



**International Headquarters**  
**PO Box 1716 • Morristown, NJ 07962**  
**Tel: 973-605-1991**  
**[www.iaci-usa.org](http://www.iaci-usa.org)**

Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

Guest contributors are always welcome! Please note, the IACI is an apolitical, non-sectarian organization and requests that contributors consider that when submitting articles. The IACI reserves the right to refuse or edit submissions. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily represent those of the IACI or any/all contributors to this site. Please submit articles for consideration to [cbuck@iaci-usa.org](mailto:cbuck@iaci-usa.org).

*To continue reading articles contained in this latest e-news, please scroll through the following pages.*

# *Irish American Justice*

by

Raymond D. Aumack

It was 7:00 AM and Maria, was leaving behind the bliss of her honeymoon, and going out the door on her way to the school at which she teaches. After multiple kisses with husband Desmond. Even Rosellen, her step daughter, gave her a goodbye hug.

Desmond went back to the stove and cracked a half-dozen eggs to scramble. He had already grated a bar of cheddar cheese, and while the eggs were cooking, put four slices of bread into the toaster. He scrambled the eggs with a wooden spoon and slowly added about half the cheese he grated. He added some sea salt and pepper and within minutes the eggs were ready. He buttered the toast and plated the eggs. He poured the coffee and sat down at the small kitchen table with Rosellen.

They were to have a lengthy conversation about her estrangement from the family and how she found her way back. We have two hours to ourselves. We can continue after I return from work and tomorrow morning if necessary. Before we start, anything that requires my forgiveness is already given. I never held anything against you nor did your mother.”

“Dad, I think that mom was very disappointed in me.”

“She was disappointed about the course you chose to sail because she wanted you to be her adult companion once you reached your middle teens. She was never disappointed in you. She was disappointed in herself and I was disappointed in myself as well. Every parent has expectations of life with their children. You will understand that better once you have children yourself.”

At that point Rosellen started crying. Desmond left his chair and held her to him. When she regained some composure, she said, “That is my horror story. I can’t have children. I was living with a guy in Detroit. He beat me up regularly. Our first sex together was a vicious alcohol fueled rape.

When I became pregnant later in the year, I had mixed feelings about it, but I was also excited that I was making a new life. In about my third month he came home drunk again and started slapping me around. At one point I slapped him back and he became even more enraged. He punched me real hard to the side of my head and I fell to the floor where he kicked me viciously until I started hemorrhaging. He just walked out of our apartment. I called the EMTs and they took me to the hospital. I lost the baby and a lot of blood, they had to remove my uterus. Dad, he killed my baby. At this point, she was crying convulsively. When she recovered, she continued. Desmond just held her. He didn’t betray it, but his rage was boiling. The nurses at the hospital called the police. Before my surgery a priest came in. He held my hand and we talked for an hour. He told me that the conversation was my confession and he absolved me of all my sins, and then anointed me. I asked if I was dying. He smiled and told me that I had a lot of living to do. Just get away from this horrible situation. He called it the Sacrament of Healing. During the course of our conversation I told him about you. He read me a story from his prayer book about how a father looked for his runaway son from the hilltop every day.”

“Dad, I pictured you on the hilltop.”

“Yes, I was there. I’m just glad I was home when you called. We were away for about ten days for our marriage and honeymoon. Here is my cellphone number. I am much easier to reach.”

“We were married in the parish that Maria grew up in at Miami. Her parents are still pillars of that parish and her father, a refugee from a Castro assassination plot, settled in Miami, finished preparing for the bar exam, became a citizen, and became the top immigration lawyer in all of Florida, and beyond.”

“But let’s continue your story. What happened when the police came?”

“ I lied to them. I told them I stumbled over a box on the kitchen floor. I didn’t want to get involved in pressing charges. Dad, he murdered my baby and got away with it. I let him get away with it. The priest did come to visit me. He gave me a business card for a women’s shelter where I could go until I was well enough to come home and a letter of introduction. He gave me a hundred dollars to help find my way back to you. He held my hand while he spoke to me and before he left he kissed my forehead and wished me all the blessings of God. He said I deserved better and that I should go to your home and start my life over. Dad, it had been years since I felt so peaceful.”

“When I left the hospital, I went directly to the Woman’s Residence. They read the priest’s letter, Fr. Joe Rielly was his name, and treated me royally. I was there for two weeks. I met nurses, a doctor came in and checked me out. A social worker took me out for walk and talk sessions almost every day. She was marvelous. I told her everything. A different priest came in and celebrated Mass on Sunday. I received Communion in the hospital, but this was the first Mass I attended in years.”

“Dad, I am so sorry to have been a disappointment to you. I need you to help me to be the child you and mom raised. I think that priest made me a Catholic again. Even more, he made me a human being again.”

“No one makes you into something you don’t want to be. You blockaded love out of your life, and that is behind you now. You paid a bitter price for that. And I am so sorry for that. I only wish I could have been there to protect you. I am not disappointed in you. You made some bad decisions. The future is wide open for you. I will always be here for you and love you for as long as I live.

“What is the name of your former live-in?”

“Dad, don’t make trouble.”

“I won’t do anything deceitful. I have friends in Detroit. Rosellen, we won’t able to live with ourselves if he hurts someone else.”

“His name is Francis Bulgarski. He goes by the name Whitey because of his blond hair.”

“You were in Mother of Mercy Hospital?”

“Yes, how did you know that.”

“I have some familiarity with Detroit. That was just an educated guess.”

”I like Maria. How could you be so lucky to pick two great women in a row?”

“I have a theory on that. I’ll share it with you at a more appropriate time. For the time being, I think both picked me.”

“We’ll break now. Manny has been generous enough with me. We’ll talk again tonight.”

“No Dad! I would rather just hang out with you and Maria. I haven’t been around civilized people in a long time. I would love just to watch TV, eat potato chips, and kibbitz.”

“Then we’ll talk again tomorrow morning

“All the heavy stuff is out. If you are going to cook breakfast, can you make French toast.”

As he was walking out to the car, the bluebird was chirping a celebratory tune. Desmond smiled and waved to the bluebird.

The conversations continued, though the heavy stuff was out of the way. Rosellen and Desmond talked about the future. Rosellen was a high school graduate and was thinking about college.

She went to a beauty parlor with Maria on Saturday and came out as a stunningly beautiful young lady. Maria then took her clothes shopping for dresses, slacks, sweaters and blouses, a winter jacket at a deep discount since the winter had been unseasonably warm. They went to a shoe store and bought several pairs of shoes, and a pair sneakers.”

They went to an upscale women’s dress shop and Maria asked her to pick out a gown that she liked.

“Why would I need a gown. I’m not going to a prom.”

“No but I am asking you to be the Maid of Honor at our Philadelphia marriage festivity.”

Rosellen’s eyes grew twice their size and her mouth just hung open. “Of course, that is if you accept.”

“Are you sure, Maria?”

“More than sure. I am certain.”

“I would love to be your Maid of Honor.”

The hug sealed the deal.

Later that day, Maria and Rosellen started organizing some furniture. When Father Paul, now at Notre Dame University, was pastor of the parish, he purchased the house as a convent for the nuns a decade before, he spared no expense for their comfort. The furniture was indeed the top of the line. Two remaining nuns who ran the catechetical program had the house to themselves up until the previous September. Maria had made a map of the house and tried to decipher where the furniture would go.

Fr. Fred had arranged for the parish maintenance staff to help move the furniture around. Maria asked if they could start doing that on Wednesday. Desmond had arranged for a family dinner on Tuesday to celebrate Maria’s doctorate. What she didn’t know was that all her friends were going to be there, including her friends from school.

Sunday was an eye-opener for Rosellen. She went to Mass with Desmond and Maria. The surprise was the crowd of people close to her own age who were waiting outside to meet her. Maeve was the first to come up, introduce herself and Patrick, and then lead the introductions to Grace O’Malley and her boyfriend. “Don’t get overwhelmed,” said Grace. “It took me a while to learn everyone’s name. But this is an amazing group.” John and Theresa, Susan and Michael, Brian and June introduced themselves as current and future Garveys, and Dierdre O’Toole and her boyfriend, Tommy Farrell. There was laughter and hugs before everyone went inside for Mass. The Liturgy was dynamic and

something that Rosellen never really experienced. Fr. Fred's homily, as always, was right on the money. He explained the Scriptures and then applied them so that everyone in the church thought he was talking about them.

The music was incredible. It was the Last Sunday in February, Black History Month, and, as on the previous three Sundays, the choir sang a marvelous arrangement of a Negro Spiritual as a reflection after Communion..

After Mass, a caravan of cars made their way to New Jersey to their favorite Cherry Hill Italian restaurant. Maeve had been clewed in to not probe into Rosellen's background. She was still a little too fragile for that.

Desmond had to work but Maria took her under her wing. The afternoon was lively with great conversation, jibes, and raucous laughter. Everyone wanted to know why Maria wasn't home throwing up over her books.

She laughed. "This is pretty innovative, so the older professors don't know what I am talking about, and they will be pretty quiet I think and hope."

She and June talked about the transition from the dissertation to a book.

Patrick described himself as the first male allowed in the group, and he had to marry the leader in order to break into it. He asked Rosellen what she thought of them.

"

Shyly and haltingly, she said, "I think you are fantastic. I never believed that a group like this could exist and meet in church as well. My dad told me about many of you. I was aware of the Garvey assassination attempt. It was in the Detroit papers and on national television. I saw Theresa and Dierdre on TV but in my mind, I thought of you as Amazons. And here you are, tiny, feminine, demure, and cute."

"Speaking of tiny and cute, I've asked Rosellen to be the Maid of Honor at our Philadelphia wedding," said Maria. "I hope no one is offended. You were a big hit in Florida. My sisters will be bridesmaids and Desmond has asked Manny Bookbinder to be a best man. Rosellen, Desmond, and I will be working at the house on Monday. If anyone wants to come by for a tour, you are most welcome. We'll have some wine and cheese."

On the way home, Rosellen kept saying that this was an amazing group of friends. She never experienced anything like this before.

"The four Garveys are all attorneys, so they are all doctors. Maeve is also a certified psychotherapist. June has her doctorate in education, but she left teaching to direct the Jesuit Urban Mission. Theresa directed the mission for ten previous years. My doctorate will be in education, but my emphasis is on teaching languages. Dierdre is a security executive for Garvey Legal Associates. She has a degree in Computer Science. Susan has a Master's in Business Administration. She is a senior executive in Maeve's company. Maeve started the company with nothing and built an empire rather rapidly. Susan started as her secretary. Now she is the chief operating officer. John and Maeve do not have Law practices. Maeve does pro bono work for the Jesuit Urban Mission. She beats up on all the crazy landlords who are taking advantage of poor people. Theresa ran that for ten years and now June runs it. They are doing marvelous work. The Garvey family owns a country club and John runs it. He also keeps his hand in Law doing special work for his father and his brothers. Susan and Michael will

marry in June. June and Brian Garvey will marry in October, and John and Theresa will marry in December. Maeve and Patrick married on the weekend after last Christmas.”

“Grace O’Malley, named for the famous Irish pirate queen, works for Sotheby’s, the famous auction house. She just helped us raise \$4 million at a Gala for the Jesuit Urban Mission. June was Maeve’s roommate at college for four years and Grace was a classmate to them. Dierdre is a highly decorated Marine combat veteran, specializing in Search and Rescue. and Tommy is one of the soldiers she saved. She also volunteers as an EMT for the Jesuit Mission Medical Group.”

“I hope you’ll hang out with us. It is a very stable and fun group. Your dad is a big part of that. That is how we met. You’ll get to know everyone, and I’ll help you. “

“I’d like that. I see a whole new world opening up for me.”

Maria did work with Desmond and Rosellen to start to organize the house.

There was no furniture for an office in the former chapel. Maria started making a list of what she would need. All the beds were singletons. Nuns didn’t require double or queen size beds. However, the closets were huge walk-in closets with drawers and shelves. There were dressers for each of the five bedrooms. There were two dozen towels for the bathrooms and there was a towel and sheet closet in the hallway between two of the bedrooms. There was a lovely dining room set with a large dining table, chairs, a buffet and a china closet. In one of the boxes there were glasses and Galway crystal accoutrements, and bone china dishes. There was a separate box of dishes for every day use in one of the kitchen boxes. There was a laundry room at the end of the huge kitchen. There was also an appliance for every possible kitchen use.

The living room was the easiest to set up. Sofas, chairs, two reclining lounge chairs, coffee tables all seemed to fall into their proper place. There was also a forty-inch flat screened TV that required a call to Comcast to hook up. Rosellen took care of that between unpacking boxes.

Maeve and Patrick came by and were surprised at how much they had already organized the house. Maria showed Maeve around while Patrick and Desmond talked about an article for a summer publication. In the course of showing Maeve around, Maria found a door that neither she nor Desmond previously opened. It was the door to a basement. “I wonder if Fr. Fred even knows about this. He never mentioned it. It doesn’t look like it has ever been used.”

The basement was a complete apartment with room for two more bedrooms.

“Fr. Fred never mentioned it during our tour. When they went back upstairs Maria suggested that Desmond should take a look at it. They could brainstorm possibilities another time.”

Maria declared a time-out. Everyone should gather in the living room for wine and cheese. The time to relax was welcome.

Susan and Theresa arrived but postponed the tour in favor of wine and cheese. Later on, when Rosellen and Susan were alone, Susan mentioned that they should get together for a long talking dinner. They had travelled similar paths. Rosellen looked at the perfectly dressed and beautiful executive and said, “No Way.” Susan said, “yes way! I had some very bad relationships and made some terrible decisions. The best decision I ever made was going to work as Maeve’s secretary. I was a bimbo with capitol letters. Maeve patiently guided me every step of the way. She encouraged my master’s degree. Even with all that, my father cheated on my mom and squirreled away a lot of

money and eventually beat her up. He is now In jail for that for a minimum of seven years. My mom survived a terrible beating. She now has a sizable share of my dad's money. She has her share of the money my father had hid away and her share of the house when it sold. She now lives in my condo apartment. I live with Michael, chastely, but that is a story for another time. My role models are Maeve, who practically plucked me from the gutter and taught me how to be a human being, Maria, Theresa, and June. I love all the others, but these are the women I want to be when I grow up. Believe me we all have a lot of growing to do. Everyone has a story about their past. We are determined to have a better story in our future.”

“I'm looking forward to that dinner already.”

“Take my card. My numbers are on it. Call me next week. We'll have dinner at Glen Gables Country Club so you can meet my mom. ”

Beginning at 9:00 AM and for the next four hours, Maria fascinated the dissertation committee with her depth of knowledge of her subject, and the eloquence with which she presented it, and took command of the inquisition with her calm demeanor. She presented her innovative approaches with well documented bullet-point headlines and explanations.

The crux of her dissertation was the innovation in teaching languages, explained so clearly that even her dissenters were impressed. At approximately 1:00 PM, she assumed the mantle of Maria Elena Soto Dowd, Ph.D. Patrick Malone, Ph.D. led the celebration welcoming her into the inner circle of St. Joseph's University Scholars. Jesuit Father Stephen Mannion, President of the University, placed the Pallium of Scholars around her shoulders. She called Desmond right away to tell him the good news. There was even great excitement at Bookbinders. Manny Bookbinder got on the phone and congratulated her in Yiddish. She thanked him with the only Hebrew phrase of gratitude that she knew from a Biblical Psalm.

She called her parents to tell them the news that she was truly, Dr. Soto-Dowd. She called Rosellen to share the news and arranged to pick her up for dinner at 5:00 PM, at the new house where she was emptying boxes.

Rosellen bought one of her new outfits to the house this morning and had Uber pick her up.

When the two women entered Bookbinders, they were greeted very formally by Desmond's assistant who led them to a private dining room. When they walked in, bedlam broke loose. There were forty-five friends and colleagues in the room including Fr. Mannion, from St. Joseph's University, and Father Jim from the Jesuit Urban Mission, and Fr. Fred from St. Paul's parish. Champagne bottles popped. Rosellen was genuinely impressed. This was an impressive gathering for a week night in March and they were all there because they loved Maria. She was hugged by everyone.

Things calmed down before food was served. Theresa started a hysterically funny roast. She finished it by describing the tiny waif, rowing a dory through the restlessly wild Atlantic ocean, through shark infested waters, for almost three days to complete the hundred mile or so trip. She talked about daring and courage. She told the tale of her high school nickname, Sandy, because she collapsed in the sand of Miami from sheer exhaustion and fell sound asleep in the arms of her mother. Defeated were the murderous aspirations of Fidel Castro. Defeated was the wild Atlantic Ocean and the

frustrated and hungry sharks. To quote our friend Susan Boyd, "We all live a story, with a past and a future. What is past is gone. The future can be a different story and here she is with a new husband and a step daughter, reveling in the task of the mountain she had to climb to get here. Now she sits on top of the academic world, bringing the world together with a revolutionary approach to learning languages. A toast to our dear friend, Doctor Maria Elena Soto Dowd.

Raucous cheers filled the room.

Desmond rose to the microphone and said, "How can I top that. Remind me to never speak after Theresa."

However, Desmond's own eloquence began to express itself. His lilting brogue and his close association with the Blarney Stone grabbed everyone's attention. He spoke of meeting Maria at church. He was touched by her charm and asked if he could join, what was then a small group of friends who had brunch together every Sunday.

We chatted amiably during the brunch, and Maria's charm was overwhelming me. I knew she was free from school on the next day. I agonized from six in the morning to nine about calling her. I hadn't dated since before my marriage to Rose, my late wife. I was shocked at how the world had changed. Dating was no longer walking about. There had been a sexual revolution, and nobody told me. I totally missed it.

I boldly called Maria and invited her on a picnic, if she was free. That would give her a way out. She said she would love to go on a picnic with me. I had already packed a basket with sandwiches, salads and wine. I told her I would pick her up in 45 minutes. We drove up into the mountains to a picturesque lake with which I was familiar. It was about a two-hour drive and we talked every minute of the two hours. I used my gourmet talents to fix ham and cheese sandwiches and some macaroni salad that I brought home from the restaurant. We stopped at a stand and bought soda and coffee. Some treat, huh! I spread a blanket and we sat at the edge of the lake, continually talking and eating. I lay back to catch the sun's rays and she laid next to me with her head on my shoulder. We both dozed and when we awakened took a walk around the lake. I shyly held her hand as we walked. We could only go part of the way around. A huge tree had fallen and stretched far over into the lake. There were park type benches up from the shoreline next to an empty children's playground. We sat on the bench just enjoying the relaxing part of the day. We turned toward each other and kissed. It was the most natural thing to do. In fact it was so good, we kissed again. My infatuation had turned into love for the second time in my life. We kissed a few more times, well maybe more than a few. That bluebird had been with us all day, singing her songs. My mystical Irish imagination recorded that it was my late wife trying to fix us up. Well I was hooked, and Maria seemed to be, as well.

On our way home, we talked for two more hours. She told me about her flight from Cuba, a story well-known to everyone by now. We were going back to my cottage and stopped to pick up some Philly cheese steaks. On our way into the store, we met Maeve coming out. She was startled to see us together and asked if this was secret. Maria, blurted out, "God no! Why on earth would it be?" She hugged us both with her arms loaded with bags of Cheese steak and seemed to be as happy for us as she is now. When I married Rose, we had six hours of pre-Cana. Maria and I had four months and it was a marvelous experience.

The staff is anxious to bring out our food. Doctor Maria Elena Soto Dowd. Congratulations. I love you very much. Rosellen Dowd, we both love you very much, and I can't tell you more than how beautiful you look tonight. It looks like the three of us are on the road to a glorious future.

---

There was thunderous applause Maria and Rosellen came to Desmond for a truly heartfelt hug and kisses. Almost everyone had hugs and praise for both Theresa and Desmond, as well as for the new doctor.

During the week. The Garvey family attorneys met with Dave, John, Theresa, and Dierdre. They went over their previous depositions in scrupulous detail. There was nothing to take back or add. Brian presented the plan for the prosecution phase. Dave approved the plan. John pointed out that cross-examinations can be tricky. "Their purpose is to rattle us to the point of creating doubt. The amount of evidence is overwhelming so they are going to be desperate to get something, anything that they can use. Dierdre, they are going to pick on you the most. They are really going to try to shake you up."

"Brian, do you know what can shake me up, just a little. A couple of dozen heavily armed enemy soldiers who are after the redhead's team because they are constantly embarrassed by our rescues. I never underestimated the enemy. I always trusted my team and our training. That is why we were considered among the best even by our enemies. Brian, you are leading a team here. There is nothing shaky in those depositions. Everything is absolutely true. I was there and can verify that. Beame and company are very competent attorneys. But they are no match for the truth."

"Maeve, Michael, what do you think?"

"They are going to try to get some of the evidence thrown out," said Maeve.

"Is there anything that is not defensible?"

"Not that I can see," said Michael.

"What do you think, John?"

"I think we are ready."

"Dad?"

"We are good to go."

It took three weeks of *voir dire* to pick a Jury. Meanwhile there were all kinds of legal machinations on the part of the defense to gain leverage for their clients. The judge pointed out that there was a death in the incident and three other defendants are permanently injured. I hear nothing that would change that. They are on trial. Let's stick to the established protocols.

One of the defense attorneys expressed that maybe the judge was being swayed by the legal reputation of the attorneys and the victims. He suggested that maybe the judge should recuse himself.

The judge glared at him and said that another remark like that impugning the credibility of the Court would earn a Contempt of Court citation and a minimum of 30 days in jail. "Mr. Beame, I suggest that you keep your more impetuous attorneys under control. We have no decisions, yet. If the defense is not happy with the proceedings of the court, you have a right to appeal. Let's wait until the work is done before you challenge it."

---

The prosecution team presented the evidence with testimony from the FBI investigators who were at the scene, the SEC representatives who had recovered the \$800 million in drug money. The cross examiner did ask who discovered the drug money. The SEC officer simply stated that the money was easy to find. After all, that was the expertise of Garvey Legal Associates.

“Your honor, we would like to call the person who found the money.”

The judge asked how that was important.

The attorney stated that he wanted to make sure that the money was legally recovered.

“The money was illegally accumulated by the Colombian cartel. Any way it was recovered is above reproach. The name of the finder is irrelevant.”

“Your honor, with all due respect, we think it is important for us to identify the finder.”

“You have to explain that in detail.”

“May we approach the bench, your honor.”

“No! I have given you the opportunity to explain your request. If you choose to not do that, let’s move on. The money was illegally accumulated. You have to believe that the cartel is not amused about losing almost a billion dollars. To reveal the name of the finder would put his life in serious jeopardy.”

“Your honor, we object.”

“And your objection is overruled.”

The Garvey attorneys just looked on impassive and expressionless.

The attorneys really badgered Dierdre. They indicated that she was a trained killer and that her action was provocative and not defensive.

“That is contrary to the sworn testimony of the plaintiffs,” remarked the judge.

The judge asked if the attorney had evidence that would prove that.

Your honor, it is common sense. It is impossible for a human being to do that.

“I’m afraid that your version of common sense does not qualify as evidence.”

At that point, Maeve raised her hand. “Your honor, may I redirect.”

“Ms. O’Toole, please describe for the court your background and your training to do that move.”

Dierdre stated that her background was very clearly explained in her deposition. She was a highly decorated US Marine veteran with more than twenty combat ribbons and eight medals for excellence in marksmanship. “My specialty was leading a Search and Rescue team. My team and I trained relentlessly for every battlefield eventuality that we could possibly encounter. Our missions were always dangerous. We were a very well-trained team. In combat, a split second can mean life or death. We trained hard to stay alive. In combat you absolutely rely on your team and your courage comes from your training. I was not a headstrong team-leader. Everything we did in combat was well planned.”

“After each of the more than twenty times I was involved in a rescue, we were examined by psychiatrists. Those records are, I am certain, available at the request of the Court and with my

permission. The move the attorney said was impossible was a move I have done more than a hundred times both in combat and training.”

“You have received several honors. Would you describe them?”

“My highest honor was the Croix de Guerre, the highest military honor from the French government for rescuing one of their soldiers in a major firefight. I hold a Silver Star for Gallantry in Combat. I have more than twenty combat ribbons. I only wear one because there is not enough room on my chest. I hold eight marksmanship medals. I also only wear one of these on my uniform. I also have fifteen battlefield citations for gallantry in combat. As the team leader, I was responsible for situational planning. When we encountered the enemy I had only seconds to determine how we were going to rescue and survive. We were a team of three and we frequently had to make the enemy think we were a larger force. I also have an honors diploma, a BS in Computer Science earned at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, as part of my Marine training. I am also a military certified EMT, a skill I use as a volunteer for the Jesuit Urban Mission.”

“When we left the Marines, my team and I were studied at length by psychiatrists because we showed no signs of PTSD, thanks to our Marine training and my personal training as the team leader. Our jobs required extraordinary courage. Courage comes from relying on your training and dependence on your team. We did everything together. We worked incredible hours together, we ate together; we hung out together; we prayed together. The three of us are deeply religious.”

“Thank you Ms. O’Toole.”

“Does that satisfy the Court?”

“It satisfies the Court. Does it satisfy the questioning Mr. Beame who has already seen Ms. O’Toole’s testimony in the deposition?”

“Thank you, your Honor. We’ll subpoena Ms. O’Toole’s medical records.”

“I’m shocked that you haven’t already done that,” commented the judge.

“We have one more question, your Honor”

“Ms. O’Toole, was it necessary to kill Mr. Gomez?”

“My job was to protect Mr. Garvey. I had disabled one gunman. Theresa shouted ‘gun.’ I instantly dove to protect Mr. Garvey while drawing my gun. The assassin had his gun pointed at Mr. Garvey. He and I fired almost simultaneously. Theresa had pushed him. His bullet went through my hair, eventually striking John. My bullet found its mark. Theresa’s push actually saved four lives including mine.”

“You are excused Ms. O’Toole. Court is adjourned until Tuesday at 10:00 AM, in deference to the President’s Day holiday. I caution the defense to be very careful of challenging evidence already presented in deposition. Of course, you may do that if you have a good reason. Obviously, this last challenge did not go well.”

“I also caution the jury to not discuss this trial with anyone in any way. Remember that the job of the defense is to find anything that will disrupt the integrity of this trial. You can also be sure that the Colombian Cartel is also observing so keep your role a closely held secret.”

The Garvey team went back to the Glen Gables Country Club to debrief. As John was leaving his car, he caught the gleam of something shining in the leaves of the ivy-covered wall. When he checked,

he discovered a security camera, obviously set to protect the parking area. The back wall is covering the ball room and there are no windows.

“Dad, did you know that there were security cameras when you bought the Club?”

“Not at all. Where are they?”

“Well one is covering the parking lot. Where do you think it would be monitored?”

“I would think in Katie’s area.”

“When they told Katie what they were looking for, she said, “Oh sure. The monitor is in that cabinet.”

“Can we go back to December 12<sup>th</sup>?”

“I’m not sure how to operate it. I never thought it was my responsibility to do that.”

“Don’t worry. It is not your responsibility. We never knew about it. Call the company that installed it and ask them to send an expert technician over here as soon as possible. The name of the company should be on the monitor. Tell them we need expert opinions for a court case. Tell them we’ll need him immediately if not sooner and we’ll pay a 10% premium on their bill if they are here within an hour of your call.”

“And thanks, Katie. I didn’t know about this at all. I just accidentally happened on it because the sun caught the lens. The camera may have caught the assassination attempt. I’m just glad that you knew where the monitor was. If you find directions on how to use it, all the better.”

A half hour later, a technician arrived from the security company. He described the camera as a motion sensor. It is an older version of an even more sensitive camera. “I never knew it was there.” said John. “Do you think there might be a picture of something on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.”

Sure enough, there was a rather clear picture on the monitor screen. The FBI estimate of 70 seconds was right on the money. Theresa was totally clear disarming one assailant, actually leaping over Bridget and pushing the assailant who was about to shoot Dave. Dierdre was almost like a gymnast flying through the air to cover Dave’s body, spinning with the gun in her hand and firing at the same time the assailant fired. “

“Well that solves the problem that it was an impossible maneuver.” said Theresa. “Even more, I think this ends the trial,” said John.

Brian, ask the judge for a chambers meeting with Ed Beame. Beame, I am sure, will want to establish the veracity of the tape. There are three copies. We keep one and the judge has the other. Note the five assailants positioning themselves for our arrival.

I sent the email to the FBI for their digital expertise to identify where they originated. John laughed. “Is it from Sean’s firm?”

“How did you know that,” asked Brian?

“I don’t do much,” smiled John. “However, I am very good at what I do. It is good that the FBI takes the heat off of me. I was going to tell you about that during this meeting.”

“Dierdre, we look very good in this. Maybe Hollywood will call,” said Theresa.

Brian, after his laughter, warned them that, since we will all be together on Sunday, they should not mention the trial. If anyone brings it up, I’ll tell them that we can’t talk about it during this recess.

---

It was a holiday weekend Saturday, and early in the morning there was the ruckus of a lot of shouting outside the house. Desmond went to the door to investigate. Outside was a young man shouting and carrying a stick as if it was a club. Desmond called the police and waited a few minutes before he went outside. When he went outside he was greeted with, "Hey old man, I want my bitch back."

"What did you say?"

"She's my bitch. I want my bitch back."

He boldly marched to the door with his club, though it was defended by Desmond.

"Out of my way, old man," spoken while menacingly swinging his club. He put his hand on Desmond's chest. Desmond did not move. He brought his club to strike when Desmond grabbed his wrist and belt, and lifting him, smashed him face down into the concrete walkway. He pressed the club into the assailant's neck until he fell unconscious. The police pulled up. "Desmond, we saw that. You should have waited for us."

"He was going to strike me with that club. He would have hurt my wife and daughter. He already killed her baby as a fetus. You'll find a warrant for his arrest for murder from the Detroit police. In Michigan, they regard a fetus as a human life.

"OK, Desmond! We'll take it from here. I'll need some information from you."

When they went into the house, the two women rushed to hug Desmond. "Thank you, dad. I can't believe he came here."

The officer recorded his interview and thanked Desmond.

Desmond said to Rosellen, "I'm sorry! He was attempting to strike me with his club. He certainly would have hurt you and Maria. We're all safe now. Are you alright?"

"Dad, thanks to you again, I am fine."

"I am fine, too" said Maria. Have you been taking lessons from Theresa?"

"I'll tell you that story tonight when I get home from work."

---

---

.

## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - MAY

### 1st

- 1916 - Collapse of the Easter Rising.
- 1943 - Sir Basil Brooke becomes Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.
- 1969 - James Chichester Clark becomes Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.
- 1980 - The Derrynaflan Chalice discovered in a bog.

### 2nd

- 1945 - Éamon de Valera expresses his sympathy on the death of Adolf Hitler to the German Ambassador.
- 1982 - Ireland affirms its neutrality in the Falklands war and opposes EEC sanctions against Argentina.

### 3rd

- 1916 - Patrick Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh and Thomas Clarke are executed at Kilmainham Gaol for their part in the Easter Rising.
- 1933 - The Bill to abolish the Oath of Allegiance is passed.
- 1949 - The British government passes an Act guaranteeing that Northern Ireland will remain within the United Kingdom as long as the majority of its citizens want it to be.

### 4th

- 1916 - Joseph Plunkett, Michael O'Hanrahan, Edward Daly and Willie Pearse executed for their part in the Easter Rising. Chief Secretary of Ireland Augustine Birrell resigns.
- 1922 - Three day truce secured between both Pro- and Anti-Treaty forces.
- 1939 - The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland announces that conscription will not be extended to Northern Ireland.

### 5th

- 1916 - John MacBride executed for his role in the Easter Rising.
- 1918 - 15,000 attend an anti-conscription meeting in County Roscommon.
- 1941 - When Belfast suffers its third bombing raid, Dublin sends emergency crews to assist.
- 1970 - The Arms Crisis. Finance Minister Charles Haughey and Agriculture Minister Neil Blaney asked to resign after suspicions that they had supplied arms to the Provisional IRA.
- 1981 - Bobby Sands dies on the 66th day of his hunger strike at Long Kesh prison.

### 6th

- 1882 - Lord Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke are murdered in Phoenix Park.
- 1924 - William Craig refuses to appoint a Northern Ireland representative to the Boundary Commission.
- 2000 - The IRA begins to decommission its weapons.

### 7th

- 1915 - The RMS Lusitania is torpedoed by German submarines eight miles off Kinsale, bringing America into the War.
- 1931 - An Óige established.
- 1969 - Tax exemptions announced for artists and others whose work has cultural merit.
- 1992 - Bishop Eamon Casey resigns following the revelation that he is a father.

### 8th

- 1916 - Eamon Ceannt, Con Colbert, Michael Mallin and Seán Heuston executed for their role in the Easter Rising.
- 1987 - The SAS kill eight IRA members at Loughgall.

### 9th

- 1912 - Second reading of the Home Rule Bill in the British House of Commons. A Unionist amendment is rejected.

### 10th

- 1912 - Andrew Bonar Law and Edward Carson both voice opposition to the Home Rule Bill.

1972 - A referendum on Ireland's membership of the European Economic Community sees a large majority in favour.

1973 - Erskine H. Childers wins the presidential election.

### **11th**

1908 - British House of Commons votes in favour of the Irish Universities Bill.

1916 - During a session of the British Parliament, John Dillon of the Irish Parliamentary Party calls for an end to the execution of the Easter Rebels.

**12th** 1916 - James Connolly and Seán MacDiarmada are executed for their role in the Easter Rising.

1950 - Nationalist MPs in Northern Ireland ask the Irish government to give Northern-elected representatives seats in the Dáil and Seanad.

**13th** 1900 - Rift in the Parliamentary Party is healed, with John Redmond and John Dillon sharing a platform together for the first time in ten years.

1919 - IRA men Dan Breen and Seán Treacy are injured while rescuing Seán Hogan from custody in County Limerick.

1921 - Sinn Féin take 124 of the 128 seats available in the Southern Parliament.

1937 - A statue of George II in St. Stephen's Green is blown up.

1949 - Leading figures in the Republic of Ireland share a platform to protest the British government's stance on Northern Ireland.

### **14th**

1974 - The Ulster Workers' Strike begins.

### **15th**

1847 - Death of Daniel O'Connell.

### **16th**

1917 - David Lloyd-George announces that he wants immediate Home Rule for 26 counties of Ireland. The remaining six counties are to be excluded for five years.

1926 - Fianna Fáil is founded by Éamon de Valera and Seán Lemass.

1945 - Éamon de Valera responds to Winston Churchill's criticism of Irish neutrality.

1954 - A huge Marian Year procession is held in Dublin.

### **17th**

1880 - Parnell elected chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

1916 - Bishop of Limerick Thomas O'Dwyer refuses to discipline two of his curates who have expressed republican sympathies.

1974 - Loyalists bomb Dublin and Monaghan, killing 31 civilians.

1976 - Tim Severin sets off in a voyage from Dingle to America in imitation of St. Brendan.

### **18th**

1854 - Catholic University of Ireland formally established.

1996 - Ireland wins the Eurovision Song Contest for the seventh time.

### **19th**

1928 - Foundation stone of Northern Ireland Parliament building laid at Stormont.

1932 - The Constitution (Removal of Oath) Bill is passed.

### **20th**

1901 - A census shows that Ireland has a population of 4.5 million with Catholics outnumbering Anglicans and Presbyterians by three to one.

1918 - Anti-conscription meeting in Dublin.

1963 - Plans are announced for comprehensive schools and regional technical colleges.

### **21st**

1956 - First Cork International Film Festival.

### **22nd**

1957 - The Minister for Education announces that married women will no longer be barred from teaching.

1971 - The 'Contraceptive Train' brings contraceptives from the North to the Republic as a protest against their illegality.

1998 - The Good Friday Agreement endorsed by referendum on both sides of the border.

### **23rd**

1964 - Official opening of the US Embassy in Dublin.

### **24th**

1951 - Gardaí exchange shots with two men who try to bomb the British embassy in Dublin.

### **25th**

1921 - Custom House in Dublin set on fire.

**26th** 1868 - Fenian Michael Barrett publicly executed in Clerkenwall, London.

### **27th**

1936 - First Aer Lingus flight, going from Baldonnell to Bristol.

1941 - Winston Churchill rules out military conscription in Northern Ireland.

1960 - The last barge sails on the Grand Canal.

### **28th**

1923 - Official end of Civil War.

1936 - Motion passed abolishing the Senate of the Irish Free State.

1970 - Charles Haughey, Neil Blaney, Albert Luykx and Captain James Kelly appear in court accused of conspiracy to import arms.

### **29th**

1977 - Massive peace rally in Belfast.

### **30th**

1924 - New licensing laws restrict pub opening hours and limits drinking to the over-seventeens.

1952 - Longer summer holidays for school children announced.

1983 - Inaugural session of the New Ireland Forum.

### **31st**

1941 - Dublin bombed by the Luftwaffe with the loss of 34 lives.