



what's the CRAIC



July
2026

A PUBLICATION FROM

THE
FRIENDLY
SONS OF
ST. PATRICK
SAN DIEGO



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IN THE FOUNDING OF
THE UNITED STATES

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17TH OF THE MONTH
WEST COAST SEVENS
MT. SOLEDAD
IRISH O'PEN



President's Message



Greetings Sons,

The Summer is upon us and I am feeling very encouraged by the start of our year. The Friendly Sons partnered again with the San Diego Gaelic Athletic Association to assist with the WestCoast 7s tournament. This tournament is one of the largest Irish Sports competitions in the Western Hemisphere. Teams coming from around the world to spend a weekend in our fine city.

The Sons had the honor of serving at the Memorial on Mt. Soledad, where over 20 members put on the green jacket and helped with honoring Marine Corporal Patrick Gallagher. I have gone for many years to this event, and I think it was the best one to date.

One of my main goals as President was increased fundraising to ensure our longterm financial stability and meet the increased needs of the Irish community here in San Diego. I am pleased to announce that our Irish O'pen was a roaring success. We raised over \$23,000.00 this year and had a blast doing it.

Lastly, I hope to see all of you at Fiesta Island for Over the Line at our joint compound with San Diego Law Enforcement Emerald Society. We promise to have more Guinness, more Irish music, and more craic at one of my favorite events. I hope to see you all soon and enjoy an ice-cold creamy pint.

Sláinte,

Brian Dougherty, Esq.

FSOSP President 2026 - 2027



Welcome To Our Newest Members

JOINED IN 2026 (to date):

Robert Anschick
Everett Barry
Stephen Cashman
David Chenelle
Bryan Farmer
Ryan Flynn
Joseph Gates
Nikolas Gilligan
Brian Gorman
Thomas Higginbotham
Bert Hornyak
Keith James
Brian Jones
Douglas Jones
Aidan Lynch
John-Paul Mantone
Mark McCrea
David Monahan
Herb Morgan
Brennan Mulrooney
Brian Mulvaney
Sean Mulvey
Brian Murray
John O'Brien
Ryan O'Rourke
Michael Reilly
James Rooney
Brian Ryken
Tom Walsh
Bill Watts

How The Friendly Sons Saved The United States

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a patriotic Irish-American fraternal organization was established in Philadelphia on March 17, 1771 – 255 years ago. At that time, Philadelphia was the largest and most important city in America, serving as our capital. The United States was founded there on July 4, 1776, the Semiquincentennial we are celebrating. Given the prominent role Friendly Sons played in the American Revolution and founding, it's time to put Irish America 250 in the spotlight and honor these men in history.

George Washington

the singularly indispensable Founding Father. On December 17, 1781, less than two months after the decisive battle of Yorktown, the Friendly Sons unanimously adopted General Washington and made him a member.

General Washington was invited to attend a special meeting January 1, 1782, at which time he would be given a Friendly Sons membership medallion. The following address was drafted:



Portrait of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale 1780

To his Excellency, General Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Army. May it please your Excellency, The society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick...ambitious to testify, with all possible respect, the high sense they entertain of your Excellency's public and private virtues, have taken the liberty to adopt your Excellency a member...yet they (the Friendly Sons) flatter themselves, that as it is the genuine offspring of hearts filled with the warmest attachments, that this mark of their esteem and regard will not be wholly unacceptable to your Excellency. Impressed with these pleasing hopes, they have directed me to present to your Excellency a gold medal, the ensign of this fraternal society, which, that you may be pleased to accept, and long live to wear, is the warmest wish of Your Excellency's most humble and respectful servant, By order and in behalf of the Society, – Geo. Campbell, President

General Washington replied (emphasis added):

I accept with singular pleasure, the Ensign of so worthy a fraternity as that of the Sons of St. Patrick in this city; a society distinguished for the firm adherence of its members to the glorious cause in which we are embarked. Give me leave to assure you, sir, that I shall never cast my eyes upon the badge with which I am honoured, but with a grateful remembrance of the polite and affectionate manner in which it was presented. I am, with respect and esteem, Sir, your most obedient servant, George Washington

General Washington attended the meeting on January 1, 1782, as a guest, and thereafter attended additional meetings as a member.

The Declaration of Independence

Adopted on July 4, 1776. Friendly Sons **Robert Morris** and **Thomas McKean** were two of fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Immediately after adoption, the text was sent to Friendly Son **John Dunlap**, who printed the first broadsides overnight. On July 8, 1776, Friendly Son **John Nixon** first publicly proclaimed the Declaration of Independence.



John Trumbull's 1819 painting *Declaration of Independence* (found on the back of the \$2 bill).

The Articles of Confederation

Signed by fifty men, including Friendly Sons **John Dickinson** and **Robert Morris**. John Dickinson prepared the first draft of the Articles.



IrishAmerica250 is an initiative dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the profound role Irish Americans have played in shaping the United States over the past 250 years. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the present day, Irish heritage is deeply woven into the fabric of American democracy and culture.

Throughout this year as the nation celebrates the United States Semiquincentennial, we'll be teaming up with IrishAmerica250 to help tell the stories and join the national celebration of Irish American's contributions to our nation's democracy.

Read more about IA250 here:
irishamerica250.org

The First Continental Congress

Consisted of 56 delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies. It first met in Philadelphia on September 4, 1774. Six members of the Friendly Sons were delegates.

The Constitution

was signed by thirty-nine men on September 17, 1787 at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, including three Friendly Sons: **John Dickinson**, **Thomas Fitzsimons** (one of only two Catholics), and **Robert Morris**.

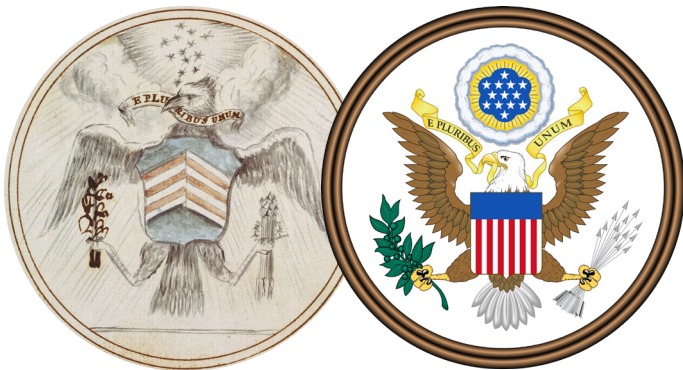
Robert Morris and **George Read** were two of only six men who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

It is unclear whether George Read himself was a Friendly Son, but his brother, **Thomas Read**, and his grandson, **John Read**, both definitely were.

Robert Morris was one of only two men who signed all three major founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.



Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787, a 1940 portrait by Howard Chandler Christy depicting the signing of the Constitution in Philadelphia.



Great Seal of the United States of America

Charles Thomson born in Londonderry, Ireland was the principal architect of the final Great Seal adopted by Congress.

United States of America

Stephen Moylan, as General George Washington's aide-de-camp in a letter to Col. Joseph Reed on January 2, 1776, was the first to use our name.

Friendly Sons generals/senior military rank during the American Revolution

Between 1775, and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the following Friendly Sons were generals or other senior military rank:

Richard Butler, John Cadwalader, Edward Hand, William Irvine, Henry Knox, Stephen Moylan, Thomas Robinson, John Shee, Walter Stewart, William Thompson, and Anthony Wayne. John Barry was Commodore of the United States Navy (attended meetings with John Paul Jones, both of whom were known as "Father of the American Navy"). John Cochran was surgeon general of the army.

Miscellaneous

George Meade's grandson George Gordon Meade was the Union general at Gettysburg; Commodore Charles Stewart's grandson, Charles Stewart Parnell, was a great Irish nationalist leader.

The Friendly Sons Founding

"The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick" was founded as a social, convivial fraternity on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, 1771 with thirty members – twenty-four "regular" and six "honorary". Of this thirty, just three – Stephen Moylan, Thomas Fitzsimons, and **George Meade** – were Catholic, twenty-seven were Protestant. Stephen Moylan was the Society's first president.

As of 1771, which was after the Boston Massacre, national agitation had already begun and was increasing in the Colonies. Well aware of historical animosity between the Catholic Irish and the Protestant Irish in Ireland, the Society founded the organization in which Irish in Philadelphia, of both religious traditions, could belong and enjoy. The Friendly Sons history specifically states that "the Society ever having held itself free from all sectarian, religious or (partisan) political influences". Similar wisdom and farsightedness would soon serve America well in its impending Revolution.



Upcoming Events

Our events and those of other organizations the FSOSP support offer something for every member. As they have become more numerous and complex, Sons participation is necessary for success! Please contact the event Chair listed to offer your time and talents. The more you participate the more you get out of your membership!

Over The Line (OTL) Tournament (see ad)

Saturday-Sunday, July 11-12 & 18-19

First games start 7:30 am

Fiesta Island

Free to attend [More info »](#)

Chair: Scott Dickerson



Irish Heritage Padres Baseball Game (see ad)

Giants vs. Padres

Saturday, August 1 • 5:40 pm

\$66.05 – \$90.20 [More info »](#)

Chair: Trevor Wessman-Lavelle

Day at the Races (see ad)

Friday, August 14 • 12pm Gates Open/2pm 1st Post

The Del Mar Turf Club: Clubhouse Terrace Restaurant

\$40 [Get tickets here »](#)

Chair: Dee Harmes & Bill Perez

Olde Fashioned Irish Wake and Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Party

Saturday, September 12 • 5 - 8 pm

The Ould Sod

Details Coming - watch the website for updates

Chair: Adam Powell & David Hall

Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial: Veteran's Day Ceremony

Saturday, November 7 • 11 am - 12:30 pm

6905 La Jolla Scenic S Dr. La Jolla, CA

Free to attend – Details Coming

Chair: Alex Williams

Veterans Day Parade

Wednesday, November 11 • Parade 10 am

Harbor Drive (In front of the County Admin Bldg)

Free to attend – Details Coming

Chair: Mark Hudson & Greg Swanberg

The Ocean Beach Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 5 • 5 - 8 pm

Free to attend – Details Coming

Chair: Bill Kennedy

More events to come!

[Click for event info on our website »](#)



THEME GAME
IRISH
HERITAGE CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 vs GIANTS | 5:40 PM

SD x SD

THEME GAMES

In community partnership with
The Irish Outreach Center,
you are invited to celebrate
Irish Heritage Night at Petco Park.

Come together with the San Diego Irish
community for the fun and festivities.

Irish Heritage Night Theme Game
packages include: an exclusive, limited-
edition themed Padres hat, donation to
the Irish Outreach Center, and a ticket to
the Giants vs. Padres game.

GET TICKETS HERE:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/ihc2026>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1 PM Pregame at The Field

~3:30 PM March from The Field to Petco,
led by SDFD Station 4 and SDFE Emerald Society
Pipe & Drum

!! NEW THIS YEAR !!

4 PM to 5 PM IRISH TAKEOVER
@ Gallagher Square

Featuring

- More pipes and drums
- Irish dance from Clan Rince Irish Dance School and Malone Academy of Irish Dance
- The Shams will play a full set of Irish pub songs and contemporary jams

5:40 PM Game Time





Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

Get Your Four O'clock Friday Feeling Where the Turf Meets the Surf at Del Mar!

The Del Mar Turf Club – Clubhouse Terrace Restaurant

Outdoor, shaded seating on the second level with a "lively" view of the track. Snag your favorite table for 4, test your Irish luck on the ponies, and throw back some libations with your fellow Sons!

Tickets sell out quickly! Two ways to reserve your seat:

- Fill out the form below and mail your check
- FSOSP website, click on 2026 Annual Day at the Races

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick 2026 Annual Day at the Races Friday, August 14th - 12pm Gates Open / 2pm 1st Post

Tickets - \$40 each: _____ Table for Four - \$160.00 each: _____

Name(s) of Attendee(s):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Amount of Enclosed Check: _____ Check No: _____

**Mail your reservation directly to FSOSP P.O. Box 1595 Valley Center, CA 92082
All reservations must be received by August 7, 2026**

Events Recap

17th of the Month Club FSOSP & Rovers Hurling Happy Hour

May On Sunday the 3rd, we held a joint event at North Park's Barley & Sword Brewery with San Diego's newest Hurling team, the Rovers.

After a busy morning on the pitch for the Rovers, it was a great afternoon of good fellowship, good beer, and good craic between a large contingency from both clubs. The Rovers brought in pizza and there was plenty of that good Barley & Sword beer to satisfy even the mightiest thirst!

Event Chair **Chris Hodgetts** did a great job rallying attendance, and our thanks to owner **Mike Howell** for opening up the brewery for this event!



Events Recap (continued)

WEST COAST SEVENS Tournament Results

May San Diego GAA West Coast Sevens (Gaelic football, hurling, and camogie), took place on May 23, 2026 at Southwestern College in Chula Vista and featured a record number of teams from across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada - over 700 players participated! The tournament continued its tradition as one of the premier Gaelic sports gatherings on the West Coast, combining all-day competition with community events and a large Memorial Day weekend crowd, more than 400 attended.

FSOSP volunteers once again ran the beer tent and others came to enjoy the tournament. Thanks again to Trevor Wessman Lavelle for organizing and to all who participated.

Tournament information: sandiegogaa.com/sevens/

To learn more about San Diego teams and these sports, visit: friendlysonssd.org/mission/community-athletics-youth-sports/

[See more action in pictures here »](#)

Photography this page: Final Score Photography





2026 Wall of Champions

Padraig Pearse, Chicago
Senior Men's Football

Tipperary, San Francisco
Senior Hurling

Los Angeles Cougars GFC
Intermediate Men's Football

Fog City Harps, San Francisco
Intermediate Ladies Football

Liberty Gaels, New York
Intermediate Camogie

Tipperary, New York
Junior A Hurling

Eire Og, Boston
Junior A Camogie

O'Donovan Rossa Ladies GAA Club, New York
Junior A Ladies Football

Tipperary, San Francisco
Junior B Hurling

OC Wild Geese GFC, Huntington Beach
Junior B Men's Football

Brian Boru's Hurling Club, Arizona
Junior C Hurling

Los San Patricios, Mexico City
Junior C Men's Football

Brian Boru's Hurling Club, Arizona
Junior D Hurling

Columbia Red Branch, Portland
Junior D Men's Football

Photography this page: [The Fleeting Frame](#)





Events Recap (continued)

Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial: Memorial Day Ceremony

May The ceremony was one of San Diego's largest annual tributes to fallen service members, drawing over a thousand veterans, military families, and community members on May 25. The theme "250 Years of Valor" tied the observance to the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence.

The ceremony's central focus was the dedication of a memorial plaque honoring **Cpl. Patrick "Bob" Gallagher**, an Irish-born Marine who received the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism during the Vietnam War after shielding fellow Marines from a grenade. Gallagher was later killed in action shortly before completing his tour. His story was highlighted as an example of sacrifice, courage, and service to the United States.

The event featured remarks from **Neil O'Connell**, Mayor **Todd Gloria** and **Phil Kendro** along with a stirring keynote speech from **Brigadier General David C. Hyman**. But it was the stories told by Cpl. Gallagher's younger sister, **Pauline Gallagher**, about Bob's life and service that brought a tear to even the most hardened veteran.

This purposely Irish event was kicked off by **Máirtín de Cógáin** singing the Irish national anthem and featured **Mick Ward** in the color guard with the tricolors, and **Fr. Kevin Sweeney** leading the invocation. The **Helix Highlanders Pipe & Drum** played a beautiful version of Amazing Grace during the plaque presentation, and **Jason Austell** once again performed the Master of Ceremonies duties. Also notable, the Marine Band playing under the direction of **Hannah Ford** and Veteran of the Year **Jim Wheyland** leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A number of Friendly Sons were present to assist MSNVM volunteers in set-up and crowd management, and others came to honor the occasion.



San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria presents Pauline Gallagher with a proclamation that May 25 is now Patrick Gallagher Day



Brigadier General David C. Hyman



Mick Ward ushers in the tricolors



The Fooks Sat, July 12 • 1-4 pm

OVER THE LINE TOURNAMENT

Fiesta Island

July 11-12 & July 18-19

The Irish compound will be up and running from 8am-5pm both weekends.

Food, Drink, and Music. Free for members and their guests!

The compound is located on the northwest end of the playing fields...look for the FSOSP banners and pop-ups.

See: <https://friendlysonssd.org/events/>



Ass Pocket Whiskey Fellows

Sat, July 19 • 12-4 pm



Events Recap (continued)

Irish O'Pen Golf Tournament Fundraiser

June A beautiful summer morning at the Admiral Baker Golf Course welcomed over 100 golfers for the annual Irish O'Pen Tournament fundraiser. The competition was fierce but goodhearted. And though some took home trophies, all were winners treated to a wonderful day of sun, fun, and great craic.

The competition was tough but two foursomes emerged: winners **Luke O'Rourke, Ryan O'Rourke, Nick Corbosiero, and Lucas Corbosiero** and second place: **Dee Harmes, Adrienne Selekmán, Kim Fanter, and Denise McNeese**.



Best Dressed – Men: Sean Mulrooney

Other competition winners are shown here. Additionally our auction winners were **Ryan O'Rourke** won the Redbreast 12 Irish Whiskey, and **Scott Dickerson** won the Coronado Brewing gift basket.

This year featured over 30 sponsors total, and notably our Gold Sponsors: Hochman, Salkin, Toscher, Perez P.C., CaseyGerry Personal Injury Lawyers, Fidelis 1031 Exchange, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, GAF, Law Offices of Brian Dougherty, and Hiden, Rott & Oertle, LLP. Please see and support them: friendlysonssd.org/sponsors

Thunderous applause for **Scott and Dee Harmes** who organized and made this tournament one of the best. Also, shout out to **Brian Dougherty, Michael Oristian** and **Bill Perez** who brought in key sponsorships.



Best Dressed – Women: Rebecca Evleth



Longest Drive – Men: Luke O'Rourke



Longest Drive – Women: Kim Fanter



Closest to the Pin – Men: Remington Kaylor



Closest to the Pin – Men: Hugh Jorgen



Closest to the Pin – Woman: Denise McNeese



Olde Fashioned Irish Wake & Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Party

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 ☘ 5 - 8 PM

THE OULD SOD



☘ Irish Pub Etiquette 101

Your friendly guide to surviving and thriving in an Irish pub!

The Round System



Take turns buying rounds.
✓ If someone buys you a drink, you're expected to return the favour.

✗ Don't skip your turn – it's poor form

Ordering a Guinness

✓ Let it settle!
Bartenders pour Guinness in two parts – don't rush it.



✗ Never say, "Top it off now." Be patient.

No Table Service



Go to the bar to order – most Irish pubs don't offer table service. Bring it back yourself, then settle in.

Chat with Strangers



The pub is for conversation – locals love a bit of craic!

✓ A comment on the weather is a great ice-breaker

No Clinking Pints



✓ instead.

No clinking! Nod and say "Slainte" (pronounced slawn-cha). It's more hygienic too.

Know When to Leave

Don't be the last one shouting at closing time. Finish your pint, say thanks, and leave with grace.



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