



The Thompson Rifles



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Gen. William Thompson Division

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Cumberland County 1st in Country



Photo by Deborah Hammac

L-R Steve Leonard (Vice President Cumberland I), Cal Williams, (President Cumberland I), Blaine Havice (Cumberland II, Veterans Affairs), Barry Foltz (District III), Tom Kane (President Cumberland II), Bill Irwin (US Army Freedom Team Salute Ambassador, Cumberland II) Dan Lyons (County President), Maj. Bill Hammac (U.S. Army) and 2nd Lt. Brendan Kane (U.S. Army, Cumberland II) Not pictured Sgt. 1st Class Joe Sullivan. and Father William Waltersheid.

On Nov 11., in Carlisle PA, the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Cumberland County became the first organization of its kind (faith based-heritage) in the country to sign a Community Covenant with the Armed Forces of the United States.

Started in 2008, by the U.S. Army the Covenant affords communities an opportunity to affirm their support of Service members and their Families and to build partnerships that support the strength, resilience and readiness of Service members and their Families. The Covenant now encompasses support to all branches of the Service and their Families.

The Document signed by the Cumberland County Hibernians is unique in that it acknowledges that the strength of service members comes from the strength of their families and their faith. And families draw their strength from religious leaders and the community.

“It was a great event,” said Tom Kane Div. II President, “Dan Lyons’ (Cumberland County Pres.) leadership and insight is commendable. His efforts are allowing this support, commitment and great event to spread to the State and National Levels, which I think is also a reason for pride. I am proud to have been a part of this event, to be member of the AOH and a Veteran. When we do stuff like this not only to I think about our Father’s before us, but I also look at my son, just starting in this endeavor and know the sacrifices all have made and will make. The least we can do is to offer our support. We also have to remember and pass on to our guys that this cannot be simply an idle commitment; now we must follow through to help those who serve and their Families.”

VIEWPOINT

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

“Nollaig Shona Duit: The Blessing of the Christmas Season be upon you and your families. You know the ancient Irish tradition of the candle in the window has been passed on to homes in America and around the world, but I am not sure a lot of folks understand what it is really about. It is not to show off our lavish and beautiful homes in the winter season. Nor is not Pennsylvania tradition of a candle in “every” window. It was meant to be a simple single candle or illumination to light the way for the Mary and Joseph and the coming savior. To show Him that in our humble homes there was a place for Him to rest and be welcome. It was to show that He kindled the light within each of us so that we may show His way to others and welcome others in same sense of Christian Charity. Brothers, you have done this by your lives this last year and sent the light glowing for the future with all your goals and ambitions to live good Catholic lives. You have helped the sick (the Painley collection), you have aided those in distress (the Sullivan, Hannon and Vanner Families), You have supported our Nation and those who serve to preserve liberty (the veterans outreach programs), you have honored our past and our heritage and unity(Toast to Thompson and Parades), you have kindle the strength of family and shown true brotherhood and friendship (Celtic Christmas Celebration, Fish



Photo by Barry Foltz

The Veteran’s Affairs mission for the AOH is to “do all we can to support veterans of past present and future conflicts.” When the boots hit the ground the PA State Board did just that on Dec 5 at their meeting in Gettysburg.

As Dan Lyons and Tom Kane posted honor guard PA State Board officers signed a Military Community Covenant with Maj. Bill Hammac Carlisle Company Commander US Army Recruiting , and Col Richard O’Donnell ,USAWC. Other Division members witnessing the event included George Maifair.

President’s Podium



By Tom Kane

Dinners and other family events), and you have honored our Lord and his Blessed Mother (By your actions every day and dedication to the Sacred Heart). We are small, but we do much. Do not question the past and what you could have done, look to the future and what still may be done for the sake of our Blessed Savior; commit yourself to him in the upcoming year. God Bless you all.”

Prayer Intentions

Prayer works.

We ask that you keep the following in your prayers;

- Molly Finnerty continued health*
- Bill Rue continued health*
- Dan Lyons and Son Dan*
- Cyndi Painley*
- Blaine Havice*
- Ann Irwin*
- Henry McGinnis continued health*
- Karen Washabaugh*
- Chip Kaufman*
- All of our friends and family serving in the armed forces*
- Our student members as they continue their studies*
- All the clergy served by the Division*
- Our student members as they continue their studies*



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.

I arise today, through God’s strength to pilot me:
God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s eye to look before me, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak for me.

All will be well... Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.



The Thompson Division colors, Santa and support personnel made it a family affair at the All Will be Well walk for Dan Lyons. The event sponsored by the Trinity High School class of 1999 saw more than 300 participants in the 2K run/walk event held November 28th at Trinity High School.

Courtesy Photo

Matthew 10:1-8

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Sometimes it is just the right thing to do, and it is something we should be doing anyway. We always say “In our motto,” ***“In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity”*** is something we should emulate in our daily lives, to live our Catholic Faith and share our AOH Brotherhood. This came to light when a Brother-in-Arms from Cumberland I sent out a request for support, not for himself but for his son.

On November 28, a run-walk was sponsored by the Trinity HS class of 1999 to offer support to Dan Lyons’ son Danny. While both are battling cancer in one form or another Dan took a back seat to show support for his son. The Thompson Division also rallied to show it’s support. With several members and their families for support (and Santa in tow) the fundraiser was declared a success by those hosting the event. Early figures reflected more than 130 pre-registered and a total of 300 expected to have shown up.

The Division’s presence offered a show of support by the AOH as forces were joined with Division I, and in addition to those that participated in the day’s events, several more donations were delivered or pledged by the membership.

The Lyons family continues to remain the the hearts and prayers of the General William Thompson Division of the AOH.

***Honor role
of departed members, family
and friends***

***Robert Sullivan
Francis Hannon
Will Fenton***



A year in review...how many events do you remember



New Members 2009
"Cead Mile Failte"
Andrew McGinnis
Mike Allamon
Brian McCartin
Father Olusola Adewole, OP
Rich Paullet



Remember some new members still need to take the oath