

AOH Recognition

Tom Kane, the President of the General William Thompson Division, Cumberland County 2, and the Cumberland County Board wishes to express his regrets for not being able to make the Hibernian of the Year Dinner, but is certain the Cumberland County Honor Guard did its usual exceptional service. He would also like to express his appreciation for the invite from Dauphin County and wish his fellow brother and sisters well this evening.

He would also like to announce the recipients of the County and Division AOH Members of the Year. This year has been a very trying one for the Division. Our membership remains very low, but we did get two new members. We lost a close friend and former AOH of the Year, former treasurer, Tom Vanner. The honor guard was very active in Tom's funeral service. We served as pall barriers and did final prayers, salute and a toast to Tom and sponsored a luncheon for the family after the service, through the generosity of our membership. Two individuals have been extremely active in all activities this year and were proud to serve as two of Tom's Pall Barriers. One has attended all events and been a regular new face for the County and the other has been just as active and has spread the brotherhood of the organization to Villanova University where he is attending his final year. It may seem like nepotism and it probably is, but I name my son's for this honor. They have earned it and their relationship to me should not hold them back from recognition for their service. Their relationship to me has already caused them enough problems in their lives.

Sean is a Senior at Trinity High School and a member of the baseball team and honor society. He will be attending either St. Francis or St. Bonaventure University next year. He serves as the Division's Marshall and Catholic Action Chairman. He does a lot of the heavy lifting for the Division and County and as stated has been at every event, working dinners, charitable distributions and carrying our dead.

Brendan is a Senior at Villanova University and about to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and Combat Engineer in the U.S. Army. He currently is Cadet Commander at Villanova for his ROTC unit and Treasurer of our Division. He also has been involved in almost all of our functions unless school has prevented his participation. I am proud of his commitment to the organization and his country. He is going into harm's way and he knows it.

I as their Dad, I am extremely proud of these two young men and know they have lived the motto of our organization "friendship, unity and Christian Charity." I am sorry I have cheated them out of this Dinner and recognition, but also have saved myself a few bucks. Just Kidding.....

Tom Kane