

NEWS

Summer 2025

It's Time for a Summer Barbeque



Enjoy a hearty meal of grilled burger sliders, wings or combo plate, potato salad, baked beans, and cake for \$20 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 Meg Jennings at (231) 736-9926 as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, August 15**. (If no answer, **PLEASE** leave a message!) We require a reservation for this event, so make that call today! We can't wait to see you there!

WHAT: Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

WHERE: Knights of Columbus • 2915 Fairfield St. • Norton Shores, MI

WHEN: Thursday, August 21, 2025

5:30 p.m. Social Hour 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

COST: \$20.00 per person

Reservations are required by **Friday, August 15** to Meg Jennings at (231) 736-9926 (**PLEASE** leave a message!)



2025 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2025 class of inductees. The Hall recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields of life in Michigan. The new members for 2025 of the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame will be inducted at a public ceremony at 11:30 AM on the *Grafton Stage* of the *Michigan Irish Music Festival* in Muskegon, Michigan, on Saturday, September 13, 2025.

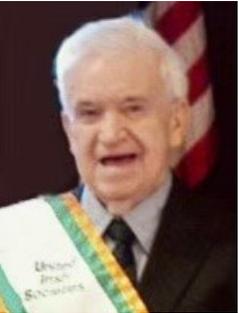
Category of Arts and Entertainment

Joan Kavanaugh O'Halloran



Joan Kavanaugh O'Halloran grew up in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, before moving to the Detroit area. After the loss of her first husband, Kenneth, in 1984, Joan remarried in 1996 to Tommy O'Halloran. Together, they promoted Irish music through organizations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and the Gaelic League/Irish American Club of Detroit. Joan's commitment to Irish culture was recognized in 2013 when she was named Hibernian Woman of the Year. In 2023, she was appointed Chairperson of the Motor City Irish Fest, and most recently, she was selected as the Grand Marshall of the 2025 Detroit St. Patrick's Parade.

Michael John (Jack) Derrig (deceased) (1930-2013)



Born in New York to Irish parents and raised in Ireland, Michael "Jack" Derrig came to Michigan after serving in the Korean War, where he earned a Bronze Star. Jack spent 32 years working at GM while also establishing the "Irish Imports" shop in Dearborn, where he promoted Irish heritage through imported goods. He later opened "The Irish Baker," offering traditional Irish products like scones, shortbread, soda bread, and sausages. Jack was also a gifted musician and radio show host. His show, "Meet the Irish," was broadcast across Detroit for over 30 years, and his promotion of Irish music became his lasting legacy in the community. Jack's contributions to Irish culture and his promotion of Irish music made him a beloved figure in Michigan's Irish American community. In 2009, he was honored as the Grand Marshall for the Detroit St. Patrick's Parade.

Category of Business and Industry

Thomas Michael Murray



Tom Murray, the oldest of seven children, was deeply immersed in Irish heritage from an early age. His father, Chris Murray, was President of the Detroit Gaelic League/Irish-American Club for 18 years, where Tom grew up assisting in events and supporting the Gaelic League. In 1982, Tom founded the Detroit Wolfetones Gaelic Football Club, which has thrived for over 40 years, winning three North American Championships. Tom also helped establish the Detroit Harps Youth Gaelic Football program. In 1998, Tom opened Conor O'Neill's Traditional Irish Pub & Restaurant in Ann Arbor, which has been named Michigan's best Irish Pub for over two decades. His commitment to Irish culture extends to hosting a weekly Traditional Irish Music Session, one of the longest-running in the U.S. In honor of the memory of their daughter Maeve, who passed away in 1993, Tom and his wife Maureen have raised over \$2 million for the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital's Save A Heart Fund through various charitable events.



2025 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

Category of Community and Public Service

Sheila M. Cassidy



A first-generation Irish American, Sheila Cassidy has been a lifelong leader in Southeastern Michigan's Irish community. She maintains dual citizenship and travels to Ireland annually. Sheila started Irish dancing at age three and competed in the All-World Championship in 1980. She currently serves as the Chairperson of the Queen of Detroit Irish Societies and co-chairs the UIS Parade kickoff event. Her extensive involvement in promoting Irish American culture also includes serving on the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Motor City Irish Festival Committee, among many other committee and fundraising obligations. Sheila played a key role in creating the 2019 Friendship Agreement between the City of Detroit and County Cork, Ireland, and serves as UIS liaison during the County Cork annual visit to Detroit.

Jack M. Cahill



A fifth-generation Irish American, Jack Cahill grew up in Northwest Detroit. He served as Assistant Attorney General for Michigan from 1978 to 1987 and again from 1990 to 2008. Jack's community leadership spans multiple roles, including President of the Irish Lawyers Association of Detroit, President of the AOH of Detroit, and President of the Gaelic League of Lansing. He also led the Irish American Unity Conference from 1991 to 2012. Jack founded the Irish Studies Scholarship program at his alma mater, Catholic Central High School, and was a founding member of the Irish ballad group, Cahill and Murphy. Since 1984, the group has performed at Irish events, fundraisers, and festivals. Jack was instrumental in promoting the MacBride Principles, which advocate for eliminating religious discrimination in Northern Ireland. His efforts led to Michigan adopting the principles in state investment law. An expert in Irish history and politics, Jack is a sought-after speaker on Irish affairs at academic events across Michigan.



The **Muskegon Irish American Society** is always looking for new members! Please invite your family, friends, co-workers or anyone who loves all things Irish to join our illustrious group. We hold five events each year and membership is a bargain at only \$25 per family! Application is available on our website.

We would like to welcome our newest members: Brandon Murphy, Greg & Ashley Cooke, Timothy Gorman, Mark & Christine Fazakerley, Patrick & Lydia Fritz, Eileen McCormick & Lynne Nash, Joan O'Halloran, and Tina Tanner!



In Remembrance



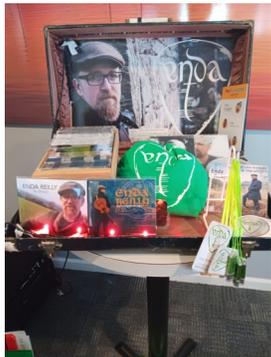
The **Honorable Michael Francis Cavanagh** passed away on May 20, 2025. The longest-serving appellate judge in Michigan history, Cavanagh was loved and respected by colleagues on the bench, his law clerks, and attorneys who appeared before him. Cavanagh will be remembered as a fair and dedicated jurist who served the people of Michigan honorably, treating everyone with dignity and respect. Proud of his Irish American heritage, Judge Cavanagh was inducted into the *Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame* in September of 2015. Judge Cavanagh is survived by Patricia, his wife of 59 years, three children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family and friends.



Dennis J. O'Toole passed away on June 23, 2025. Denny attend the University of Detroit, where he earned a degree in Architectural Engineering and became a partner at BSO Architects in 1975, upon which the firm changed its name to Broome, Oringdulph, O'Toole, Rudolf and Associates (BOORA). Denny had a distinguished career with BOORA, having led dozens of projects including K-12 and higher education, healthcare, athletics and performing arts facilities. He served as Managing Principal for over 15 years; BOORA was named one of America's Best Managed Firms by Architectural Record Magazine in 1997 while under his management. A long-time member of the *Muskegon Irish American Society*, Denny celebrated his Irish heritage. He is survived by Karen, his wife of 22 years, and a much beloved family, including sister Mary Therese Kendra.

Spring Dinner

Our Spring dinner featured the very talented Irish Folk Singer Songwriter, Enda Reilly. A very excited raffle winner was Dick Cunningham! This event was well attended by 60 members and guests. It was an evening enjoyed by all.



Printed at The UPS Store: 2743 Henry St., Muskegon

Upcoming Events

Sparta Celtic Festival

August 8-9
Rogers Park
Sparta, MI

This FREE family-friendly event features Celtic musicians, artists, highland games and dancers!

<http://spartacelticfest.org>

Milwaukee Irish Fest

August 14-17
Henry Maier Festival Park
Milwaukee, WI

The Milwaukee Irish Fest lineup features more than 80 Irish and Irish American artists and dance schools!

<https://irishfest.com/Tickets>

Michigan Irish Music Festival

September 11-14
Heritage Landing
Muskegon, MI

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

<https://bit.ly/MIMFtickets>