



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Event Details

Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019

Time: 5.00 pm, Cocktail Reception
6.00 pm, Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Location: The Commodore Barry Arts & Culture Center
6815 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119

Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame Announces 2019 Honorees

Philadelphia, PA, (5 July 2019) – The Board of Directors of the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame is pleased to announce its 2019 honorees: Liam Hegarty (Posthumous), The Honorable Judge Patrick Dugan, and Sister Marguerite O’Beirne, OSF. This year’s Commodore John Barry Award will be presented to Russell W. Wylie. As in previous years, the slate of honorees represents the vibrant and dynamic Irish-American community across the Delaware Valley.

Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame (DVIHOF) seeks to honor and recognize those in the Irish Community who play a role in preserving, maintaining or continuing Irish traditions through a variety of avenues - art, poetry, sport, music, dance, history, business - by presenting 3 – 4 awards each year.

The Board of Directors of DVIHOF have selected Liam Hegarty (Posthumous) in recognition of his outstanding dedication to the Irish community. Liam passed away suddenly in December 2018 and his death has left a large void in many Irish organizations. Liam was selfless in his service to the Irish community, as well as his family and friends. He served on the board s of the Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia, the Irish American Business Chamber and Network, the Irish Network-Philadelphia, and in various leadership roles in the Delaware County (Delco) Gaels and the Gaelic Athletic Association locally and nationally. Liam was a friend, a visionary, and an energetic force within our Irish community.

The Honorable Judge Patrick Dugan has been selected in recognition of his dedication to the veterans of City of Philadelphia, as founder of the Philadelphia Veteran’s Court, which seeks to provide holistic treatment to veterans in the criminal justice system. In addition, Judge Dugan’s dedication to the preservation of the history of the Molly Maguires, a fascinating insight into Irish-American culture in the 19th Century, is worthy of recognition by the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame and the Irish community. He not only speaks on the subject but also acts as the Master of Ceremony at the Ancient Order of Hibernians’, Division 25, Day of the Rope awards ceremony.

Sister Marguerite O’Beirne, OSF has been selected in recognition of her life-long dedication to Catholic education and ministry and her service to the Irish community. Sister Marguerite has been the Vice President for Mission and Minsitry at Neumann University since 1997; prior to Neumann University, Sister taught in various Catholic elementary, junior high and high schools, as well as working as a principal and cordinator of education. Sister Marguerite has used her impressive professional experience to contribute to numerous academic articles and presentations. Sister Marguerite has been recognized as Top 100 Irish American Educators. She is actively involved in The Society of the Friendly Sons of St Patrick and the Irish American Business Chamber and Network.

It is truly fitting that Russell W. Wylie will receive the 2019 Commodore John Barry Award. Russ has worked tirelessly with various organizations over many years to honor the memory of Commodore John Barry, a great Irish American Revolutionary naval hero and founder of the US Navy. Russ helped to digitize the Barry-Hayes papers, an important collection of historical documents related to Barry and his family, and to create a Barry Memorial at the U.S. Naval Academy. Every Memorial Day weekend, Russ actively participates in organizing a Memorial Mass at Old St Mary’s Church where Commodore Barry is buried. Following the Memorial Mass, a wreath laying

ceremony is held at Commodore Barry's grave. Russ is also a former President of The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick where he played an instrumental role in admitting women into the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Tickets and program ads are available by contacting the following DVIHOF board members: Sean McMnamin 215-663-2328; Kathy McGee Burns 215-872-1305; Tom Farrelly 610-527-2406; Bill Donahue 215-886-3669; Lisa Maloney 215-514-1654

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