



# Thompson Rifles

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Gen. William Thompson Division

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## “Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.” Matthew 9:36-10:8

It took almost a year but the Gen. William Thompson Division 2, Cumberland County launched “Operation Baby Drop” on June 6. The operation entailed acquisition and distribution of more than 10 pallet loads of high end baby products ranging from car seats to strollers.

The first order of business was to work with the Division’s Veteran’s/Military officer and distribute goods to more than 24 military families. Then donations were made to Vicky’s Angel Walk which aides families dealing with a family member with cancer, the American Trauma Society and two Harrisburg Diocese Catholic Charities organizations; Lourdes House and the InterFaith Mission.

“A rough figuring on the product’s worth tops \$20,000 but that’s not important. What is important is how many we are able to reach and help. I placed a challenge to our Division to get out there and spread Friendship and Christian Charity in the community, and look what they did,” said Tom Kane president of the Division.

On Saturday June 6 five division members were joined by District 3 Rep Jim Williams in the distribution of the items.

Williams said, “This was truly a great mission, this shows it doesn’t matter how large or small a unit is, it is the size of their hearts.”



Photo by Yvonne Kane

Top Photo, Tom, Sean, Brendan Kane and Bill Wiley load two cargo vans for “Operation baby drop.”

Center Photo, Kateri, Sean, Tom, Brendan Kane, as well as Bill Wiley and Bill Irwin prepare to head out on the “Thompson express” to deliver baby goods.

Left photo, Jim Williams Dist 3 Rep. joins with the Division delivering goods at Lourds House to staff member Kay Williams.



# VIEWPOINT

## In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

*Brothers I could not be more proud of all of you. I sent out another call to action and well we have contributed to the church and community in ways I could not have dreamed of..*

*We have been busy, no not just busy, VERY busy these past months and we have been everywhere.*

*Thank you for your support during my granddaughters birth. Operation baby Drop, the Coloring Contest, and the Enthronement ministry.*

*We are thankful for Brother Dugan's return to the states and continue to pray for Brother Pollin and his family.*

*We provided support for the 82nd Airborne when they were in town at the Senator's game.*

*And 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.*

*We may be small but together we are strong, strong in the church, community, support of each other, and our faith.*

*You really make me proud to serve you as your president.*

## President's Podium



By Tom Kane



Williams

Family Crests  
As reported  
to the Division



Ireland

## 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*

*Our Veteran's Outreach Ministry now has more than 150 registered*

*The Enthronement ministry has filled a request from Saint Patrick School Principal Ric Fly for 400 Enthronement bookmarks.*

*The winners for the coloring contest have been announced....Every Child that submitted an entry has received a collectable Boyd's Bear (valued at \$35. ea. WOW watta prize!)*

*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: In 1775, Thompson's unit is officially named the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment.*

**Order of Saint Patrick inductee announced**



**Peter Comitale**

BY ADMISSION INTO  
**THE ORDER OF SAINT PATRICK,**  
 AN HONORARY  
 ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN SELECTED  
 ON THE BASIS OF THEIR DEDICATION TO  
**FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY**  
 AS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF THE UNIQUE PROMISE OF  
 CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

**Brother Kane now is Grandfather Kane**

Congratulations to our President and his family as they welcome a new granddaughter into their family. A healthy baby girl was born in Ky. to the Kane’s daughter, and the family couldn’t be happier or more grateful that she is healthy.

“She’s A fine Irish girl; I have already been singing her to sleep with rebel songs” said Kane, “and it works.”



**Moira Lynn Rolfes,**  
 Kane’s granddaughter.  
**Born May 2, 2008**  
 2:16 a.m.,  
 19 1/2” 6lbs. 15.4 ozs.

**Division Celebrates the Army’s 233 Birthday**



By accepting tickets for the June 8th Senators game Tom Kane had no idea that Division members would be providing support to the 82nd Airborne Parachute Demo Team.

Kane and Brothers from the Division provided ground and photographic support during and after the demo.

Several of the photos were submitted to Army Public Affairs for the Army Birthday celebration slide show in D.C.



**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.

**Classic Irish Armor**

Kern with “Skean”, shield and darts. Tunic is simpler than the Ulster version shown in Derrick’s prints. Note type of surcoat



## Brother Wiley donates Saint Patrick print

By Bill Irwin

Brother Bill Wiley has obtained and presented the Division with a print of Saint Patrick. Unlike many prints this rendering shows a young vibrant Patrick leading members of his clergy and parish through Ireland.

With his ministry and trials ahead of him pictured as a young man it also reflects something of what the Division is going through. New, growing and accomplishing much.

“When I saw the print I knew it captured our spirit,” said Wiley, “It is my pleasure to donate it to our Division.”

Plans are being made to frame the print for hanging in the Knights Hall as well as housing the Division charter.



## *The Irish in Iraq*

**Flag Flown in Iraq**

*Bill Wiley, Tom Kane and Jim Jones hold the contents of a package shipped to the Division from LTC. Larry Dugan.*

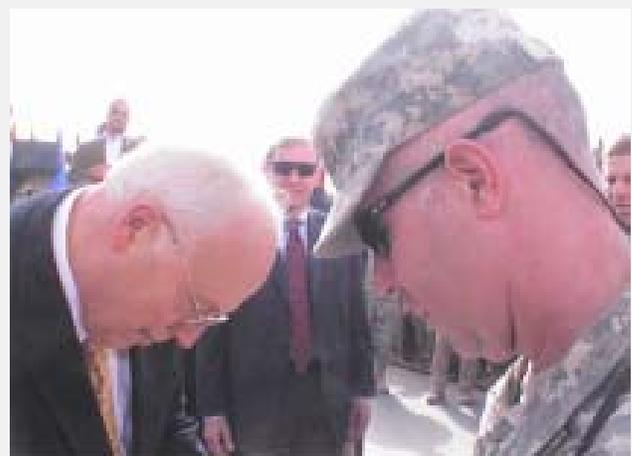


*The U.S. Flag was flown over the 213th HQ's in Iraq on Saint Patrick's Day, 2008. Plans are being made to preserve the donation from Brother Dugan.*

## Welcome home brother Dugan

Everyone in our Division thanks the Lord for prayers answered, with the safe return of our brother, Lt. Col. Larry Dugan from his tour of duty in Iraq. We look forward to toasting him at an upcoming meeting.

Please remember to keep another brother, Maj. George Pollin in your prayers as he begins his tour of duty in the sandbox.



Vice President Dick Cheney, asks LT. Col. Larry Dugan for his autograph.

Courtesy photo