



+THE AMERICAN LEGION
COMMODORE JOHN BARRY POST IR-03
WEB: www.americanlegion-ireland.com

Michael Noone
Alamo Heights, Jamestown
Carrick-on-Shannon,
Co. Roscommon
07196 24768
freidamike@eircom.net

Dear Fellow Legionnaires

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1. **NEXT MEETING** Our next meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Sunday, 4th October at the Dalton Inn, Claremorris, commencing at 3:00 P.M. This is our opportunity to elect new officers for the next twelve months. I request maximum attendance at this meeting.
2. **MEMBERSHIP:** All members should have received my 28 July 2015 e-mail or letter requesting you renew your Membership. To date, only thirteen members have responded. For those who have not yet renewed, please send me a cheque for €40.00 or \$45.00. We aim, again, for 100% renewal for year 2016. You may have read in the Legion Magazine that the American Legion at National level have decided to increase their cut of membership fees by \$5.00. Therefore, expect a slight increase in Membership fees for 2017.
3. **VETERAN ID CARDS:** Congress has approved a plan to issue Identity Cards to honourably discharged service Members. This ID card would serve as easy proof of military service for many veterans who complain they have to carry around copies of their discharge paperwork to get discounts or service at a host of private businesses. No time frame has been established for when the first ID cards might be issued or how a veteran may apply for one. We will keep you informed as things develop.
4. **EVENTS THIS SUMMER:**
 - a. Commander Howko and I, on 18th April, attended the launch of Chapter Number 001, Irish Veterans named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient US Navy Seal, Lt Michael Murphy at the White House Hotel, Kinsale, Co. Cork. Lt Murphy was KIA in Afghanistan and was the subject of the hit movie Lone Survivor. Lt Murphy's parents and brother from New York were guests of honour at the event.
 - b. On 9th May, our Post participated in the funeral of Joseph Halvey, a Vietnam Veteran and US Air Force retired NCO from Gort, Co Galway. Although Joe was not a member of the American Legion, his family requested a Military funeral. We were delighted to fulfil their wishes. May He Rest in Peace.
 - c. 1- 3 May the town of Listowel, Co Kerry hosted the Listowel Military Tattoo, an annual event remembering all Irish men and Irish women that fought in domestic and foreign forces since 1914. Highlight of the weekend was a battle



scene depicting the Normandy village of St. Mere Eglise being invaded by German Forces and its eventual liberation by Allied troops. All three Irish Posts were represented in a parade through the town and laid a wreath at the cenotaph.

- d. On 2nd June Post IR-03, at the request of Richie Gormerly, Mayor of West Roxbury, MA attended a ceremony at Lecarrow. Co. Roscommon dedicating a bench to the memory of the Mayor's brother, General William Gormerly, former Commanding General of the Massachusetts National Guard. We folded a US Flag and presented same to the General's widow and laid a wreath at the inscribed bench while a trumpeter from the Irish Army Band from the nearby Army Base in Athlone sounded the Last Post or TAPS. The Gormerly family have deep ties to the Lecarrow, area. The Mayor was accompanied by sixty five persons from the Boston area at the event.

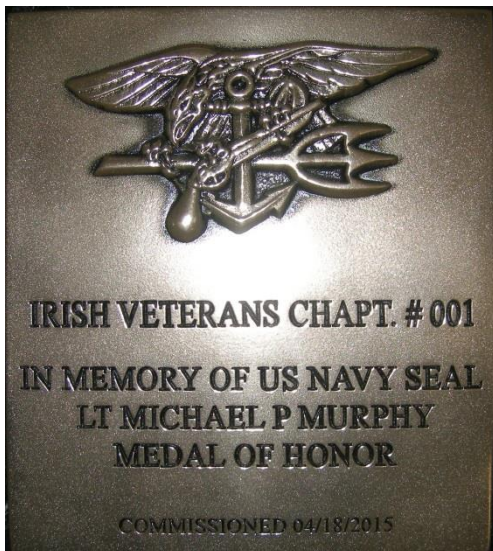


e. 4th July was declared, by the town of Castlebar, Co. Mayo as American Day. Post IR-03 partook in the dedication of a granite bench honouring Corporal Joseph A. Clancy from Westport, Co. Mayo a US Army soldier killed in an air crash in Vietnam. An American style Barbecue rounded off the evening at Cox's Bar and Grill with lashings of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken and Ribs. For entertainment, Elvis (The real one, I'm told) gave us a rendition of his most popular hits.

f. On 12 July, The American Legion was well represented and joined by veterans from Ireland, Britain, France, United Nations and Australia to memorialize Ireland's National Day of Commemoration at Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin to honour Irish men and women who died in uniforms of various nations and United Nations. The event is hosted by the Taoiseach and attended by the Cabinet members and government representatives. The President of Ireland lays a wreath at the memorial. Attendance is by invitation only. Should you like to attend next year's ceremony, please let me know and I will add you the list of those to be issued an invitation from The Taoiseach.

5. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Mayo Peace Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, on Saturday the 3rd October will host Veterans from the Royal Air Force (Ireland Branch). The RAF Veterans plan to conduct a ceremony at the Peace Park at 3:30P.M. They have invited American Legion members as well as Irish Veteran members in the area to share in the event and join with them for an evening meal at the Wyatt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo. A visit to the gravesite, in Newport Cemetery, of Major Thomas F. Hazell, a WWI Fighter Pilot in the Royal Flying Corps (RAF), in Newport is also on the agenda. Please call Commander Howko on his mobile: 086259 2485 should you be interested in attending this function.

6. Looking forward to meeting with you on the 4th October at Claremorris. Please renew your membership now, if you have not so already.



Plaque on display at the White House Hotel



With our Irish counterparts at Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon

Michael Noone
Adjutant

