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Save the Date!

Thursday, February 22, 2018,
5:30 pm

Annual Walks of Life Awards
Dinner
Honoring
William M. Denihan
Myles Gallagher
Sr. Rita Mary Harwood, SND
Chief Justice Maureen
O'Connor

Windows on the River
2000 Sycamore Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Donation \$75 (\$44 tax
deductible) or \$150 VIP ticket
(\$90 tax deductible)

Contact Margaret Lynch at
iaasadmin@gmail.com or (216)
941-5727 by February 8
if you are interested in
ad or table sponsorship
opportunities.

See p. 4 for a list of talks about
aspects of the history of the
Irish in Cleveland that will take
place at a variety of venues
throughout March 2018.

Taimid ag suil le do comhlúadar
We look forward to your company!



Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

The Newsletter of the
Irish American Archives Society of Cleveland & Northeast Ohio

Volume 21, Number 1, Winter 2018

Walks of Life Honorees

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

Born in the nation's capital and raised in Strongsville and Parma, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor has had a distinguished career in public service and the law that spans three decades and includes time as a private lawyer, magistrate, common pleas court judge, prosecutor, and Ohio Supreme Court justice.

O'Connor is the state's 10th chief justice and the first woman in Ohio history to lead the Ohio judicial branch. Since she took office in 2011, Chief Justice O'Connor has led significant reforms and improvements in the Ohio judicial system, including improving access to justice by addressing the impact that court fines, fees, and bail practices have on economically disadvantaged communities. In addition, she established a task force to maintain public trust and confidence in grand juries, created a committee to examine the administration of the death penalty, and proposed improvements to strengthen judicial elections in Ohio.

Her first statewide judicial election in 2002, in which she took more than 57 percent of the vote, made her the 148th justice to the court, the sixth woman to join the court, and gave the court its first-ever female majority. She was elected chief justice in 2010 and was re-elected to a second six-year term in 2016.

O'Connor earned her bachelor of arts degree at Seton Hill College in 1973 before going on to earn her law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1980. After becoming a prosecuting attorney for Summit County in 1995, she was elected lieutenant governor in 1998. She became the governor's chief adviser on criminal justice issues, serving as director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and as chair of Ohio's Security Task Force and the State Building Security Review Committee.

Among numerous awards and distinctions she received the Founders' Award from the Ohio Women's Bar Association in 2011 and was selected by the Irish Voice newspaper in New York to become a member of the Irish Legal 100 in 2010. O'Connor has two children and resides in Akron, Ohio.



2017 Year in Review

- In July, we released *The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade*—the result of four years of extensive research and community collaboration. This lavishly illustrated book celebrates the story of our enduring Irish-American Cleveland community by commemorating one of the city's oldest and most vibrant public celebrations. It's available for purchase online at www.irisharchives.org.

Praise for *The Day We Celebrate*:

"The book is a towering achievement and a permanent, and tremendously illuminating, contribution to Cleveland history—and the history of its Irish community. This is one of those books that fills a gap in our collective story, and presents a narrative that is unlikely ever to be surpassed. It is destined to become a permanent part of what we know about ourselves and our community." -Dennis Dooley, founding board member of IAAS and award-winning journalist

- A special grant from the City of Cleveland and contributions from many generous donors will make it possible for us to donate copies of *The Day We Celebrate* to high school and university libraries in northeast Ohio. While most of the books will be delivered shortly, students in Holy Name High Schools Irish Studies classes were able to have a sneak preview.
- Since 2012, when we launched the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture project, we have reached nearly 10,000 people by delivering 89 talks, tours, or displays. In 2017, outreach activities were conducted at or with John Carroll University, Western Reserve Historical Society, the First Friday Club, the Geauga County Department on Aging, the United Irish Societies, Kamm's Corners Development Corporation, the Hawken School, Lorain County Ohio Genealogical Society, Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, Ohio Celtic Festival, East Side Irish American Club, and West Side Irish American Club.
- Talks already planned for 2018 include:

At County Library branches—"The History of the Irish in Cleveland"

Parma branch – Thurs, March 1 at 7 PM

Fairview Park branch - Mon, March 5 at 7 PM

Brooklyn branch - Tues, March 6 at 7:15 PM

Middleburg Heights branch – Saturday, March 10, 2 pm

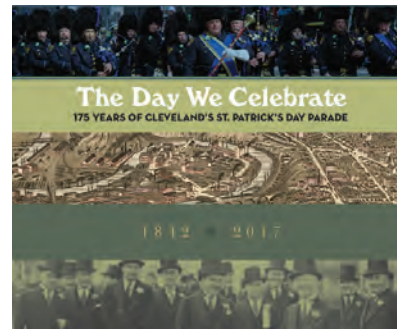
Independence branch - Tues, March 13 at 7 PM

At Cleveland Public library Main Branch March 10, 11:00 am: "Civil War Veterans and the Cause of Irish Nationalism in Cleveland"

At Music Box Supper Club March 14, 7 pm: "How the Irish Built Cleveland"

At Flat Iron Pub, Irish American News Speaker Series March 21, 6:30 pm: "Parade Characters and Controversies"

Please consider an "annual donation" to support our mission in 2018!



Eagle Scout and St. Ignatius student David Patrick Ryan explains his research on Parade Grand Marshals at the Irish Cultural Festival in Berea this past summer.

William M. Denihan

Whenever local political leaders, or even Ohio's governor, sought someone to help oversee a department needing repair during the last half-century, they often called upon William M. Denihan as their change agent. Denihan retired August 1, 2017, as chief executive of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County. His career in government service began 44 years before, in 1973, when he became Deputy Director of the Bureau of Workers Compensation for northeast Ohio. At the BWC, he uncovered a \$10 million fraud scheme that implicated more than 200 persons. He was able to institute systemic changes and earned a promotion as the State Claims Director for BWC in Columbus.

Among his jobs over the years were: first director of Ohio's State Employees Relations Board, Director of Personnel for both Ohio and Cuyahoga County, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, Director of Highway Safety for Ohio overseeing the State Highway Patrol and Bureau of Motor Vehicles. For the city of Cleveland he served as Public Service Director, overseeing garbage collection, snow removal, bridges and all public vehicles, Public Safety Director in charge of the Departments of Police, Fire and E.M.S. and Acting Chief of Police on two occasions.

While living in Dublin outside of Columbus Ohio and serving as Ohio's Director of Highway Safety in the mid-1980s, he was a founding member of the annual Dublin Fest, now one of the largest Irish celebrations in America.

His ability to analyze and solve problems has helped state and local governments tackle complex issues and save taxpayers money. One of his most challenging problems came about 10 years ago when he was executive director of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board. He was asked to oversee the consolidation of that board with the county's Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board. The task was made more difficult, Denihan said, because both boards opposed the consolidation. The merging of the two agencies, however, saved the county about \$5 million a year and proved to be the right move for the clients.

Denihan grew up in a housing project in Euclid and attended St. Joseph High School. He served three years in the Army and shortly after opened Skill Staff, a temporary job recruiting service. He said the job gave him the ability to quickly evaluate how well a person would do in completing a task, a skill he later applied to determine if supervisors in the government agencies he managed were efficiently carrying out their responsibilities.

When Chernobyl's nuclear power plant exploded in Russia Governor Richard Celeste appointed Denihan to review the safety protocols of Ohio's two Nuclear Power plants and determine if they were safe to continue operation. While serving as acting director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Denihan oversaw the building of Cleveland's Inner Harbor and the reclamation of Euclid Beach as a state park.

Shortly after Denihan ran for Mayor of Cleveland and lost in 2001, he was selected by Bishop Anthony Pilla to lead a commission to investigate the handling of child sex-abuse cases in the Catholic Diocese. Over the past few years he led an advisory committee reviewing the settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the city of Cleveland regarding the police department's use-of-force policies and practices and took a leadership role in fighting the opioid crisis.

In 1998 while serving as Cleveland's Safety Director at age 61 he received a Bachelor's degree in Urban Affairs from Cleveland State University College of Urban Studies. This past year he was awarded an Honorary Degree, "Doctor of Public Service" from Cleveland State University, where he was recently appointed to serve as a senior fellow. In "retirement," he has also joined the boards of Edna House and Stella Maris, drug recovery homes for women and men respectively.

Denihan, whose Irish grandparents initially settled in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, has seven children from previous marriages. Mary, his wife of 29 years brought four children to the marriage, resulting in 11 children, 24 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. He has one sibling, Robert, who has enjoyed a lifelong career in the publishing business. He and his wife live in a home on Cleveland's West Side with a view of Lake Erie, where he pursues his passion for painting.

Sister Rita Mary Harwood

As Secretariat for Parish Life and Development for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Sister Rita Mary Harwood helps to promote and sustain the words of the Gospel by nurturing programs and ministries throughout the 185 parishes in the diocese. She also assists the lay organizations of the diocese as well as facilitates ethnic ministries, with particular focus on ministering to the diocese's African and Asian communities, immigrants, the incarcerated, and the gay and lesbian community.

While growing up in St. Colman Parish on Cleveland's West Side, she imagined she would become a mother with 10 children and even picked out names for some of the children. Halfway through her senior year at St. Stephen's High School, however, she felt that God was calling her to the religious life.

As one of four children of Edward and Margaret Harwood, she felt her father might object to seeing his only daughter go into the



convent. But when she approached him about her desire to become a nun, he replied, "I have prayed all my life that one of my children would be called to religious life." She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in September of 1959, three months before her father died.

Her first assignments were to teach in Catholic elementary schools. In the early 1970s, she was assigned as principal of St. Michael's School in Canton. In 1979, she was named supervisor of the elementary schools staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame. Five years later, she was chosen as provincial superior for the Sisters of Notre Dame at a time when the order had about 600 sisters (about twice as many as there are today) serving in the dioceses of Cleveland, Youngstown, Arlington, Virginia, Washington, DC, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Tampa-St. Petersburg, Venice, and Orlando, Florida.

In 1994, she was asked to serve on a diocesan Task Force to plan the implementation of Bishop Anthony Pilla's Church in the City initiative. Pilla felt that as many Catholics moved out from urban areas, they were losing touch with the people and issues in the central cities: poverty, unemployment educational needs and housing. The following year, Pilla asked Sister Rita to help implement the Task Force's recommendations and to take on her present position of overseeing the offices and activities of the Parish Life Secretariat at the Diocese.

Although Sister Rita's last name, Harwood, is English and comes from a great-grandparent who was a member of the House of Lords, she reports that her three other grandparents were all Irish immigrants with the names of Noonan, Ryan and O'Malley. "My family came here for the same purpose that many people come to America today," she said, "to escape poverty and violence in their own country and to seek better opportunities for their children."

"Regardless of our status or orientation, we all seek a greater union with God in our lives," she said. "And that's what I strive for -- to help the people of our parish communities to come to know and love God and to realize God's love for them-- and to reach out in concern for others."

Myles Gallagher

Myles Gallagher likes to quote one of his late father's friends: "Opportunity knocks every day; it just takes a smart man to open the door." Gallagher has made a career out of opening those doors.

After graduating from John Carroll University in 1984, he landed a job selling copiers. Within a year, he was named the company's Top New Salesman. While on a flight to the corporate office, he sat next to the vice president of marketing for Dunlop Tire Co. By the time the plane landed in Connecticut, Gallagher had a job offer from the Dunlop executive.

Just six weeks into his new job, he was at Watkins Glen race track in New York when a Dunlop equipped race car crashed after a tire failure. A television reporter asked Gallagher what caused the blowout. Not wanting blame it on product failure, the rookie salesman explained that many other factors could have caused the tire to give out. "We'll have to take the tire back to the lab and look at it," he told the reporter.

Standing nearby was Mark McCormack, the legendary founder and president of IMG, the Cleveland-based sports marketing company. Upon hearing Gallagher's answer, McCormack reportedly quipped to a colleague and future mentor--Bud Stanner, IMG's Senior Corporate Vice President -- "Now, there's a salesman. Keep an eye on that kid." Shortly thereafter while still in his twenties, Gallagher accepted a highly sought-after position on IMG's marketing staff.

In the early 1990s, Richard Jacobs, then the owner of the Cleveland Indians, was looking for a salesman to handle sales of corporate suites at the team's new ballpark. An acquaintance recommended Gallagher and Jacobs offered him the job, remarking that the position would be good experience for the firm he would eventually open. The young man asked the owner how he knew that Gallagher wanted to start his own firm. Jacobs replied: "All good salesmen want to create their own company." In fact, Gallagher already had his sights set on creating his own marketing firm. He even had a name, suggested by a Jesuit at JCU: Superlative.

In the 24 years Gallagher has operated The Superlative Group, the firm has produced more than \$2 billion worth of corporate sponsorships and naming rights throughout the United States and Europe. Among the company's clients are The US Marine Corps, Ohio Department of Transportation, Minnesota United FC., Twentieth Century FOX, the Rock, City of Miami Beach, Caesars Entertainment, Red Rocks Amphitheater, Events DC, London Olympic Venues and most of the universities in Ireland.

A decade ago, Gallagher read that the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority intended to call its newly renovated Euclid Ave. bus route the Silver line. Gallagher called Joe Calabrese, RTA's chief executive, and within 20 minutes convinced Calabrese that selling the naming rights would help subsidize the new line, now called the HealthLine. RTA became the nation's first transit system to sell a naming-rights sponsorship, giving the system \$11 million in additional revenue.

The Superlative Group, with offices in Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Toronto and Dublin, now represents 19 transit systems, numerous universities, sports teams, airports and state and local governments in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

