



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

June 2026

Volume 8 Issue 6

President's Message



Brothers,

Hopefully by the time you read this message, the weather has turned and Summer is finally here. I would like to wish a Happy Father's Day to all the brothers with children. May you have a blessed day with your families.

Excitement is building for our National Convention. The convention is being held in Omaha, NE July 15-18. There is still time to register. The website is

<http://www.omahairish2026.com>.

If you have never been to a National Convention before, you will not regret it. I encourage all members who plan on attending to finalize your travel arrangements. President's, please have your Delegates sheets into State Secretary Pete Chrystal as soon as possible.

The year is almost halfway over and we have added 58 members to our rolls in Ohio. Let's keep the momentum rolling for the second half of the year. Please make sure to contact any new member application that is sent to you by State Organizer Joe Casey as soon as possible. I've instructed Joe that if a Division does not contact a new member applicant, he is to offer them At Large membership. We cannot continue to let prospective members go because they are not being contacted. National allocates a lot of resources to new member recruitment. Let's keep moving in the right direction!

If you are having a festival or an event this Summer, please make sure to send our State Webmaster and State Newsletter editor information about the event to be included on our website and/or in our newsletter.

Thank you brothers!

In Motto,

Denny

Chaplain's Comments



I have a degree in Medieval History, and I have found it has complimented my ministry well when I need to do research for a homily. Although this is from the modern period, I would like to share an excerpt from a paper I ran across that was written by Ellen

Beck, under the pseudonym; Magdalen Rock, a regular contributor to Irish Catholic periodicals in the early twentieth century,

“When the Irish saints honored by the Church in June are mentioned, most persons thoughts go back to Columba, the Columkille whose quaint sayings and prophetic utterances are household words in the Land he loved so well, and parted from in penance sore. The Saint was the great-great-grandson of the famous warrior, Niall of the Nine Hostages, and both his parents were of royal blood. He was born at Gartán, in Donegal, in the year 521, and baptized by a priest who was for some years his tutor. Once he had acquired some rudimentary knowledge, he entered the monastic school of Moville, which was quite near-by his native place. Under Saint Finnian he made rapid progress, and in due time received the diaconate. Even then God gave him the gift of miracles ; it is related by Adamnan that once when wine was required for the Holy Sacrifice, the miracle of Cana was repeated at his prayer.

From Moville Columba passed to the Monastery of Clonard, ruled by another Finnian, whose fame as a teacher had drawn many students to the monastery. About the year 546 he was advanced to the Priesthood, and he also studied under St. Mobhi, and is supposed to have visited the Arran Islands. He founded monasteries at Kells, Durrow, and Derry, and got the length of Tours in a proposed journey to Rome and Palestine; but for some reason: he returned to Ireland without seeing the scene of the Crucifixion or praying at the shrines of the Apostles. He brought with him a copy of the Gospels from the tomb of Saint Martin.

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

Readers of the next important event in Columba's life must remember that he had not then the wisdom and sanctity of after years and that he possessed an ardent and impulsive temperament. In Clonard was a much-prized treasure, a splendid volume of the Scriptures, corrected by St. Jerome. Columba desired to make a copy of the book, but the Abbot refused him permission. It chanced that Finnian was obliged to leave the monastery for a short time, and in his absence, Columba entered his cell and made a perfect copy of the treasured book. It was night when the Abbot came back, and he was surprised to see his cell brilliantly lighted. On entering, he beheld Columba finishing his task in the midst of a divine radiance. Finnian withdrew, and on the morrow, Columba confessed his fault. Finnian, however, insisted on holding the copy; Columba insisted that the copy belonged to him; finally, the matter was referred to the King of Tara, who decided that as the calf went with the cow, so the copy should go with the Psalter. Columba complained to his kinsmen so effectively that the Clan O'Donnell raised their war-cry. At the Battle of Cooldrevny the northern clan was victorious, and the coveted book won. Soon Columba was filled with remorse. His confessor, Saint Molaise, judged him hardly, and his penance was exile from Ireland. In pagan lands souls equal to the lives lost on the battleground in Sligo might be won to God.

Writers of various nationalities, writers Catholic and Protestant, have since the days of Bede and Adamnan, told of Columba's marvelous work. When the frail curragh containing the Saint and his twelve companions found difficult anchorage at the little island of Iona, the King of Dalriada, who was, it is said, related to Columba, bestowed the rude islet on the exiles. Soon they had erected a wattled church, refectory and tiny cells, and begun their missionary labors in Dalriada. When three years had sped, Columba, accompanied by Saints Comgall and Canice, opened their campaign in the country of the Picts, and sought an interview with King Brude at his palace near Inverness. The king heard of their coming, and closed his gates against the strangers; but when Columba made the Sign of the Cross the barred gates flew open, and the astonished monarch listened to the speech of the missionaries, and was, with many of his chief men, baptized. Permission was given to Columba to begin his life-work among the inhabitants of the rude, northern land, and the king confirmed his title to Iona.

From that barren island, three miles long by one-and-a-half broad, missionaries went north and south. Columba was never idle. When not engaged in preaching and teaching, his artist fingers were busy

copying and transcribing, or he was engaged in hard manual labor or in prayer. His austerities were severe, and were not mitigated as old age came on. He was at work copying when death came, but he managed to crawl to the midnight service, and, after receiving the Holy Viaticum, passed away before the altar. He was buried in the monks' cemetery, but later his remains were conveyed to Ireland and placed in the grave of Patrick and Brigid."

From the excerpt, we can see that St. Columba did not always act with prudence, temperance, or in an unselfish manner. Quite to the contrary. As it is stated above, *he had not then the wisdom and sanctity of after years and that he possessed an ardent and impulsive temperament.*

Well, my brothers, how many of us can describe our youthful endeavors in the same way? I certainly can. This shows us that the saints were human too. They were just like you and me, with similar wants, similar needs and similar sins.

This should give us hope! It is not too late for any of us to become a saint. Is that not what we are called to strive for in our lives? We are called to be Christ-like and follow Jesus in word and deed. That is one thing the saints have in common. They may be from different places, different times and different backgrounds, but they all understood that the way to perfection was to follow the example that Jesus provided in the way He lived His life on Earth.

We have the life of Jesus and the life of the saints, like St. Columba, St. Patrick and St. Brigid to show us the way to live our lives. Let's work together to help one another on our quest to become saints. We do our best work brothers in Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity. Let the Hibernian brotherhood lead us down the path to sainthood, and maybe we can be examples for others as they look to find a saint to model their lives after.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce



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Jim Casey's Email Addressjjcasey973@icloud.com**Newsletter News**

If you have information for our monthly newsletter, please send it as an attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at

jjcasey973@icloud.com

The Editor requests that articles be submitted by the 21st of the month preceding the month of publication.

State Organizer Report

Since the first of the year, Ohio has received a total of 40 applications from the National Organizer's office. This is great news! I want to thank those divisions for getting right on these as soon as I forward them to you. We want to make sure the applicants know we are interested in them and want to show them what the Hibernians are all about. At this time, we feel that over half have been completed. There are still some open ones where the applicants aren't responding or cannot join at this time. All of these need to be worked on individually, but keep on them so we can end up with new members.

There are still some divisions who have not filled out the Form 9 on-line for several months. Make sure your Financial Secretaries are inputting the names and contact information into the system so new cards can be issued. Remember, once you have entered the information and have gone back in and found the new member's number, send an email with this information to our National Secretary, Ray Lynch so he can have their cards created and mailed to you.

In other news, we have an applicant who wishes to join the AOH and also feels he can work to get a division re-established in the Steubenville area. If anyone has family or friends from that area who are interested in joining, please have them fill out an application from the National website (aoh.com) or get with me.

We are coming into the time where the Irish festivals will be occurring. Make sure you have tables set up with information and also someone present to answer any questions that potential applicants may have.

Thank you all for your hard work and assistance.

Joe Casey

Ohio State Organizer

qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

AOH National Convention

The National Convention in Omaha, NE is fast approaching. If you or anyone in your Division is attending, please get your delegate forms into State Secretary Pete Chrystal immediately. **As you know, I was appointed interim National Treasurer in February. I will running to keep this position in Omaha. It is my hope that we have a full Ohio delegation.** Since it is a National Convention year, we will be co-hosting a hospitality suite with N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas. Past National President Danny O'Connell has made a motion that we allocate \$3,500 towards the suite. State Director Dale Norris seconds the motion. This money comes from our National Convention fund. The money allocated to this fund is to be used to offset the cost of the hospitality suite at National Conventions (Ohio State Board Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8.1).

In motto,

Denny

Mark Your Calendars

2026 National Convention

July 15 - 18

Omaha, NE

2027 State Convention

June 24 - 27

Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark OH

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America (“AOH”) 2026 “America 250 Essay Contest”

The AOH is pleased to announce the revival of an old tradition, the AOH Irish History Essay Contest.

This contest, which is designed to stimulate an interest in the study of the history of Ireland and the global Irish Diaspora, is open to students who are enrolled in grades 11 or 12 during the 2025/2026 Academic Year.

OFFICIAL RULES

TOPIC: Write an essay on the contributions of men and women of Irish heritage to the founding of the United States of America. All essays should be aligned with, although not necessarily about, the mission, charities, values, and traditions of AOH. Essays should be based on documented historical evidence and primary sources where available. Submissions will be evaluated on historical accuracy, quality of research, and effectiveness in illuminating Irish contributions to the founding of the United States.

ELIGIBILITY: All Grade 11 (Junior) and 12 (Senior) students enrolled in a parochial, public, or private school in the United States or its territories during the 2025/2026 school year, including or those who are home schooled are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. Each participant may submit only one entry.

LENGTH: 1000 to 1,200 words, excluding titles, citations and references.

FORMAT: Essays must be typewritten or word processed in Times New Roman 12-point font. Essay must be submitted in Word format – Google Docs or Drive links will not be accepted. Visually impaired students may utilize adaptive formats/technologies, in which case the submission should include a written transcript and a letter from a teacher or physician attesting to the need for accommodation. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers and should include a bibliography. Criteria include: Proper citation of sources; Correct formatting of the list of works cited; and following MLA rules for margins and indentation.

Each essay must include title page/cover, with the following information:

- 1) Title;
- 2) Contestant’s full name, mailing address, telephone number and email address, if available. (Parent/Guardian or Teacher contact information may be substituted for applicants under 18 years of age);

3) Name of contestant’s school and 2025/26 grade level;

4) Essay word count.

RESOURCES AND ATTRIBUTION: All entries must be the original work of the Student/Contestant and plagiarism in any form is strictly prohibited. Submissions that include copied, paraphrased, or unattributed material from any source, including published content, online content, or artificial intelligence tools will be disqualified. Essay must include a bibliography listing all references utilized. The bibliography should be cited in a standard, recognized citation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA, etc.). Internet resources, if used, should be cited in the same style, including the electronic address used to access the document and most recent date accessed. Essays should draw from a variety of sources such as academic publications/journals, government documents, books and newspapers/journals. The use of primary sources – original documents and objects created at the time under study, is encouraged. The use of general encyclopedias, including Wikipedia, is prohibited.

ENTRY FORM: All submissions must be accompanied by a fully executed official entry form, signed by the Student/Contestant and their parent or legal guardian, when required.

PRIZES: Two submissions will be selected as prize winners. The author of the First-Place winning essay will receive a monetary prize/scholarship in the amount of three thousand (\$3000.00) dollars. The author of the Second-Place winning essay will receive a monetary prize/scholarship in the amount of one thousand, five hundred (\$1500.00) dollars.

JUDGING: Essays will be judged based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, originality, organization of material, grammar and spelling.

DEADLINE: Submissions, including a fully completed **Entry Form, must be received by June 15, 2026 11:59 P.M., EST to be eligible for consideration.**

SUBMISSION: Entries may be submitted by email to dmtaylorjr@gmail.com

AOH HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM on Page 6.



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AOH HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM (REQUIRED)

1) Essay Title: _____

2) Contestant's full name: _____

Mailing Address 1: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Parent/Guardian/Teacher name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Teacher email address: _____

3) School and 2025/26 grade: _____

4) Essay word count: _____

Contestant Representations/Acknowledgments:

I, the undersigned Contestant, represent and acknowledge that I have read and will be bound by the Official Contest Rules, that the submitted essay is an original work created solely by me, that the essay does not infringe on the copyrights or intellectual property rights of any person or entity. In consideration of my entry in this contest I grant an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide non-exclusive license to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of my essay, including, but not limited to: Reproducing my essay, together with my name; likeness and school affiliation, online, in print and/or otherwise.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Consent for Minor (under 18) Contestant:

I represent that I am the Parent/Guardian of Contestant _____(name), that I have read the Official Contest Rules and the foregoing Contestant Representations /Acknowledgments and that I give my consent for _____(name) to participate in the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America History Essay Contest under the terms and conditions as described.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

1 Parent/Guardian or Teacher contact information may be substituted for applicants under 18 years of age.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
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Elect

Denny Parks
National Treasurer



Currently: Serving as Interim National Treasurer and second term as Ohio State President

NI Troubles Bill Protects Soldiers From Prosecution For Legacy Killings

Judge Michael C. Mentel*

On October 14, 2025, the British Labour government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, put forward in Parliament the Northern Ireland Troubles Bill (the “Troubles Bill”). The Bill was the Labour Party’s response to its campaign promise to replace and repeal the highly controversial Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act of 2023 (the “Legacy Act”).

Since its introduction, 188 (one-hundred eighty eight) amendments to the Bill have been proposed. The intent of these amendments, arguably, is to circumvent the widely criticized Legacy Act immunity provisions that were repealed in January 2026 by Parliament. The totality of these amendments and the proposed provisions in the Troubles Bill would add shields to protect soldiers who perpetrated unlawful shootings and killings from accountability. The Bill will return in the fall session of the House of Commons for debate and passage.

The Legacy Act of 2023

The genesis of this current debate began on May 17, 2022, when the Tory government introduced the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill, the “Legacy Bill” in the House of Commons. The Bill’s aim was to end all civil and criminal legal proceedings launched against former soldiers, and bar any future legal proceedings against soldiers, police, and paramilitary organization members, particularly loyalist members acting as “agents” of the British military, for any unlawful shootings and killings committed during the Troubles.

The Legacy Bill created the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (the “ICRIR”) to review cases of unlawful shootings and killings; it provided immunity from prosecution and barred civil suits for persons

committing unlawful killings and shootings during the Troubles. Immunity was conditioned on the offender providing the ICRIR with incriminating information about their acts. In other words, confess. The ICRIR would prepare a report that would be given to the families or victims outlining how their loved ones were shot dead. No prosecutions, no accountability, no justice.

Opposition to the Legacy Bill came loud and swift. In a rare moment, the DUP, Sinn Féin, the UUP, SDLP, and Alliance Party all condemned the Bill. The Irish Government condemned the Bill as did all of the mainline churches in the north. Notwithstanding the outcry, on September 18, 2023, the Legacy Bill became the Legacy Act. Since its enactment, criticism of the Legacy Act has remained strong. As part of its 2024 campaign manifesto, the Labour Party declared that the Legacy Act should be repealed. In January of this year, Parliament repealed the Act’s immunity provisions in response to recent court rulings and political outcry.

The Northern Ireland Troubles Bill of 2025

Attempting to keep to its commitment to repeal and replace the Legacy Act, the Labour government brought the Troubles Bill forward. Although the Bill addresses the remaining obstacles of the Legacy Act, the Bill’s proposed protections for former soldiers (who should stand accountable for their actions) makes the legislation nothing less than a perfunctory bill.

A fact sheet prepared by the Government, describing the text of the Troubles Bill, states that, “within this legislation [there] will be *new protections*, not included in the previous government’s Legacy Act, that will apply to any veteran who served in Northern Ireland during the Troubles and is asked to engage with a legacy process, ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect”.

Continued on Page 9

NI Troubles Bill Protects Soldiers From Prosecution For Legacy Killings, cont.

The new provisions set out in the Troubles Bill, exclusive of proposed amendments, include protections for former soldiers from repeated investigations of shootings and killings previously investigated; the right of former soldiers to give evidence through remote access so that “no Northern Ireland veteran is forced to travel to Northern Ireland to give evidence”; the right of former soldiers to “seek anonymity” when giving evidence; granting “elderly” former soldiers exemption from being compelled to appear before the Commission to give evidence, and giving the Commission authority to consider “the health and wellbeing” of elderly soldiers, and if “it would be appropriate for them to give evidence at all”; provides former soldiers the right to be heard before a statutory advisory group along with their victims and the families of those who were shot and killed; and specifies that “the Commission will be required to take account of wider circumstances surrounding incidents being investigated.”

Notwithstanding these provisions, the Government is proposing a plethora of amendments to enhance the protections for former soldiers, in addition to the current protections proposed in the Troubles Bill.

In a late April parliamentary maneuver, the Tories along with a cohort of other smaller parties voted 279 to 176 to push the Troubles Bill through the Commons on a carry-over motion. The Tories feared that former soldiers would be “dragged before the courts” if the Bill lapsed in the current session. Their fear stemmed from recent court rulings and the repeal of the immunity provisions in January protecting former soldiers from prosecution. The court rulings held that certain immunity provisions under the Legacy Act violated the European Convention on Human Rights (the ECHR). The rulings served as the catalyst for the repeal of the immunity provisions in January. Because the Troubles Bill is now “carried-over” to the next session, there is no lapse and the Government can advance its amendments.

The Troubles Bill is Inequitable

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Hilary Benn, has made no obfuscation about wanting to delay the Troubles Bill. In a written update to the House of Commons in April, Benn stated, “the new safeguards [that] the Bill will put in place for veterans and other former service personnel have also been broadly welcomed. It has been clear, however, that we must do more through the legislation to safeguard our veterans community. It is vital that those who served the state, to whom we owe so much and to whom we have a particular duty of care, are able to have confidence in the legislation.”

Benn also informed the Commons that, following multiple conversations with veterans who voiced “concerns” about the Troubles Bill, the British government would go “further” than the protections already specified in the Bill by bringing a “substantial package” of amendments to “safeguard” former soldiers.

Condemnation of the Troubles Bill and its carry-over to the next session has been strong. Amnesty International’s Gráinne Teggart called upon Parliament “to stand firmly with victims and ensure the [British] government’s new Troubles Bill delivers for them. The Bill must end impunity and guarantee effective investigations.” Sinn Féin MP John Finucane said the delay was “designed to placate the British military lobby” and to undermine the confidence of victims and families who have spent decades fighting for the simple right to truth and justice.

Recently, Mark Thompson, CEO of Relatives for Justice, penned an article in *The Irish News* wherein he addressed the inequity of the Troubles Bill and the lopsided impact that the veterans lobby is having on the on the Bill in Parliament. He addressed the probability of parliamentary maneuvers and amendments being used to create a “back door

Continued on Page 10

NI Troubles Bill Protects Soldiers From Prosecution For Legacy Killings, cont.

immunity” for former soldiers. Mr. Thompson referenced Professor Bernard Duhaime, a public international law professor at the University of Québec, who stated that protecting people from flawed investigations is one thing but shielding them from accountability where evidence exists is another—and the [Troubles] Bill must not permit it.

Britain views itself as a bastion of law and justice. Not so. The Northern Ireland Troubles Bill is far from delivering justice to the victims and the families whose loved ones were shot dead by British soldiers.

Justice has been defined as “the principle of fairness, moral rightness, and the equitable treatment of individuals within society, ensuring that people receive what they are due in terms of rights, responsibilities, and consequences.” Until the British government embraces justice for victims and the families whose loved ones were shot dead no amount of rhetorical repackaging will disguise the fundamental injustice inflicted upon them.

** Judge Michael C. Mentel is an appellate court judge sitting on the Ohio Court of Appeals for the Tenth District. He is a member of The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Patrick Pearse Division 1, Franklin County, Ohio, The Shamrock Club of Columbus, Ohio, The Irish American Club East Side, Euclid/Cleveland, Ohio, and The Brehon Law Society of New York. Notably, he has served as a panelist at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy discussing the British government’s proposed Legacy Bill, as a roundtable discussion panelist with other national and international panelists addressing Irish unification, co-sponsored by The Ohio State University’s Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation, and has presented and served as a discussion moderator with notable speakers from Ireland on Troubles related issues. Judge Mentel is an author and is a columnist with Irish newsmagazine. He has also contributed to other publications addressing contemporary legal and political issues facing Ireland.*

Pro Life

Greetings brothers, I hope you had a nice Memorial Day and your summer is off to a good start. A couple of weeks ago, the Supreme Court blocked a ruling by a lower court banning the mailing of the abortion drug mifepristone, while the litigation works its way through the courts. At least 60% of abortions in the US are done using mifepristone. Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented, saying it undermines the court’s decision to overturn Roe v Wade. The 5th circuit court of appeals ruled that providers must conduct an in person visit before dispensing the pills, as opposed to just mailing them. Even though the ruling is temporary, please pray for the Supreme Court to uphold the ban.

The Supreme Court recently sided with a pro life pregnancy center, First Choice Women’s Resource Center, which ruled that the organization has a right to challenge a government subpoena in federal court. Due to the pro life beliefs of the pregnancy center, they don’t offer abortions or referrals, which sometimes face harassment and discrimination from the government. In 2022, New Jersey attorney general Matthew Platkin subpoenaed First Choice demanding the names and information of donors. His office wanted to contact some of them to find out if they had been misled by their mission. First Choice refused to comply and sued in federal court, saying it was an infringement on first amendment rights. This demonstrates the persecution we sometimes face, even from government officials, for standing up for life.

Jacob Durda

FFAI

A few things from Martin Galvin: Patrick Williams, karimcwilly@gmail.com, Ohio State FFAI

Springhill Massacre Verdict

On July 9th 1972, British troopers, following a ceasefire and formal peace talks with Republicans, shot dead five people including Catholic priest **Fr. Noel Fitzpatrick**, parishioner **Patrick Butler**, **Margaret Gargan 13**, **John Dougal 16**, and **David McCafferty 16**. After fifty-four years, a historic inquest verdict exonerated the Springhill-Westrock Massacre victims, amidst growing demands that special protections be granted to former British troopers for killings like these.

Justice Schoffield found that sixteen year old John Dougal, was shot in the back, without warning, as he ran away from British troopers. Two other teenagers, Martin Dudley, 19, and Brian Pettigrew 17, were shot and severely wounded at the same time.

Fr. Noel Fitzpatrick and a parishioner assisting the priest, Patrick Butler, were found to be acting in a humanitarian capacity, seeking to give last rights to the dying or assist the wounded, when they were shot and killed by the same bullet. Both men were found to be unarmed and posing no risk to anyone when shot dead.

David McCafferty, 16, was then shot in the back as he ran to help Fr. Fitzpatrick. He too was unarmed, and posed no risk when he was shot dead without warning. Margaret Gargan, 13 was shot in the head as she stopped to talk with friends on her way home from Whiterock Community Centre. Neither she nor anyone in her vicinity was posing any risk to anyone, when she was murdered. The families of five people shot dead in west Belfast have accused the UK Government of “deliberate silence” following the findings of an inquest.

A coroner concluded almost three weeks ago that British Army soldiers “did not use reasonable force” in the shooting of a Catholic priest, a father-of-six and three teenagers at Springhill/Westrock on July 9 1972.

The families have said they want a public apology.

Speaking to media at Hillsborough Castle on the same day as the findings, Secretary of State Hilary Benn said he would need to read the full coroner’s report, but expresses condolences to the families of the five who died.

He went on to describe legacy issues as “complex”, “difficult” and the “unfinished business” of the Good Friday Agreement.

It is noteworthy that the British say they need special protections for former British troopers, meanwhile we see cases like this where one trooper murders a priest waving a white cloth, a father of six, and two teenagers and the British give him de facto immunity by refusing to identify him”.

In a statement, the Springhill families accused the British Government of “deliberate silence” and “ongoing injustice” over its response so far.

They have contended it has been almost three weeks without any “formal acknowledgment” from the British Government, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), or the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

“The truth has finally been established in a court of law. Our loved ones were innocent. They were unarmed. They should never have been killed. Yet almost three weeks on, the British Government has chosen to say nothing,” they said.

“That silence is not oversight — it is a continuation of the injustice our families have faced for over 50 years. It compounds the hurt and reinforces the sense that our loved ones’ lives do not carry equal weight.”

They have called for a public apology to be made, pointing out the response to the Ballymurphy inquest and Bloody Sunday Inquiry.

“We are not asking for special treatment. We are demanding equal recognition, accountability, and respect. The British Government must now break its silence and issue a full and public apology,” they said.

The Springhill/Westrock Massacre families have made clear that acknowledgment is not symbolic — it is a necessary step in formally clearing the names of those killed and recognizing the failings identified by the court.

Division News

Bluestone Div. #3, Cuyahoga Co.



Bluestone Division Chaplain, Father Francis Walsh in May 2026 celebrated the 69th anniversary of his ordination. In July 2026 Father Walsh will celebrate his 95th birthday. Congratulations to Father Walsh!

Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
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Bluestone Division

Robert M. Fitzgerald Memorial Gold Outing
8TH ANNUAL, FRIDAY JULY 17, 2026
BRIARDALE GREENS GOLF COURSE
EUCLID, OHIO

11:30 AM CHECK-IN 1PM SHOTGUN START

\$130 PER PERSON INCLUDES:
LUNCH, BEER, SODA, WATER & QUALITY DINNER
AT THE IRISH AMERICAN CLUB EASTSIDE

Free range balls, door prizes, pin shots and long drives
Test Bluestone Hibernian Bob Mullin 216-538-7035
Proceeds Benefit A.O.H. Scholarship Fund for
area Catholic high schools and Seminarians

Checks for hole sponsors and corporate donations can be sent to
1300 East 260th St. Euclid, OH 44132 Attn: Bob Mullin

ROBERT M. FITZGERALD
Memorial Gold Outing

4 MAN SCRAMBLE FORMAT \$50 FAMILY SPONSOR CORPORATE SPONSORS \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000 LEVELS +

Boland/Berry Div. #2, Cuyahoga Co.

Raymond J. McGann

May 15, 1950 - March 5, 2026

Raymond J. McGann was a member of the Boland/Berry Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 50 years. He obtained his major degrees at Akron Ohio State Board Convention in 1975. Ray held numerous division offices including President and Vice President and was the Division Treasurer for the last several years. He was a Past Treasurer of the Cuyahoga County Board.



He was a tireless worker on behalf of the Division having chaired a number of activities including Reverse Raffles, Golf Outings, St. Patrick's Day Banquets and Program Books. He was a guiding force in the transition from the St. Patrick's Day Banquet to the St. Brigid/St. Patrick Celebration. He undertook fundraising activities on behalf of the Cuyahoga County Board. He was the Co-Chair of the 2021 AOH Ohio State Convention held in Cleveland. He served as a delegate to the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland from the Hibernians.

Ray was a retired Cleveland Police Officer serving in the Community Policing Unit and at Hopkins International Airport. He was a member of the Retired Irish Police Society (RIPS).

Ray was a member of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish in Cleveland. He was a 1968 graduate of St. Edward High School and a 1973 graduate of the University of Akron. He was married to Debbie who passed away in 2024.

Division News, cont.

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

To honor the sacrifices of our Veterans, made to ensure our freedom and way of life, brothers of the Patrick Pearse Division #1 in Columbus once again, along with family members, placed over 400 flags on Veterans' graves in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. We're proud to help continue this Memorial Day tradition.



Left to right: John Homan, Collin McCarthy, Ron Hagan, Ed Norris, Tom Flynn, Jerry Tracy, Paul Morrison, Terri Stebleton, Patrick Whitney, Pat Fahy, Ken Stebleton, Maggie, Kurt and Jackson Wolf.

Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.

We Marched in the Hinckley Memorial Day Parade. Our Chaplain and State Board Chaplain, Deacon Bruce Dobbins, said the prayer before the laying of the wreath.

