

Hibernian Digest - NEW YORK NEWS

On March 16th, the Msgr. Sheahan Div 1 in Wappingers Falls (Dutchess County) and the 'Dubliner Irish Pub' in Poughkeepsie celebrated St. Patrick's Day with disabled veterans at the Castle Point Veteran's Facility. The corned beef & cabbage and potato dinner was a successful and enjoyable event thanks to pub owner Brendan Daly and his business partner George 'Twoomey' Takos. Along with acquiring all of the food, preparing it and delivering it to the facility, Brendan and George arranged for the entertainment which included bagpipers, step dancers and an Irish session band. The veterans were treated to Irish scones before and after dinner as well as Irish soda bread which was baked and supplied by AOH member Jack Fedigan. After dinner, the veterans enjoyed Irish songs and armed forces medleys on the bag pipes that were played by AOH member Dr. Richard Whalen and his band mate Sam Rosenberg. The Dylan Foley & Family Irish Session Band played traditional Irish music for all to enjoy and were later accompanied by the Broesler School of Irish Dance from Fishkill, NY.

In all, about 75 people were fed and entertained, all in the spirit of good will and St. Patrick. A special thank you to Brendan and George for their generosity and hard work and many thanks to our food servers Jim and Abigail. We also thank the V.A. administrators who assisted in making this happen, specifically Ellen Varian, Patty Cole and Anne Furey. Many members of the Wappingers Falls AOH helped set up and clean up the hall along with transporting many veterans to the hall for the event. Division 1 President Bill Schimpf, VP Pat Turbitt, Fin. Sec. Jerry Clarke, Noel T. Morris, Mike and Glen Kelly, Gerry McVicker, Dan Euell, Dennis Conn, Mike Shepard, Dan Briscoe, Dave Berk and Jack Fedigan all helped make this event a success.

Though the Division didn't exactly 'feed the hungry' as part of our Hibernian Hunger Project, we brought a day of joy to the disabled veterans at Castle Point. It is difficult to determine if the veterans benefitted more that day from the music, socializing and great fun than our brother Hibernians as we helped others in honor of St. Patrick. The Wappingers Falls Division #1 is proud of our members and how they represented the AOH as we promoted the Order and our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.