



Muskegon Irish American Society

# NEWS



Summer 2023

## It's Time For Our Summer Barbeque

**Mona Lake Boat Club, Thursday, August 24**



Enjoy a hearty meal of a grilled burger, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and cake for \$15 per person. Adult beverages, soft drinks and bottled water will be available at a cash bar.

The ever delightful *Mona Shores Fiddlers* will entertain us with their upbeat, toe tapping, knee slapping sounds! The Mona Shores Fiddlers is an extra curricular alternative styles ensemble, which performs throughout the Muskegon community, including the *Michigan Irish Music Festival*. The Fiddlers are under the direction of Mona Shores High School Orchestra Director, Mrs. Kelly De Rose. You won't want to miss the fun!

To make your reservation please call Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, August 18. (If no answer, PLEASE leave a message!)** We need a reservation, so make that call today!

We can't wait to see you there!

**WHAT:** Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

**WHERE:** Mona Lake Boat Club • 372 Randall Road • Norton Shores, MI

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 24, 2023

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:15 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

**COST:** \$15.00 per person

Reservations are required by **Friday, August 18** to Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 (**PLEASE leave a message!**)



## 2023 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees



The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2023 class of inductees. The Hall recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields of life in Michigan. The honorees will be inducted at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, on Saturday, September 16.

To see the complete bios of these inductees and other members of the Hall of Fame, please use QR Code or visit the Hall of Fame website at <http://www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org/>.

### Arts and Entertainment

#### **Thomas O'Halloran (Deceased) (1932 – 2022)**

Thomas O'Halloran, born in County Offlay, Ireland, was an only child and an orphan who learned to play the accordion by ear, and by the age of fourteen was playing at weddings and dances all over Ireland. After immigrating to Detroit in 1955, he established the "Irish Thirty-Two County Club" and later opened O'Halloran's Tipperary Pub. The "Tip" soon became the home away from home for Irish immigrants, their children, and their children's children. The Tipperary Pub hosted the Irish Rovers, the Dubliners, the Wolf Tones, the Clancy Brothers, Michael Flatley, and many more. For decades Tommy generously mentored and offered his stage to new musicians.

Tom big-heartedly gave of his talent and leadership through his involvement in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Bar Owners Association, the Gaelic League of Detroit, the Friendly Sons, and the Knights of Equity. For his efforts he was honored as the Grand Marshal of the 2000 Detroit St. Patrick's Parade. He was a deeply caring and faithful supporter of the St. Patrick's Senior Center, the Irish Palatine Fathers, and numerous Irish immigrants as they settled in America. For more than 50 years, Tommy O' Halloran enriched with music the lives of all who knew him. His parting request to his beloved wife, Joannie, was "Don't let the music die." As a member of this Hall of Fame, his music legacy lives on.

#### **William (Liam) Lynch**

William (Liam) Lynch traces his family ancestry to County Cork and Kilkenny in Ireland. But it was not until 15 years ago when his daughter Meagan Andres opened an Irish gift shop in Grand Rapids that he seriously became involved in his Irish heritage and Irish events in Michigan and beyond. He created the popular website MiIrish.com, and also started working with Irish bands and established a concert series in Ionia called "The Celtic Battle of the Bands." His website promotes any and all Irish and Celtic Heritage and other cultural organizations in the State.

Many years ago Liam began wearing a leprechaun suit to pubs and Irish events around Michigan. One year the Kalamazoo Irish Fest asked him to act as the emcee to introduce an act. Since then Liam has been actively involved in more than a dozen other Irish Fests throughout the Midwest! Most recently he was named the Grand Marshal of Kalamazoo St. Patrick's Day Parade for 2023. He has been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Grand Rapids, and he is an active member of the West Michigan Gaelic League, Irish American Club. Liam is a very active supporter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, with himself having been a Little Brother for 57 years. He has been married for 47 years to his wife Audie, and has two daughters, Megan Andres and Maureen Lynch.



# 2023 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

## Religion

### Paul A. Long

For more than 35 years Paul Long has been a lay leader in the Catholic Church in Michigan. He has been President and CEO of the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) since 2010, after starting his career there in 1988. MCC is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church and centrally administers benefit and administrative services for the Church throughout Michigan. Such areas as social justice, homelessness, immigration, the criminal justice system, prison ministry, gun violence, poverty, human trafficking, promoting human dignity, and supporting Catholic education, are among the key issues Paul has addressed through the years.

Paul's Irish ancestors immigrated to Canada from County Cork in the late 1840's. Paul grew up in St. Claire Shores in Michigan, attended Lakeview Schools, and graduated in 1988 from Michigan State University with his B.A. degree in Urban Planning. He married his wife Melissa in 1997, and they have three children, Patrick Dawson (22), Mary Elizabeth (20), and Catherine Virginia (16). Paul has visited sites in Ireland related to his family history, including Larne, Bangor, Belfast, Dublin, and Cork. The Long's are members of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Lansing, and donate to Most Holy Trinity Parish in Corktown. Inspired by the late J.P. McCarthy's constant promotion of what it means to be Irish, Paul has MCC sponsor the annual St. Patrick's Day broadcast of Michigan's Big Show starring Michael Patrick Shiels.

## Philanthropy

### Patrick O'Hara

Patrick O'Hara for many years has been a respected member of the Detroit Irish Community. He is a CPA by trade, and has donated his time and service as a CPA free of charge to many organizations in the Irish community. Pat has been honored to be named the Grand Marshal of the Detroit St. Patrick's Parade in 2008 and was named the Palatine Man of the Year in 2021. He served as the National President of the Knights of Equity, and for 5 years was the Worthy Supreme Knight of Court 6 in Detroit. He serves on the Knights of Equity Scholarship Commission and as a delegate to the United Irish Societies. Pat has been on the Board of Directors of the Irish Cultural Forum since 1981, chairs the judges' committee for the St. Patrick's Parade in Detroit, coordinates the annual Mass for the deceased members of the Irish community, and is a member of the Gaelic League, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Network Detroit and much more.

## Public Service

### James R. Corgan (Deceased) (1848 – 1923)

James Corgan was an outstanding member of the Ontonagon, MI community, in the late 1800's and early 1900's. He served as lighthouse keeper there for 36 years. In addition to keeping the light, he owned a fishing business and started a general store, James Corgan and Sons. He also built an opera house there in 1891, built a business block in 1893 and a post office in 1894. (While living as a young man in Copper Harbor, he served as Deputy Postmaster, Township Clerk, Commissioner of Highways and was Deputy US Marshal.) He helped organize the fire department in Ontonagon and served as its chief engineer. While serving as chairman of the school board, he organized the new township school district system (having been a teacher in L'anse) and helped students get free school books. He died in Ontonagon in 1923.





## In Remembrance



**Virginia M. "Jinny" Langlois** passed away Friday, March 24, 2023 just a few weeks shy of her 98th birthday. She was born April 21, 1925 in Muskegon to Clarence and Marjorie (Hoskins) McGregor and was a lifelong resident of the area. She married William A. Langlois in San Francisco, CA on August 10, 1945 and he preceded her in death. She worked as an administrative assistant for many years at the family's business, Langlois Home Furnishings. She was a member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church and the Muskegon Irish American Society. Survivors include 9 children, 26 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on April 21st.



**Luanne Lynn Luick**, age 69, passed away Sunday, April 2, 2023 at her home. She was born February 28, 1954 in Muskegon to Duard E. and Lucille M. (Sheridan) Luick and was a lifelong resident of the area. Luanne worked over 40 years as a registered nurse for both Mercy Hospital and Hackley Hospital prior to her retirement. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and volunteered many years for the Michigan Irish Music Festival. She had a special love of animals and supported the Muskegon Human Society. Survivors include her sister and several nieces and nephews. Private family services were held for Luanne with burial next to her parents at Sunrise Memorial Gardens.



**Robert E. (Bo) Whitelaw**, husband of 2022 MIAS Irish Person of the year, Paula Hynes Whitelaw, passed away Thursday, March 30, 2023. Bo was born in 1927 to a career military family in Panama. Bo was a graduate of Harvard University, retired U.S. Army Colonel, and avid golfer. During his army career, Bo traveled all over the world. Bo and Paula married on May 22, 2010 and enjoyed 13 years together. Bo is survived by wife Paula, 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

## Mrs. Kelly's Journey Home

Our Annual Spring Event, the Award-Winning Play, *Mrs. Kelly's Journey Home* was a rousing success! More than 150 MIAS and community members enjoyed the one-person play starring Breedia Kelly Miller. The riveting two-act play entertained from the opening line to the closing blessing!



## Upcoming Events

### Milwaukee Irish Fest

August 17-20  
Henry Maier Festival Park  
Milwaukee, WI

The 42nd Milwaukee Irish Fest lineup features more than 50 Irish and Irish American artists and dance schools!

<https://irishfest.com/Tickets>

### Michigan Irish Music Festival

September 14-17  
Heritage Landing  
Muskegon, MI

The MIMF feature four days of outstanding live music, culture, Irish food, beverages, and entertainment.

<https://bit.ly/MIMFtickets>