



ár nuachtlitir



James Powers Division

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Editor's Note...

Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be. This famous quote is attributed to John Wooden, the legendary basketball coach at UCLA. John Wooden coached UCLA to 10 NCAA National Championships. From 1971 to 1974, his teams won 88 consecutive games. So why did John Wooden get poetic about *failure*? I'm not sure he did. I think he got poetic about *change*. Our Division was chartered in 2011. One could argue that it has been a failure. If so, I take responsibility for that failure. But, inspired by John Wooden's quote, I urge our newly elected officers to implement all the changes necessary to make our Division successful and I promise to support their effort to do so.

Did you know...

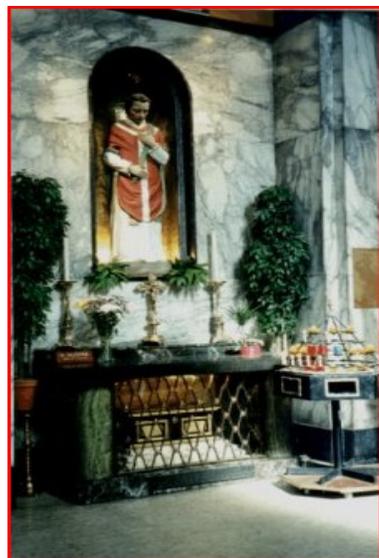
the first American general to die during our Revolutionary War was Irish? Major General Richard Montgomery was born in Dublin and was educated at Trinity College. Montgomery served in the British Army during the French and Indian War. After completing his service, he traveled to England. However, in 1773 Montgomery returned to the colonies and took up farming. When our Revolutionary War began, Montgomery was elected to the New York Provincial Congress. Shortly afterwards, the Continental Congress commissioned him Brigadier General and deputy commander of the Continental Army's invasion of Canada. Montgomery was promoted to Major General following victories at St. Johns and Montreal. On December 31, 1775 Montgomery was killed while leading the attack on Quebec City. Following his death, Montgomery was mourned in America and Britain. He is buried in St. Paul's Chapel (NYC). *Compiled from irishfreedom.net*

Member Spotlight...



Randy Adams is a charter member of our Division and its current Standing Committee Chairman. Randy grew up on the west side of Shreveport (LA) with 2 brothers and a sister. One of Randy's fondest childhood memories is traveling alone to visit his grandmother who lived on the east side of Shreveport. Beginning at age 8, Randy would take a trolley to downtown Shreveport and take a second trolley to his grandmother's home. Following high school, Randy moved to Florida. He met his beautiful wife Carolyn on a blind date in Orlando. Randy and Carolyn have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and "one on the way". Their favorite song, movie and travel destination all have something in common. Randy and Carolyn's favorite song is *Al di là*. *Al di là* was performed in their favorite movie, *Rome Adventure*. *Rome Adventure* was filmed in Italy, their favorite travel destination. Continuing with that common theme, their favorite restaurant is *Café Giovanni* located in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Randy enjoys discussing his multi-national ancestry. Not surprisingly, one of his favorite hobbies is genealogy. If Randy had one wish, it would be Peace on Earth.

The Craic (news, gossip, fun, entertainment, and enjoyable conversation)...



The Irish link to St. Valentine. While there is no definitive written record of St. Valentine's life, one Roman legend involves his medical and spiritual healing abilities. Shortly after he began treating a little girl who was blind at birth, St. Valentine was arrested and condemned to death for his religious beliefs. On the eve of his death, St. Valentine penned a note to the little girl urging her to stay close to God. He signed it "*From Your Valentine*." Upon receiving the note, the little girl's sight was restored. St. Valentine was executed the next day, February 14, 269 A.D. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius I named February 14 as St. Valentine's Day. According to Mike McCormack, AOH National Historian and Archivist, "although the red heart has become the traditional symbol of St. Valentine's Day, there is also reason to consider the shamrock." In 1836, Pope Gregory XVI sent a gift to the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel located in Dublin. The gift, contained in a small gold bound casket, was the sacred remains of *Saint Valentinus the Martyr*. A shrine which is pictured on the left was built inside the church in the 1960s. The Reliquary which contains St. Valentine's remains can be seen beneath the altar. The life-size statue of St. Valentine above the altar depicts the saint in the red vestments of a martyr. The Shrine is visited throughout the year by couples who come to pray to St. Valentine and ask him to watch over them in their lives together. Every February 14th, the Reliquary is removed from the altar and, following a solemn procession, is placed before the main altar in the church. During all masses on February 14th, there are special sermons and a ceremony for Blessing of Rings of those about to be married. Happy St. Valentine's Day everyone. *Compiled in part from www.carmelites.ie/stvalentine.html.*