

Ancient Order of Hibernians

AOH National FFAI Chairman

Martin Galvin

AOH-FFAI.

PO BOX 904

JEFFERSON VALLEY, NY 10535

Phone: (718) 665-1800

(201) 315-5889

E-Mail: mgalvinesq@aol.com



OCTOBER 2025

2025-26 Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal Mailing Contents:

- ★ \$1000 Pledge Form (*State, County, Division, and Individual*)
- ★ Christmas Appeal Letter
- ★ The FFAI \$10+ Club
- ★ \$10+ Club Sign Up List
- ★ Criteria for Financial Support
- ★ Groups Supported by the 2025 Christmas Appeal
- ★ Boards & Divisions who contributed \$1,000 or more in 2025

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\$1000 Pledge Form

Customized Award for Division, County, or State Contributions

Division _____, County _____, or State _____

President (*Division, County, or State*) _____

Home Phone: () _____ - _____ Cell Phone: () _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

Division, County, or State Address (where the award will be sent)

Attn: _____

Name of Board as it should appear when recognized:

Our Division, County, or State (*circle the correct board*) pledges a minimum of \$1,000 for the FFAI Christmas Appeal. We will forward that amount by January 16th, 2026.

President's Signature _____ Date _____

Special Note: You do not have to send a Pledge Form with your contribution. However, we strongly recommend that you send this form along with your check or otherwise make sure you identify the individual, Division, State, or County Board making the contribution, so we can credit you properly and deliver your award.

DESIGNATED DONATIONS

If you would like to direct your funds specifically to one organization, just note that organization in the memo portion of your check and your request will be honored. Direct donations should be at least \$50 per donation.

Please make all checks payable to Ancient Order of Hibernians - FFAI

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\$100 - \$1000 Pledge Form ***Individual Brother Contributions***

Name _____

Home Phone : () _____ - _____ Cell Phone: () _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

Address (where the award will be sent)

Attn: _____

I hereby pledge a donation of _____ for the FFAI Christmas Appeal. I will forward that amount by January 16th, 2026.

Brother's Signature _____ Date _____

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A chairde,

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has shown that it makes little difference which English political party rules the six counties. The Good Friday Agreement may say it is for the people of Ireland alone to exercise their right of national self-determination “without external impediment”. However the British ignore all signs of nationalist advances which should mandate a border poll. British officials say a vote on Irish reunification “is not even on the horizon.” Nigel Farage and the Reform Party want to change the agreement and even withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights.

On legacy, Labour promised to “repeal and replace” the law designed by the Conservatives to take away legal mechanisms which gave truth to victims’ families. They tried to retain the ICRIR commission set up to bury the truth and are dragging families like Sean Brown’s to the London Supreme Court. This is heartbreaking for families who have fought for decades to get justice for loved ones murdered by crown agents. A new Legacy Framework was just agreed because Ireland indicted Britain in the European Court of Human Rights. The AOH and victims’ groups are working to make British keep the pledges of the new Legacy Framework and not break them as they have every previous agreement.

The British government continues austerity policies which are a disaster for the North. They broke a longstanding pledge on funding for Casement Park Gaelic Athletic Association stadium in Belfast. They block Irish language initiatives.

Last April, Hibernians joined a special live webinar broadcast from the Houben Centre, Holy Cross Church, in Belfast, where 19 grant recipients spoke about their work for freedom for all Ireland, and how much they count on Christmas Appeal donations.

Grants were awarded to justice campaigners like Relatives for Justice, Ballymurphy Massacre Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust and the Witness Project; groups helping ex-prisoners or bereaved like EALU and Green Cross; heritage groups like the Bogside Artists, St. Patrick Centre, Martin McGuinness Foundation and Duchas Oriall; groups keeping patriot graves like Belfast National Graves and Tyrone National Graves ; cross-community groups like the Houben Peace Centre Project, Bridges Beyond Boxing and Ardoyne Youth Club : commemorative groups like the O’Neill-Allsopp Flute Band, Greater New Lodge Committee, and Eileen Hickey Irish Republican Museum.; and Ireland’s Future working for a vote to unite Ireland under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement

These groups are appealing to the AOH. **Because the British want to close down work for freedom for all Ireland, these grant recipients desperately need us to come through for them!** We cannot let down those working for freedom for all Ireland, at a time when their work is needed most.

I am personally appealing to every State, County and Division President, to take a lead, find a way to donate through special fundraising or donations from funds. Don't let them down! Help make Freedom for all Ireland, not an aspiration or endeavor but the reality for those Irish people still denied it!

“Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace.”

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Please donate to this year's **CHRISTMAS APPEAL**. Together we are making a difference. All checks must be made out to “**Ancient Order of Hibernians - FFAI**”. Payments should be sent to **AOH-FFAI at PO Box 904 JEFFERSON VALLEY NY 10535**. For further information, please refer to our contact information listed in the heading of our letter.

Donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a special award.

Gerry McHale from Pennsylvania and Denny Parks from Ohio accepting their Divisions 2024 awards from Mark Thompson - Relatives for Justice and Martin Galvin



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The FFAI \$10+ Club

The **\$10+ Club** is a **voluntary membership donation** effort, separate from and in addition to Division, County, and State contributions. Division Presidents should circulate the \$10+ Dollar Club Donation List (included in this packet) among his members and strongly encourage participation. This part played by Divisions can and does add to the success of the Appeal. **No donation** is too great or too small. That being said, **Donations** are **not limited** to just **\$10**. Please give as to what you can personally afford.

“Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace.”

Freedom For All Ireland \$10+ Club

Please Remit to: **AOH-FFAI** at
PO Box 904, JEFFERSON VALLEY, NY 10535

2025 - 2026

Division _____
City/County _____ State _____
Date _____ Page _____

	Name (Please Print)	E-mail and/or Phone Number	Amount
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Criteria for FFAI Financial Support

The FFAI Christmas Appeal enables the AOH to provide financial help to groups that assist in our goal of achieving complete and absolute independence, peace, and unity for all Ireland. The defined categories of Hibernian support include (a) support for former Republican political prisoners, (b) truth and justice groups, (c) cross-community and local community groups, (d) Irish culture, heritage, and language, (e) preserving Irish Republican history, and (f) cross border groups, forums, and initiatives. Groups requesting financial support from the FFAI Christmas Appeal, must submit an application that **describes how their activities promote freedom for all Ireland.**

Groups that received FFAI Christmas Appeal support for 2025

Bloody Sunday Trust-Operates the Museum of Free Derry and aids Bloody Sunday campaign.

Bogside Artists-do political murals in Derry's Bogside, "*the People's Gallery.*"

Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign- campaigns for justice for the victims of the Ballymurphy Massacre

Duchas Oriall- Armagh/Dundalk-Promoting cross-border and heritage projects in South Armagh- North Louth.

Holy Cross Ardoyne Trust in North Belfast: Cross-community Centre on Crumlin Road. Support enables the group to continue the essential cross-community work, reconciliation and the improvement of community relations within North Belfast through the Houben Centre Development Project.

National Graves Association in Belfast: Support for the upkeep of Belfast republican graves and memorials.

EALU -East Tyrone: Republican Ex-Prisoners group assisting in the needs of ex-prisoners and their families.

Relatives for Justice in Belfast: Supports victims of State violence and collusion within a safe environment. Engage courts, request investigation, create awareness and provide information. They lobby Congress with AOH support.

St. Patrick Centre: Located in County Down, near Saint Patrick's final resting place, this cross-community center is the only permanent exhibition in the world celebrating the life and relevance today of Ireland's Patron Saint.

Green Cross in Belfast: Provides financial help and material assistance to bereaved families of the troubles.

Greater New Lodge Republican Commemoration Committee: Provides support for republican ex-prisoners and maintains memorials in the New Lodge area of Belfast.

Bridges Beyond Boxing: Cross-community boxing club in Belfast.

Tyrone National Graves: Maintains republican memorials and patriot graves in Tyrone.

Witness Project: Film project to research, document and preserve personal narratives of events during the Troubles.

Ardoyne Youth Club: offers targeted youth facilities and programs benefitting the young people in the Ardoyne community.

O'Neill & Allsopp Memorial Flute Band: from Greater New Lodge Belfast, teaching young people Republican history through the playing and learning of music.

Martin McGuinness Foundation: preserving legacy of Martin McGuinness

Ireland's Future: working to achieve a successful vote for the reunification of Ireland.

Eileen Hickey Irish Republican Museum: Located in Conway Mill the museum preserves and promote the history of the Republican Struggle for Irish Freedom

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AOH Boards, Divisions and Individuals who contributed \$1,000 or more to the 2025 FFAI Appeal

Individual Donors 2025	City	State
Edward T. Walsh	Delray Beach	FL
Daniel J. O'Connell	Girard	OH
Jim McLaughlin	St Regis Falls	NY
John Bernard Kelly Jnr	New City	NY
AOH NY FFAI Chairman Vincent Tyer	Pearl River	NY
Richard Thompson	Watertown	MA
Christopher Thompson	W. Islip	NY
Thomas W Wolfe	Canton	OH

State Board Donations	City	State
AOH New York State Board	Niagara Falls	NY
AOH Connecticut State Board	Newtown	CT
AOH California State Board	Long Beach	CA
AOH Virginia State Board	Nokesville	VA
AOH Pennsylvania State Board	Pittsburgh	PA
AOH Ohio State Board	Delaware	OH
AOH Montana State Board	Anaconda	MT
AOH Massachusetts State Board	Watertown	MA
AOH Kansas State Board	Overland Park	KS
AOH New Jersey State Board	Flemington	NJ

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County Board Donations	City	State
AOH Philadelphia County Board	Jenkintown	PA
LAOH Philadelphia County Board	Philadelphia	PA
AOH Bronx County Board	Bronx	NY
AOH Nassau County Board	Wantagh	NY
AOH Rockland County Board	Pearl River	NY
AOH Suffolk County Board	Deer Park	NY

Division Donations	City	State
AOH Fr. Henry Tansey Div 5 Albany, NY	Albany	NY
AOH Col Thomas J Cunningham Jr Division VA	Leesburg	VA
AOH John F Kennedy Div 1 Schenectady, NY	Schenectady	NY
AOH Patrick Pearse Division 1 Columbus, OH	Columbus	OH
AOH Monsignor Charles Owen Rice Division 1 PA	Pittsburgh	PA
AOH Major James H Dooley Division Richmond, VA	Henrico	VA
AOH Division 36 Worcester, MA	Worcester	MA
AOH Division 5 Bucks County Langhorne. PA	Langhorne	PA
AOH William F. Fennelly Div 1 Watervliet, NY	Watervliet	NY
AOH William J Shanahan Division	Manchester	NH
AOH Cpl. Bernard McCarren Division Newark, DE	Newark	DE
AOH St. Patrick's Division #1 Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati	OH
AOH Dean Michael Barry Division Oswego, NY	Oswego	NY
AOH Father Abram J Ryan Division Louisville, KY	Louisville	KY
AOH Division 39 Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia	PA
AOH General Thomas F Meagher Div Locust Grove, VA	Locust Grove	VA
AOH Mark Heffernan Div 2 Akron, OH	Akron	OH
AOH Michael Dougherty Div 1 Bristol, PA	Bristol	PA
AOH Father William Corby Div Fairfax Station, VA	Fairfax Station	VA
AOH Francis Hughes Div 2 Palm Beach County. FL	Boynton Beach	FL
AOH Fighting 69th Division 18 Peekskill, NY	Mahopac	NY
AOH Tomas Cardinal O'Fiach Div 14 Watertown, MA	Watertown	MA
AOH John Cardinal D'Alton Div 3 Pearl River, NY	Pearl River	NY
AOH Msgr Sheahan Div 1 Dutchess County, NY	Stormville	NY
AOH Monsignor Bradican Division Burke, VA	Springfield	VA
AOH Mahoning County Division 6 Boardman, OH	Boardman	OH

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AOH Division 32 Chicago, IL	Chicago	IL
AOH Race Committee Anaconda, MT	Anaconda	MT
AOH Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Essex, MA	North Andover	MA
AOH Thomas W. Carroll Division 1 Buffalo, NY	Kenmore	NY
AOH Division 2 Indian River Country Vero Beach, FLA	Sebastian	FL
AOH St Finnian of Conard Division 1 Manatee County, FL	Bradenton	FL
AOH Herbert Cady Div Alexandria, VA	Alexandria	VA
AOH Division 32 Carnegie, PA	Carnegie	PA
AOH Division 25 Philadelphia, PA	Jenkintown	PA
AOH Division 4 Allegheny County, PA	Pittsburgh	PA
AOH Joe Cahill Division 10 Hamilton, NJ	Hamilton	NJ
AOH Colonel Patrick O'Rorke Division #7 Rochester. NY	Rochester	NY
AOH Peoria Division Peoria, IL	Peoria	IL
AOH Kansas Hibernians Individual Donors	Overland Park	KS
AOH Thomas W. Carroll Division 1 Buffalo, NY	Kenmore	NY
AOH St Finnian of Conard Division Manatee County, FL	Sarasota	FL
AOH Commodore John Barry Division Annapolis, MD	Arnold	MD
AOH Division 1 Trenton, NJ	Trenton	NJ
AOH St Patrick Division 5 Baltimore City, MD	Sykesville	MD
AOH St Charles Baldwin, MO	St Peters	MO
AOH Joseph Plunkett - Joe McDonnell Div Long Beach, CA	Long Beach	CA
AOH Cardinal Gibbons Division Metairie, LA	Metairie	LA
AOH St. Clair Division #1 O'Fallon. IL	O'Fallon	IL
Irish Charities of Maryland	Cockeysville	MD

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National Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin welcoming everyone to the Houben Centre for the FFAI Grant presentations.

On April 5th, Sean Pender, Martin Galvin, and Bob Bollbach were in Belfast to present the FFAI Grants to 19 organizations.

Below, with special thanks to Chris Cooke, is the link to YouTube showing our AOH presentation of \$150,000 in Christmas Appeal grants at the Houben Center.

Watch and hear the representatives from each grant recipient, explaining the work they do for Freedom for all Ireland and how much they count on AOH grants.

I would urge you to share this with as many members as possible, especially anyone with questions about why they should support the Christmas Appeal.

Go raibh maith to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Appeal and made this possible!

To open from Word press the ctrl button on your computer and click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/ByoBApq3mDA>



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National President Sean Pender along with Deputy FFAI Chairman Bob Bollbach presenting this year's grant to Mark Thompson from Relatives For Justice

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Sean Murray, Creative Director for The Witness Project filming this year's FFAI awards presentation at the Houben Centre.



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Dr. Tim Campell, Director of the Down Patrick Centre addressing the attendees at the Houben Centre in Belfast. The Down Patrick Centre is the only permanent exhibition in the world that is devoted to detailing the life, work and legacy of Ireland’s Patron Saint. In conjunction with the AOH, the Centre established the AOH Young Ambassadors Program. In the past three years 30 young AOH members have participated in the Young Ambassadors program.



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President Sean Pender presenting the FFAI grant to Joe Austin from Belfast National Graves. In their remarks, Martin Galvin and Joe remembered our good friend Bik McFarlane who passed away earlier this year. For many years, Bik and Joe have worked tirelessly for the care and upkeep of the 300 graves and memorial to the Patriots who gave their lives for Irish Freedom.



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Joe Doherty from the Greater New Lodge Cultural Society addressing the attendees and thanking the AOH for the FFAI grant. He also thanked Irish America for their years of support. President Sean Pender presented Joe with our 2025 FFAI grant.



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President Sean Pender, National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, Deputy FFAI Chairman Bob Bollbach, Mark Thompson CEO Relatives For Justice along with the Board of Directors of RFJ at the Star Club in Ardoyne. The AOH made the announcement of Mark Thompson and Andree Murphy as this year's recipients of the Sean MacBride Award.



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