenced to fourteen years each for possession of the one revolver. On December 19th, 1980, Bobby issued a statement that the prisoners would not wear prison-issue clothing nor do prison work. Negotiations were rebuffed by the authorities and Bobby volunteered to lead a new hunger strike. He realized that someone would have to die to win political status. He insisted on starting two weeks in front of the others so that perhaps his death could secure the five demands and save their lives. On March 30th, he was nominated as candidate for the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election and he was eventually elected although he never took his seat in parliament. On May 5th, having completed sixty-five days on hunger-strike, Bobby Sands MP, died in the H-Block prison hospital at Long Kesh. He lived his life energetically, dedicated to his people and to the republican cause, eventually offering up his life in a conscious effort to further that cause and the cause of those with whom he had shared almost eight years of his adult life. In his own words: "of course can be murdered but I remain what I am, a political POW and no-one, not even the British, can change that."



*Excerpts taken from *IRIS*, Vol. 1, No. 2, November 1981. *IRIS* was a publication of the Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau.

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