

# THE AMERICAN LEGION



FR. FRANCIS P. DUFFY POST IR02



Memorial Ceremony held at Adare Manor Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick

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**Fr. Francis P. Duffy (1871-1932)**

Our post was named after U.S. Army Chaplain, Fr. Francis P. Duffy. Born in Cobourg, Ontario, Canada of Irish parents, he later studied at St. Michael's College in Toronto before immigrating to the U.S. in 1893. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on 8 Sept. 1896. He taught French for a time at the College of St. Francis Xavier in New York City where he was awarded a master's degree. He received his doctorate degree in 1905 and served as spiritual advisor to priests of the Archdiocese of New York. He was editor to the Catholic magazine *New York Review* and contributed to modern Catholic thought. Duffy served as chaplain for the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry (formerly the 69th Infantry Regiment known as the "Fighting 69th"), part of 42th (Rainbow) Division, U.S. Army during WWI. The "69<sup>th</sup>" was a unit of the New York Army National Guard from New York City whose soldiers were largely drawn from the city's Irish-American and immigrant population. He served in the Spanish-American War (1898), but it is his service on the Western Front in France during World War I (1917-1918) for which he is best known. Duffy, who typically was involved in combat and accompanied litter bearers into the thick of battle to administer the last rites and recover wounded soldiers. For his actions in the war, Duffy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal, the Conspicuous Service Cross (New York State), the Légion d'honneur (France), and the Croix de guerre

(France). Father Duffy remains today, the most highly decorated Chaplain in the history of the United States Army. Duffy Square at the northern end of the Times Square, New York City, contains a Celtic cross and a statue of his likeness, erected and named in his honor in 1937. It is a protected monument.



**The Charter of the Fr. Francis P. Duffy Post No. 2 dated 21 September 1951 signed by National Commander Erle Cocke, Jr. and National Adjutant Henry H. Dudley. Presently framed and hanging in the Flesk Restaurant, Main Street, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland.**

What is the American Legion?

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the largest US wartime veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.



**The March 1919 Paris Caucus set in motion The American Legion**

Who founded the American Legion?

The American Legion was founded by American veterans serving in Allied territories after the Great War. In March 1919 the Paris Caucus set in motion the organization what would become the American Legion. Its primary objective was to attend to the welfare of repatriating American veterans formerly of the American Expeditionary Force. Many of these veterans had suffered horrendous injuries during that war. Its mission ever since has essentially remained the same and it constantly acts as an independent voice in Congress on veteran affairs.



**Veteran's Memorial in the grounds of Adare Manor Hotel, Co. Limerick**

What is the command structure of the American Legion?

The National Headquarters of the American Legion is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is basically organized under three tiers of leadership. The highest tier is represented by the National Committee. It is further subdivided into Departments generally representing geographical areas. In the U.S., each state has its own Department but there are also other Departments for posts located overseas. The next and final level is the "Post" often equivalent to "Branch" in foreign veterans groups. The oldest and first established post in Ireland was the Michael O'Donoghue Post (IR01) Cork City, which was disbanded in May 1960. There are currently three active American Legion Posts in Ireland, which are guided by the Department of France. These are the Fr. Francis P. Duffy Post (IR02) Killarney; Commodore John Barry Post (IR03) Claremorris and the John F. Kennedy Post (IR63) Dublin.



**69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Irish Brigade Flag**

**"Who never retreat from the clash of the spears"**

What is the American Legion's mission in Ireland?

Our mission is simple, we continue to serve our country in any way we can. As wartime veterans and military members we are dedicated to a strong national security; compassionate care for veterans and their families; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth. We are also prepared if need be, to assist our country's work in Ireland. We endeavour to foster good relations with the Irish government and the Irish community. We remember and honor those of our ranks who have fallen and are interred in Ireland. We endeavour to promote brotherhood and friendship among other veteran groups operating in Ireland but always concurrent with the mission of the American Legion from which we receive our charter. We recognize and promote the wonderful mutual relationship the U.S. and Ireland enjoy on so many distinct levels. We are aware and appreciate the massive mutual beneficial contributions each country has made on each other, particularly in regards to historic, political, economic and cultural exchange. We continue to protect this very important relationship through mutual respect and goodwill.



**Members of the Father P. Duffy Post No. 2, The American Legion, Killarney, photographed prior to participating in the opening of An Tóstal in Killarney on Easter Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 1954**

Who are we?

We are all veterans of the U.S. armed services having served in time of war and honourably discharged. We hold and restrict this membership as per rules and regulations of the American Legion, chartered to us in 1951. We are largely made up of Irish born and or Irish American extraction generally living in the southwest of Ireland. However, some of members are located in other parts of Ireland, the continental U.S. and overseas. Some our members are Americans of other origins but all are connected to Ireland in some way. We sincerely welcome new membership to those eligible as we are small in comparison to other posts operating from the US and around the world.

IRISH AND AMERICAN FLAGS HOISTED.  
**Grand EXTENSION DANCE**  
WILL BE HELD  
BY THE AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 2, KILLARNEY, in the  
ORIENT BALLROOM, BARRADUFF,  
**On Sunday Night, February 17th.**  
Music by THE ABBEY DANCE BAND.  
DANCING 9-2. ———— ADMISSION 3/6.

1216

**Dinner Dance Advertisement, shortly after the Post's foundation in 1952**

What do we do?

We serve our country and our fellow veterans by mutual helpfulness. We assist them in a variety of ways but particularly with regards to obtaining government aid and private assistance. We frequently liaise with US Embassy Staff and the Veteran's Administration in assisting our veterans and their dependents. We endeavour to assist in wholesome programs. We attend to our infirmed comrades and provide what comfort we can to their dependents. We naturally provide an honor guard at the funerals of our fallen comrades. Our fallen comrades are anyone who has served in the U.S. armed forces, Legionnaire or otherwise, so it is very important we are made aware of the family's wishes in a timely manner. In Ireland, we also endeavour to find, mark and rededicate the graves of our fallen brethren buried here. We also endeavour to promote good relations between the U.S. and Ireland.



**Rededication Ceremony at Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, 14 November 2010**

We are very frequently invited to events held around Ireland and occasionally invited to similar events elsewhere. These invitations are of national, municipal and civic importance. We have been annually invited by the Dept. of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) to attend National Memorial Day in Dublin and other such events on the Irish national calendar. We are also annually invited by a few Irish county and city councils to march at their local St. Patrick's Day Parade. Our IR02 Post has the tradition of marching at Killarney. In recent years we have also been annually invited in observing Remembrance Day in November. Our IR02 Post traditionally marks this event in Limerick. We also informally meet for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July barbeque and a Thanksgiving dinner each year. We hold an Annual General Meeting around October when we vote in our new officers. In addition, we also have about three other meetings during the year. In recent years we have hosted an annual dinner, where we often invite members of other veteran organizations in a gesture of goodwill. We are occasionally invited by embassies to attend other state functions. One such event was the invitation by the

Government of South Korea in presenting medals to Americans (of Irish decent) and Irish veterans and their families who had served during the Korean War. We also occasionally hold private functions such as the Veteran’s Memorial held at Adare Manor, where we hosted a Medal of Honor recipient, Harvey C. Barnum Jr. Other recent events included an invitation by Rialtas na hÉireann (Government of Ireland) to a memorial service during Queen Elizabeth II’s recent and historic visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011. These are but some of the tasks we perform and we are always willing to be of further service to our country. We were honored to be of further service when the US Embassy requested our assistance during President Clinton’s visit to Ireland. Several of our members received letters of appreciation for their service during the occasion from the Office of the President.



**The Flesk Restaurant, Main Street, Killarney, Co. Kerry**

Where do we meet?

The Flesk Restaurant is our regular meeting place.

Unlike many American Legion posts we don’t own a post clubhouse of our own. Historically, we have held the majority of our meetings in Killarney but we have also held meetings elsewhere such as Tralee and Limerick. For some years now we have been holding our meetings at the Flesk Restaurant, Main Street, Killarney. This place is not only an operating restaurant owned by one of our members but also houses a great deal of American Legion memorabilia. It is well worth a visit to those interested in the American Legion while visiting this beautiful Irish town.



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Certificate Committee**



**WWII veteran Glen Foy (left) our former Commander and Adjutant and present Financial Officer of IR02 Post with our Sgt-At-Arms Joe Willis at the recent National Memorial Day Service held at Kilmainham Hospital, Dublin, 2010**



### **Remembrance Day, Memorial Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Limerick**

Under the rules of the American Legion and unlike many other foreign veteran organizations we do not have associate members and empathize with those who would like to join our post but are ineligible. We do however promote brotherhood and friendship for such friends and especially with our brother-in-arms who have served in peacetime, on UN missions and with other similar amicable veteran organizations. We often coordinate efforts with these organizations at public functions in Ireland. We also often meet friends and well-wishers at public events and indeed encourage their thoughts, questions and queries. So if you meet one of us, please feel free to engage in conversation. We are perhaps best identified by our Legion cap and lapel pin.

Are there any places of American Legion interest in Ireland?

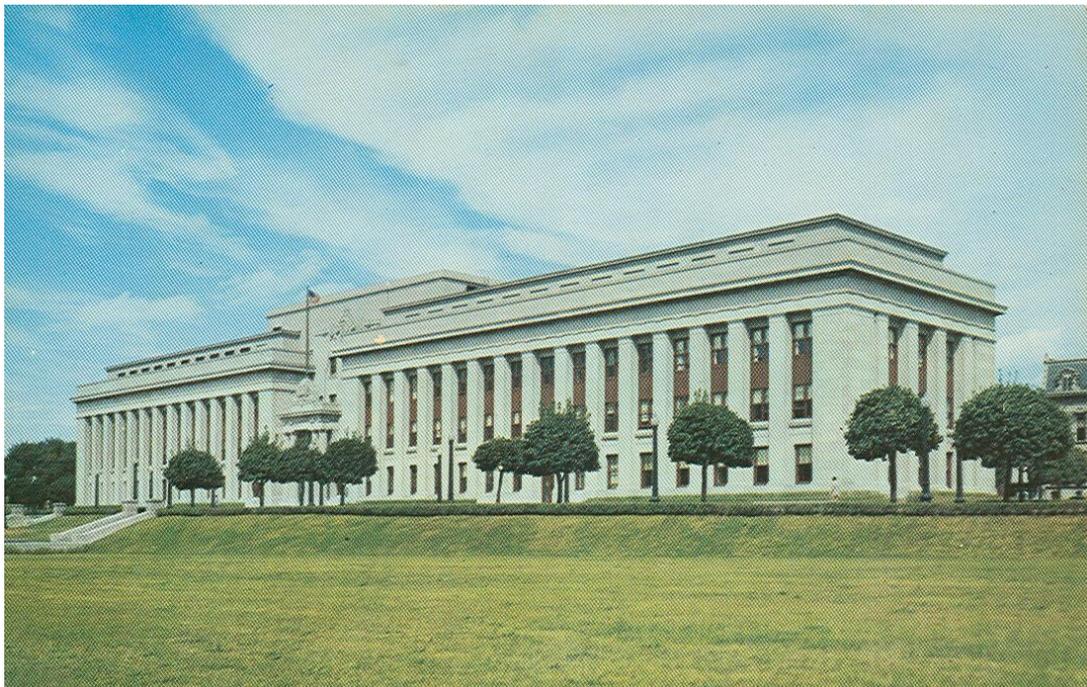
There are a few veteran memorials dedicated to Americans of Irish birth or ancestry and obviously several dedicated to Irishmen serving at home and aboard of universal interest in Ireland. Among those of American interest are: The Korean War Memorial at Lixnaw, Co. Kerry dedicated to twenty nine Irishmen killed in service of the U.S. Army during the Korean War under a U.N. flag. The Veteran's Memorial, in the grounds of the historic Adare Manor Hotel is dedicated to the Unknown Soldier. Another is the Mayo Peace Park, Garden of Remembrance, where there is a memorial devoted to U.S. servicemen of Mayo ancestry. There is also a statue of Commodore John Barry, "Father of the American (U.S.) Navy," located at Crescent Quay, Wexford.

Are there any places of American memorial interest in Europe?

There are several very impressive cemeteries in Europe where large numbers of U.S. service personnel are buried. Perhaps the most famous is the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. These cemeteries are meticulously maintained by the American Battle Monument Commission and are often located near large tourist destinations. They are very exceptional places and well worth a visit as they are adorned by beautiful gardens, architecture and sculptor. They provide the visitor of a deep sense of pride and emotion for of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for American ideals.



**Mike Sheehan, left, Commander of the Fr. Francis P. Duffy Post IR02, presents the American flag to Edmond 'Ned' Brunnock of Doon, Araglin, nephew of Pvt. Edmond Francis Brunnock, who died of wounds in 1918 and honoured at a special rededication ceremony organised at Shanrahan Cemetery, Clogheen, Co. Tipperary in August 2012.**



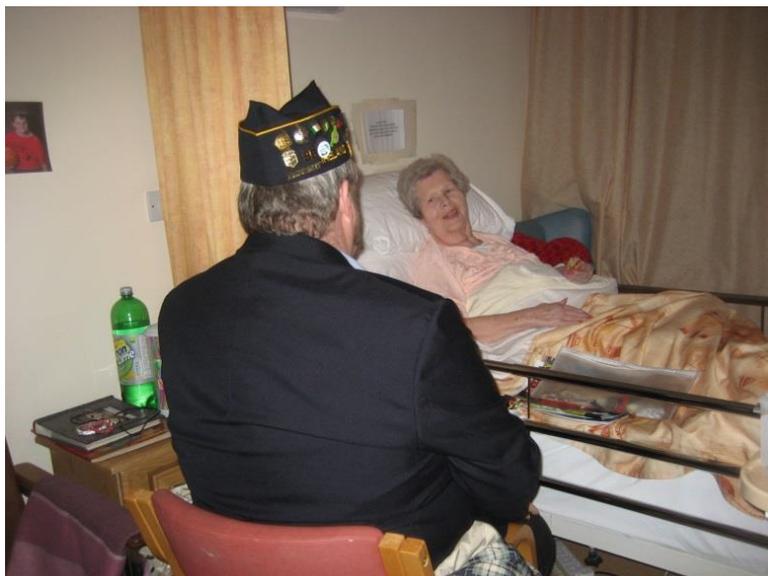
**Old Postcard of the National Headquarters of The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana**



**Peter Stein, member of the Sons of the Legion at St. Patrick's Day Parade, Killarney 2013**

What are the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion?

American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the Legion are closely affiliated organizations intended for the family members of those in The American Legion. The Auxiliary is composed of the mothers, wives, daughters, granddaughters and great grand-daughters of American Legion members. The Sons of the Legion is made up of sons, grandsons and great-grandsons of American Legion members. While there are members of these organizations here in Ireland their numbers are limited and their location dispersed, which significantly restricts their activities. In Ireland, they largely act in a hidden dimension, by the support they provide to their family members in the American Legion. They often accompany our members at public events for support, which is very much appreciated. The American Legion Auxiliary assists with youth programs, veteran affairs and volunteering. The Sons of the Legion in the U.S. are primarily involved with youth activities. They are associated with the Boy Scouts of America. They also run minor baseball leagues and support various youth programs. There is presently very little activity among its members in Ireland. However, we would welcome any proposals or assistance to improve the role of these organizations in Ireland.



**Legionnaire visiting a family member of an ex-U.S. Serviceman**



**Remains of Legionnaire Thomas Keenan**



**Legionnaires Glen Foy and Joe Willis accompanying the remains of fellow Legionnaire Thomas Keenan for burial on Holy Island, Lough Derg, Co. Clare in 1998**

## For More Information Contact The Following Websites:

To email the Fr. Francis P. Duffy Post (IR02) directly: [frfrancisduffypost@hotmail.com](mailto:frfrancisduffypost@hotmail.com)

Need more information about The American Legion, Fr. Francis Duffy Post (IR02) or the U.S. Veterans Administration?

<http://www.legion.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Ireland-Fr-Francis-Duffy-Post/370992154757>

<http://www.americanlegion-ireland.com/>

<http://www.va.gov/>

See also the following article regarding the American Legion in Ireland by: Jeff Stoffer, 'A Sacred Priority,' *The American Legion Magazine*, March 2013, pp 40-46

For information about John F. Kennedy Post (IR63), the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion in Ireland contact: [commliam@gmail.com](mailto:commliam@gmail.com)

For information about the Commodore John Barry Post (IR03) contact: [rhowko@eircom.net](mailto:rhowko@eircom.net)

The American Battle Memorial Commission meticulously maintains several cemeteries many located in Europe and well worth a visit if traveling in the vicinity. For more details contact:

<http://www.abmc.gov/home.php> and <http://aomda.com/>

The U.S. Embassy in Dublin is another very important point of contact for all U.S. citizens visiting, living or doing business in Ireland. The U.S. Embassy Staff handles a very extensive range of U.S. government functions dealing with the U.S. citizens and government of Ireland. It is undeniably the best if not the first point of contact regarding American affairs in Ireland.

<http://dublin.usembassy.gov/>

More useful websites regarding Irish veterans, Irish military heritage, the Organisation of National Ex-Service Men and Women (O.N.E.T.) and other points of contact of such Irish interest are:

<http://www.oneconnect.ie/>

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~navalassociation/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/IrishDefenceForcesVeteransAssociation>

The Military Heritage of Ireland Trust Ltd website contains many useful points of contact for those interested in Ireland's military heritage, her Defence Forces, veteran affairs, historic military heritage sites and museums.

<http://www.militaryheritage.ie>



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



**We Want You To Continue To Serve  
U.S. Veterans Join A Post Today!**

Sponsored by the

**FR. FRANCIS P. DUFFY POST IR02**

**KILLARNEY, IRELAND**

**The Legion needs the Veteran and the Veteran needs the Legion!**



Letter from the Adjutant, (IR02)

Any set of ideals, if not meaningless are useless unless tempered by those dedicated enough to lay down their lives for their support. This too often demands the ultimate sacrifice. It is to such ideals espoused by our nation of liberty and justice for all that all Americans should aspire. These ideals have become fundamental to those of The American Legion. It is to those of proven loyalty and courage in our hour of need, are not only the life's blood to our nation, its constitution and people but to those that The American Legion seeks to protect, defend and honor.

To all our active duty personnel, past, present and future, I salute you for service to our nation in support of our ideals. To all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of these ideals and who continue to serve along with the American Legion I hold that salute.

I sincerely thank you Legionnaires for your continued and extended service to the United States of America through the promotion of the fundamental ideals of the American Legion.

As an Irish-American I am acutely aware of the resonance of the immortal words spoken by our late President John F. Kennedy, when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country," which for me, embodies the main idea of mutual helpfulness cherished by The American Legion.

It is through understanding, mutual respect, self-sacrifice, and hard work can we improve our societies and our environment both at home and aboard for life's pursuit of happiness.

On behalf of The American Legion in Ireland, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely convey our deep appreciation to Rialtas na hÉireann (Government of Ireland) and particularly Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (O.N.E.T. or Organisation of National Ex-Service Men and Women) for their very kind gestures of goodwill, friendship and welfare made to The American Legion members in Ireland. The offering of many of their services to our comrades was extremely generous and I would like to thank them sincerely for the same. We look forward to the future in building even stronger links between our countries and communities and indeed offer any assistance we may be able to afford.

To our fellow and past officers of our post I would also like to convey my sincere thanks. I especially welcome the opportunity where I can be of further service to them. A very special thanks is due to our dear comrade Glen Foy, Esq. who has tirelessly dedicated himself to the running of our post for over two and a half decades. He has been a shining example to fellow Legionnaires by his conduct, his constant devotion and self-sacrifice. On behalf of our comrades, Glen you have our sincerest gratitude.

As we look to the future I would ask all Legionnaires to reflect on what the Legion means to them and how can they make it better. The Legion needs the veteran and the veteran needs the Legion. I would strongly encourage recent U.S. veterans to join the American Legion, for the benefit of their brethren and themselves. An active and enthusiastic membership benefits all. I call on all current Legionnaires to openly recruit potential candidates in your locality. The Legion like the Military is often what you make of it. The dynamic participation by the present members will assist those that have gone before us who are in need of our help and pave the way for a better future.

I look forward to the difficult but rewarding task at hand as Adjutant of the IR02 Post, as I carry on the sacred work guided by the ideals of the American Legion. I would ask for patience from my fellow comrades as I have indeed very large shoes to fill and shall endeavour to do my best in the position delegated to me. I would remind all Legionnaires that should they need my assistance, all they need do is but ask. I look forward to the opportunity of bettering society and the welfare of my comrades through continued efforts.

With kind regards,

Limerick 2013

Seán T. Rickard, B.Sc. M.A.  
Adjutant,  
Fr. Francis Duffy Post IR02,  
Killarney, Ireland.





**Statue of Fr. Francis P. Duffy at Duffy Square, Times Square, New York City**