

THE AMERICAN LEGION

COMMODORE JOHN BARRY POST IR-03

Dear Comrades

22 September 2014

NEXT MEETING: Due to conflicting schedules, we were obliged to rearrange our AGM from 5 October to 12th October at the Dalton Inn, Claremorris at the usual time, 3:00 P.M. Hopefully, we will have a good turnout at this important meeting.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: For those who have not yet renewed their 2015 membership, please send me a check for €40.00 or \$50.00. Remember, you can also choose to renew on-line. Just go to www.legion.org/renew. Be sure to have your American Legion Member number handy (it's reflected on your 2014 card) and follow the simple instructions. Be sure then to advise me of your renewal option. Your 2015 card will be forwarded to you by return post.

DEPARTED MEMBERS: Sadly, our dear Comrade, **Martin Garvey**, Ballintober, Castlerea, Co Roscommon entered Post Everlasting on 26th July. Martin was a Vietnam veteran and was buried with Military Honours at the local cemetery. Six Legionnaires attended the funeral. RIP.

Our very good friend and Comrade, **Glen Foy** from our sister Post IR-02 passed away on 16 May. Glen was a WWII veteran and was buried at Drumcliff Cemetery, Co Clare following Mass at Ennis Cathedral. Legionnaires from all three Ireland Posts attended. RIP.

A former member of Post IR-03, Korean War Veteran **JOHN COYNE**, from Oughterard, Co. Galway, passed away on 27 June. The family requested American Legion presence at the funeral and again, we responded in force. RIP

OTHER EVENTS: CIVIL WAR HERO: Our Post was invited to participate at a ceremony at Knockma, Co. Galway on 16th June to honour the 150th anniversary of the death of Colonel Patrick Kelly, a Union officer killed at the battle of Petersburg, VA on 16th June 1864. Colonel Kelly, a native of Knockma, survived the battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 was in charge of the Irish Brigade when he was KIA at Petersburg. A commemorative stone marking the occasion was unveiled by LtCol Sean Cosden, USAF, US Military Attaché. Our Post presented a folded flag to Colonel Kelly's NOK and Michael Slyman sounded TAPS. **FORCED LANDING OF WW II BOMBER:** On 16th June our Donegal Legion members gathered at Killahoey Beach, near Dunfanaghy Golf Course. Co. Donegal to participate in the unveiling of a monument to remember an incident that occurred during WWII. An American bomber on its way from the USA to England, running low on fuel made an emergency landing at this beach in Donegal. Ireland being neutral could have impounded the plane and interred the crew but instead arranged for a delivery of aviation fuel from Northern Ireland. The plane was quickly re-fuelled and with the help of the locals and their draught horses it was towed into a position for a successful take-off. The daughter of a crew member unveiled the monument. The American Embassy was represented by US Army, MSgt George Sands as LtCol Cosden was at Knockma that same day. This event, attended by over 300 people received National TV and media coverage.

NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION: Each year on the Sunday closest to 13th July, the Irish Government hold a ceremony at Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin to Commemorate all Irishmen and Irishwomen who lost their lives serving with various nations and the United Nations. The event is presided over by the Taoiseach and the President lays a wreath on behalf of the people of Ireland. For those that would like to attend next year's event, please let me know and I will include your name on the invitation list.

WW I SOLDIERS REMEMBERED: On 19th July, our Post was honoured to participate in the unveiling two headstones at Moore Old Cemetery, near Ballinasloe, Co. Roscommon for Corporal Michael O'Connell, DSC, KIA in France and his brother Martin also a WW I Veteran. Post 0-3 presented two folded flags to the O'Connell NOK and our bugler played TAPS. This ceremony, attended by about one hundred people received much media coverage. **IRISH VETERANS:** The Irish Veterans will soon be losing their office on Capel St, Dublin as the building is now

up for sale and the organization is looking to relocate to Kinsale, Co Cork in the near future. Early in 2015, Irish Veterans plan to inaugurate IRISH VETERANS Chapter 1 in that town in memory of US NAVY SEAL, MICHAEL P. MURPHY, Medal of Honor, KIA in Afghanistan in 2005. Michael's parents, Dan and Maureen Murphy along with his brother John have indicated their intentions to be present at the inauguration. They live in New York. Dan is a Vietnam veteran while John is a NYPD. We expect them to take along Michael's MOH with them. Negotiations are underway to have Mark Wahlberg, Hollywood actor who played Michael in the movie "Lone Survivor" based on an engagement involving Michael's SEAL Team and Taliban as a special guest. We will keep you advised on future updates.



KNOCKMA, CO GALWAY



**MONUMENT AT
KILLAHOEY BEACH**



KILMAINHAM, DUBLIN



MOORE, CO. ROSCOMMON

Looking forward to meeting you all at our AGM on 12th October. See you there.

MICHAEL NOONE
Adjutant