



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

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MAY 2013



May 18th 2 to 4pm The Crossings at Bon Air

As part of our IAS Community Outreach – members of our IAS are invited to participate in a program at The Crossings at Bon Air. This is a “Meet & Greet for the residents and their families and a good opportunity to get some Celtic Publicity!

The IAS will set up a table with information on the society and also our many items regarding Irish History and Heritage. Members of the Scottish Society, Irish Step Dancers and members from Pipe bands will join us. The facility is located at the intersections of Pinetta and Midlothian Turnpike. It is directly behind the US Post Office. 9100 Bon Air Crossings Drive Richmond, VA 23235

Please come out and spend some time with us as we try to spread some Irish fun and also spread the word about the IAS.



May 27, 10:00 Virginia War Memorial 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony

The IAS will join other organizations in presenting memorial wreaths at the ceremonies at the Virginia War Memorial. Co-hosted by 11th District, American Legion, the program officially commemorates this national holiday honoring and remembering our valiant men and women who gave their lives in service to America at this outdoor ceremony.

This event is an inspirational tribute dedicated to the proposition that Freedom is Never Free and includes a guest speaker, patriotic music, memorial wreath laying and the playing of Taps. **Free, open to the public and ample free parking. Rain or shine.** Virginia War Memorial (See next column)

All IAS members are invited and encouraged to attend the Memorial Service at the Virginia War

Memorial. After the ceremony all organizations are asked to remove their wreaths. Again this year, the IAS will take the memorial wreath and place it on the Hollywood Cemetery gravesite of Andy Jennings. Andy, a Dublin Ireland native and owner of Rare Olde Times, was a long time supporter of all things Irish in Richmond – always generous in time, support and donations – we are proud to make this small gesture to his memory.

Please join us - either at the War Memorial or at Hollywood Cemetery.



THE JUNE IAS PICNIC

Join us for a day of fun for all IAS members – all ages! The fun and feasting begin on **Sunday, June 2, at 1 pm** at Pat and Helen Warriner Burke's farm in Amelia. Burgers, hot dogs and condiments are provided, **but you are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs.**

If you are a new member, this is a wonderful way to get to know the other members, and it's a beautiful country setting and always one of our big turnout events. The IAS picnic is truly one of our best get together(s) and it's the most fun that you'll have with your IAS friends -Trust me you'll be glad you came!

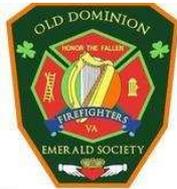
Picnic Driving Directions:

Take 360 West out of Richmond. . After crossing the Appomattox River into Amelia, go about 3-4 miles and you will see a billboard on your side of the road. Karon Bell generally has balloons or a sign up to warn you to turn. . Slide over into the left lane and about a half mile further turn left onto 627, which is Cheatham's Road. (DON'T turn onto 628 which comes first - that's not Cheatham's Road) The Salvage Shed is at the corner of 627. . Go about 3/4 of a mile down Cheatham's (627) and the picnic is at the two-story white house on the left. The number, 9943, is on the mailbox. If you have any problems, call 804-561-5778 or 804-366-6925.

Karon Bell's cell phone is 804-982-7835 and her email is irishmom1958@gmail.com – contact her with any questions.

Welcome To Our Newest IAS Board Member

A Huge Welcome to Bill Riddell who has graciously volunteered to fill one of the empty slots on the IAS Board. Bill is 2nd from the left in this photo and was and is instrumental in the formation and continued support of the Old Dominion Firefighters Emerald Society.



The IAS is delighted to add Bill to the Board!

A THANK YOU NOTE -

I want to thank each of you who visited, brought flowers, sent cards, and phoned during my recent two surgeries and three-week rehab. I sincerely appreciate your well wishes and concerns. Gloria Cahen.



Gloria is our Past IAS President, Secretary, and former Grand Marshal of the St. Pat's Festival Parade – lucky lady with the Marine Color Guards.

IRISH –AMERICAN HEROES

On this Memorial Day, we recall the most decorated soldier in WWII – and that was Irish-American Audie Murphy. (June 20, 1924 – May 28, 1971). . He received 28 citations for bravery, including the Medal of Honor.



Yes – He does look young in this photo. Audie Murphy received the Medal of Honor at age **19**.

Audie Leon Murphy, born June 20, 1925, son of poor Texas sharecroppers. He rose to national fame as the most decorated U.S. combat soldier of World War II. Among his 33 awards and decorations was the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States of America, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." He also received every decoration for valor that his country had to offer, some of them more than once, including 5 decorations by France and Belgium. Credited with either killing over 240 of the enemy while wounding and capturing many others, he became a legend within the 3rd Infantry Division.

Beginning his service as an Army Private, Audie quickly rose to the enlisted rank of Staff Sergeant, was given a "battle field" commission as 2nd Lieutenant, was wounded three times, fought in 9 major campaigns across the European Theater, and survived the war.

Before his 21st birthday, and after more than two years overseas, most of it front line duty, Audie Murphy returned home at the end of World War II with every decoration for valor this country could bestow. He participated in nine battle campaigns, including participating in the assault landings at Sicily and Southern France. During Murphy's 3 years active service as a combat soldier in World War II, Audie became one of the best fighting combat soldiers of this or any other century.

What Audie accomplished during this period is most significant and probably will never be repeated by another soldier, given today's high-tech type of warfare. The U.S. Army has always declared that there will never be another Audie Murphy. **More at the link below:**

http://www.fold3.com/page/2371_audie_murphy_and_the_medal_of_honor/



The Provinces of Ireland

Originally there were five provinces but over the course of time the smallest one, Meath, was absorbed into Leinster. These provinces began as little more than loosely federated kingdoms with somewhat flexible boundaries, but in modern times they have become associated with groups of specific counties though they have no legal status. They are today seen in a sporting context, as Ireland's four professional rugby teams play under the names of the provinces, and the Gaelic Athletic Association has separate provincial championships.

The provinces were supplanted by the present system of counties after the Norman occupation in the twelfth century. The Irish word for province, "**cúige**", means, "portion" and/or "fifth", reflecting the original division.

Six of the nine Ulster counties form modern-day Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland is often referred to as a *province* of the United Kingdom. These two inconsistent usages of the word "province" (along with the use of the term "Ulster" to describe Northern Ireland) can cause confusion.



County Cork (Irish: Contae Chorcaí)

is the most southwesterly and the largest of the modern counties of Ireland. Cork is nicknamed "The Rebel County", as a result of the support of the townsmen of Cork in 1491 for Perkin Warbeck, a pretender to the throne of England during the Wars of the Roses. In more recent times, the name has referred to the prominent role Cork played in the Irish War of Independence (1919-1921) and its position as an anti-treaty stronghold during the Irish Civil War (1922-23). Attractions include the Blarney Stone and Cobh (formerly Queenstown), the port where many Irish emigrants boarded for their voyage to the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or South Africa and also the last stop of the Titanic, before departing on its doomed journey. The city of Cork is the second largest city in the Republic of Ireland and capital of the province of Munster.

The remote western area of the county, known as West Cork, is a popular destination for tourists, who visit the small villages and islands including Sherkin Island, Oileán Chléire or Cape Clear Island and Dursey Island. Mizen Head, the "southwestern most point in Ireland" is also in West Cork, as is Sheep's Head.

In recent years land in the far west of the county has become in high demand internationally, and large numbers of EU citizens have settled in the area, along with celebrities such as Jeremy Irons. West Cork is noted for its rugged natural beauty, fine beaches and distinct social atmosphere.

West Cork has a disproportionately large population of artisans, musicians, poets and playwrights

Allihies, Beara peninsula, County Cork



Allihies, a coastal village on the Beara Peninsula in the west of County Cork, is also known as Cluin. It was a copper-mining area until 1862, when the mine closed because of a fall in the worldwide price of copper, resulting in large-scale emigration, primarily to the mining town of **Butte, Montana**, in the United States, where many people still trace their ancestry back to Allihies. A mining museum is housed in the chapel built by Cornish miners in 1845 (Don't you love this image)

Butte MT is an interesting piece of American/Irish history and tradition. It is the city the Irish would have built if the English had said, "Build a city of your own design and money is no object." It's not possible to understand Butte without first looking to Ireland. Today, the descendants of Sullivans, Shannons, Harringtons, O'Neills Lynchs, Sheas, Driscolls, Dolans, Duggans, and O'Briens still inhabit this island city built on a hill surrounded by a sea of mountains, rivers, and prairie under the big sky of Montana.

This link will take you to an interesting piece on the Irish connections in Butte.

<http://www.butteamerica.com/birish.htm>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists
 And ALWAYS click the links below to get the latest updates on upcoming events
<http://richmondias.org/events.php> or for a full month calendar of current events click here. [IAS Calendar](#)

May 18	The Crossings at Bon Air – IAS
June 2 nd	IAS Annual Picnic
August 24	Richmond Squirrels Game – Starts at 6:05 – at the Diamond. Please contact Dan Begley at 804-740-5631 or begley55@hotmail.com
Dec 15 th	IAS Annual Christmas Party 2pm to 6pm

*****P.S. --- LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS*****

From Karon Bell.

1. So sorry to have forgotten to mention Ed Kast – who was also a big help at the IAS booth at the St. Patrick's Festival on Church Hill.
2. I still have a few items that were left at the Christmas party... Please call me at 804-982-7835 if you are missing spoons, a butter dish or a silver colored tray

**2013 IRISH FESTIVALS 'CLOSE' TO RICHMOND -
 CLICK ON THE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

August 10	Ballyshanners Irish Festival	Alexandria, Virginia
August 13 th & 14 th	Charlotte Irish Summer Festival	Charlotte North Carolina
September 6 th – 8 th	Pittsburgh Irish Festival	Pittsburgh PA
September 29 th	Raleigh Irish Fest	Raleigh North Carolina
November 9 th – 11 th	Irish Festival in Baltimore	Baltimore Maryland

IAS OFFICERS & BOARD

President	Vacant	HELP WANTED!	
Acting President, Vice-President & Programs Chair	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
Secretary & Sunshine	Ann McGehee	540-894-7284	Anniev67@juno.com
Treasurer	Kathryn O'Meara	804-745-1903	Mungojerrie23@aol.com
Board Member & Membership	Denis Maguire	804-739-0429	maguired@comcast.net
Board Member/Special Events	Karon Bell	804-982-7835	Irishmom1958@gmail.com
Board, Email/Newsletter	Nancy Emig	804-323-6415	bearfan46@verizon.net
Board Member	Frank Hardy	804-883-6230	fenway7@msn.com
Board Member	Bill Riddell	804-262-4226	wjriddell@verizon.net
Pub Master	Jim Mahone	804-387-8124	jim.mahone@comcast.net