



The Thompson Rifles

SPECIAL EDITION

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Gen. William Thompson, Cumberland County Division II

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Division to be presented with a Presidential award



It has been announced that the **Gen William Thompson, Cumberland County Div. II** of the AOH will be awarded with the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, a national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service.

Established in 2003, the **AWARD** is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation confers the award to recognize the outstanding achievements of volunteers.

The Thompson Division in Cumberland County has a long history of volunteer service, and more than 20 volunteers and their families perform community service each year on behalf of the organization. The Division supports several community, civic and faith based organizations in and around Cumberland County.

"I am proud of our Division's accomplishments and the zeal of our membership in serving their community and church," said Tom Kane president of the Division, "It continues to re-enforce how active we are in the community, and how dedicated we are to spread Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."

According to information provided by the Point of Light Foundation, in his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, and called on every American to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. The **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD** recognizes individuals and families who have answered that call.

"Our Division works hard to make our community and the parishes we serve stronger and safer. As a recipient for the **AWARD**, The AOH's Gen. William Thompson, Cumberland County Division II, is proud to be aligned with this prestigious volunteer award, and we are especially proud of our volunteers and their families who have made volunteer service a central part of their lives." Kane added.

The **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD** is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve.

"I feel that our Division volunteers are role models," Kane said. "Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others, and I encourage everyone to contribute to our community by volunteering.



The President's Volunteer Service Award letters, certificate and pins



The Gold PVSA to be presented to the Division

Volunteers bring us closer together as families, as communities and as an organization through their commitment."

The **AWARD** is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created by President Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to our Nation. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits and volunteer service organizations, and community volunteering.

The Division will announce when and where the presentation ceremony will occur.

VIEWPOINT

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Deartháir, I have just been notified of the Division's pending Presidential Award. No good deed goes unrewarded and here is proof. We all know the actions of our small Division were not meant for recognition here on earth, but we do appreciate this honor and hope it serves as an impetus for continued volunteerism and charitable acts.

May we pray for the health and happiness of the person or persons who nominated us for this national honor and express our gratitude.

We must not neglect our charge to continue to spread friendship, unity and charity, and defend our faith when the need arises.

Also continue to pray for Brother Pollin, our service members and their families..

We must continue to pray stronger than ever for those who truly need our love and support especially those presently ill, Brother Vanner and other family members who remain in our thoughts.

You continue to uphold the legacy of the Division and promote our heritage. I'll say it again...

President's Podium



By Tom Kane

You really make me proud to serve you as your president. Our Division is truly blessed by your membership and participation



McGinnis



Vanner

Family Crests

In the Clover



Remember Project St. Patrick, which is the donations for the seminarians and new priests

The Division has mass cards available for those interested

Extend the hand of fellowship to any Irish-Catholic men you know, our Division would like to make them part of our family

Thanks to Tom Vanner for arranging to host the 101st Screaming Eagles at VFW Post 477

Did you see the write up in the Hibernian Digest, the Church Bulletin and the Catholic Witness?

Live your Faith all year not just on Sundays and Holy days

Do you have photos or news items you'd like to share? Just drop a line to the editor.

Prayer Intentions

Prayer works. We ask that you keep the following in your prayers;

- Tom Vanner*
- Blaine Havice*
- Cyndi Painley*
- Ann Irwin*
- Molly Finnerty*
- George Pollin and all of our friends and family serving in the armed forces*
- Our student members as they continue their studies*
- Brendan Kane as he continues officer training*

All the clergy served by the Division



The Thompson Rifles

President: Tom Kane
Editor: Bill Irwin

Member NALPA
Photos by Bill Irwin unless otherwise bylined.



This newsletter is an authorized publication for members of The AOH Gen. William Thompson Division.

Thompson facts: November 1775, Thompson's sharpshooters drove back a British landing party

“Let the children Come to me...” Matthew 19:13

By Thomas G. Kane

Coloring Contest winners presented with Bears



Actual bear may have been of a different style.

The Division has long recognized that the strength of our Church is its’ membership and the most critical part of that Community is the children. The coloring contest, Communion and Confirmation Gifts, Order of St. Patrick Award, and “Operation Baby Drop” we’re all part of this focus. We continue to strive in this area. The loss of the faith and innocence of our children is the new threat to Catholicism. You are asked to make a difference. Student membership will continue to be at almost half price and will continue as long as a member is in school and continues to practice their faith.

As a result of “Operation Baby Drop” we learned of a real need for immediate help in the form of baby food and diapers and disposable items at Birthright and several other young mother and child organizations. Lets keep “Operation Baby Drop” alive and collect these young mothers who have kept their babies despite the pressures placed upon them by society. By doing so we promote our faith and our future... the children.

Have you seen this?



In the editor’s wanderings he discovered this Irish themed stained glass window. Do you know where it is? Answer next issue.



From last issue. If you guessed Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in Harrisburg, you guessed correct.

Classic Irish Armor

Kern, early 17th Century. He wears a very short, loose coat of blue and tight hose (pinkish-red seems to be the usual color). He holds his sword under his right arm (the Irish are often shown holding sheathed swords, rather than having them slung from belts). In his left hand is a javelin, in this case having actual flights, like a modern dart. He wears dark leather brogues.



Division presents Veterans Commendation Packages

June 14, marked the Army's 233rd birthday, and at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, Division Freedom Team Salute Ambassador Bill Irwin presented the Special Forces Association, Randall Shugart Chapter 64 (Carlisle Chapter) with their FTS Commendation packages.

The package to the Carlisle unit includes an Army pin, and a letter and certificate of appreciation from the Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Army.

The Division has been active all over Cumberland County presenting these Veterans packages.

The next large gathering we have been asked to participate in is the 80th Division reunion in Carlisle in August. The 80th Division Association is comprised mainly of WWII Veterans. They are credited with liberating several Concentration Camps during the war.



He's a Chaplain

Would you believe it? Our own Recording Secretary, Bill Irwin, was asked to be the Chaplain at the recent change of responsibility for Harrisburg Recruiting Battalion's Command Sgt. Major.



After clearing it with the Division President, and Fr. William Forrey, Irwin received the invocation and benediction prayers from the Catholic Chaplain at Carlisle Barracks.

A decorative green border with white shamrock patterns surrounds the text and photo. The photo shows a man in a white jacket and tie speaking at a podium outdoors.

BREAKING NEWS

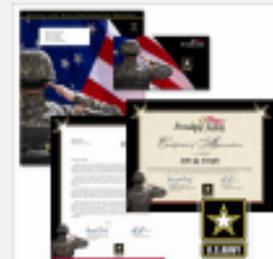
Division to be awarded with Freedom Team Award from the Secretary of the Army

The Division has another award being presented to it. The Division is slated to be presented with a Freedom Team Salute Commendation for outstanding support to Veterans.

In part because of the support given to Brother Dugan and his unit while stationed in Iraq, and the strong support given to Cumberland County veterans.

According to program manager Barbara Foelber, "The Division got such a strong recommendation from Dave Thomas, a PA Ambassador that we wanted the AOH to get one of the first support commendation packages. Congratulations and keep up the good work."

The FTS program is headquartered in Alexandria VA.



The Freedom Team Logo, and the Commendation package

Courtesy photos