

FRIENDLY SONS OF



ST. PATRICK

SUMMARY OF THE HONORING OF DECEASED PAST PRESIDENTS FROM OUR GENERAL MEETING

Sláinte, Gentlemen. Congratulations to our fabulous new slate of officers, President Andy Sweeny, First Vice President Brian Malloy, and Second Vice President Tim Carney, all of whom were elected at the general meeting. Also at the General Meeting, all of us were deeply moved as the Reverend Dr. Robert W. Croskery honored Past Presidents from the last four decades who have passed on. (This ceremony was done at the general meeting, rather than at the Banquet as originally planned, to remedy omissions and give it the time it deserved). President Sweeny has asked me to summarize those honored in the ceremony and send it out to the Society. As you read about these men who have overseen our annual celebrations of St. Patrick, Dr. Croskery suggests a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings God has bestowed upon our magnificent brotherhood, and a prayer for His continued blessing upon our organization, its leadership, our ancestral home, and the United States of America.

Richard A. Castellini,

Dick Castellini was a member of our organization for over 55 years. He served as the 116th President of The Friendly Sons in 1984, and as a trustee for twenty nine years. Despite the Italian last name, Dick cherished his Irish heritage. His grandfather, JJ Castellini, was active in the creation of the nation of Ireland and was chosen delegate to the 1922 Paris Irish Race Convention. Dick worked for the City of Cincinnati for over 27 years serving in roles such as Safety Director, City Solicitor, and Asst. City Manager. He was married to his wife Madeleine for 61 years and had 8 children and over 25 grandchildren. Dick was a St. Xavier graduate, and received an accounting degree from The University of Notre Dame in 1954. Dick worked for The Castellini Company before joining the City of Cincinnati until retiring in 1993. Dick then followed a lifelong dream to help the underprivileged through People Working Cooperatively. Dick was the driving force behind the annual Irish Memorial Mass at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. Dick was man of honor and friend to many.

Thomas J. Clarke, Jr., DVM

Tom Clarke, Jr. served as the 113th President of The Friendly Sons. He was preceded as President by his father, Thomas J. Clarke, our 105th President in 1973 and later by his brother Timothy D. Clarke, our 130th President in 1998. Tom was devoted father and a loyal Friendly Son. He is best remembered for his work in the veterinary field. Tom held many prestigious awards for his work. Tom also tutored children through the St. Vincent DePaul Society. He was truly a man for others.

William Voss Finn

William Voss Finn was born on October 18, 1920. William graduated from Georgetown University in 1942, then was deployed from 1942-45 as a tank commander in WWII. His unit received a Presidential Unit Citation and he personally received a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1948 and married Janet Lewis. The couple had 5 children (Janet, Voss, Tom, Katie, Gregory) . William was a partner in the law firm of Taft, Stettinius and Hollister. He served on the Board of Directors of Western Southern Life and on many community boards. The Friendly Sons were always dear to his heart. He served as President of the Friendly Sons in 1983.

John Joyce Gilligan

Jack was our 117th President. He was educated at Xavier University, and Notre Dame. He fought in World War II where he was awarded a Silver Star. He returned to Cincinnati to serve six terms on City Council, as our member of Congress and as Ohio's Governor. He then spent a decade at Notre Dame helping found the Kroc Center for Peace Studies with Father Hesburgh. Once again Cincinnati drew him back to serve on the School Board and teach at UC. He stayed involved with the Society as a Trustee for the rest of his life. He was an annual attendee at the Banquet. Jack was the fourth generation of Gilligan's to serve as our President.

Tom Geoppinger

Tom became a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the 1970's. The incomparable Ray Carr, upon hearing of Tom's passing remarked: "Tom was a force of nature". Indeed he was!. O'Geop served as co-chair of the Annual Friendly Sons Foundation golf outing since its inception. He was also a founding member of the Friendly Sons Glee Club, and was always ready to provide a song for his friends and family. Under his somewhat gruff exterior, Tom had a heart of gold. When a charity or a cause was in trouble, Tom made the problems quietly go away. Tom was a good man and true.

Paul L. Lindsay, Jr.

Paul L. Lindsay, Sr. was introduced to the Friendly Sons in 1950 by Richard Ormond. Tales of the March 17th banquet were legendary in the Lindsay home; so, upon college graduation, Paul immediately joined the Friendly Sons. Paul retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Special Forces, (the Green Berets). He served as our President in 2004. He was also a member of the Foundation Board and a founding member of the Friendly Sons Glee Club and frequently led appreciative crowds in "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" and "Sweet Rosie O'Grady". Paul never needed a microphone. and an audience of one, his lovely wife Nancy, was enough.

Robert E. Manley

Bob Manley, a prominent local attorney, served the Friendly Sons nobly as our President in 1980. He had served as a Captain in the United States Army with the Military Police. He continued on as a Trustee and our Historian until his death. Bob had a special affection for The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and was instrumental in recruiting members to the Society, such as the Reverend Dr. Robert W. Croskery. For years Bob hosted the monthly meetings of the Trustees and Officers in his Ninth Street brownstone. Bob was also instrumental in the beginnings of the Foundation. Yet another good man and true.

J. Gibbs MacVeigh

Gibbs, as he was known to his friends, which were legion, was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1932. He attended Purcell High School before moving on and graduating from Xavier University. Gibbs served The Friendly Sons as our 122nd President and remained on to serve the Board of Trustees. He was former Treasurer of Western Southern Life Insurance Company. Gibbs was a champion of minority rights, Founder and President of Every Child Counts, served as a member of the U. S. Catholic Bishops Council and was the CEO of St. Margaret Hall. Tom MacVeigh, Gibbs son has served as President of The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Foundation. It was a lucky man that had Gibbs as a friend.

John J. O'Hara

John J. O'Hara, a Kentucky lawyer, was the Felony Prosecutor for Kenton County, Kentucky. He served as the President of the Kentucky Bar Association, and as a Kentucky Supreme Court Justice. He was a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He was a volunteer with Lawyers for the Poor, and the 1996 Outstanding Lawyer Award winner from the Northern Kentucky Bar Association. He served as the President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in 1990.

PRESIDENT ANDY SWEENEY

Immediate Past Prseident Robert F. Croskery
Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
Trustee, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick