

BOSTON IRISH
HONORS
14TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
Dorchester Bay, Massachusetts

2024 Boston Irish Hall of Honors



Bill Cleary, Jr.



Bill Bulger



**Regina Quinlan
Doherty**

Boston Irish Honors recognizes the leadership and accomplishments of individuals and families of Irish descent who exemplify the very best of our values, legacies, and traditions - by telling the stories of their special achievements in public service, philanthropy, business, and community leadership.

Welcome to the 14th Annual Boston Irish Honors



Boston Irish Honors symbol
by Vincent Crotty

On behalf of the Forry family and Boston Irish Magazine, we are delighted to have you in attendance today at the 14th Boston Irish Honors luncheon. For the first time since we launched this celebration in 2010, we are gathering in the magnificent John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum overlooking Dorchester Bay and South Boston.

This event, at its root, has always been intended to lift up and embrace the finest qualities of our heritage here in Boston and across the pond, as we say here in the next parish over from Connemara. The men and women and their families, whom we honor today, embody so many of those qualities that

we hope future generations will embrace and emulate: a dedication to excellence in their chosen field, loyalty to nation and family, kindness, a charitable heart, and good humor.

Bill Cleary, Jr., William M. Bulger, and Regina Quinlan have blazed very different trails in their remarkable careers and lives, but they find common ground in their lineage on the island of Ireland – and in their family’s long-ago journey to seek a home in a new, unfamiliar land. Their success inspires us and prompts us to reflect on our own unique experiences here in this most Irish of American cities.

Boston Irish Magazine and our sister publications seek to tell the stories that

may otherwise go untold about our shared ancestry and the sacrifices made by our forebears. We can think of no better way to salute their courage and triumphs by saluting men and women like Bill Cleary, Bill Bulger, and Regina Quinlan.

We are very grateful to our co-chairs for this year’s Honors event, Katherine Craven and Paul Haley, the committee of three dozen leaders, and all of the sponsors who have helped to make this year’s luncheon a success.

Enjoy the program. Slainte.

–Ed Forry, Maureen Forry-Sorrell,
Bill Forry, and
Hon. Linda Dorcena Forry

Today’s Program

34th Anniversary, Boston Irish Magazine

Welcome and Introductions

Linda Dorcena Forry & Maureen Forry-Sorrell

Blessing and Invocation

Rev. Tom Kennedy

Committee Remarks

Katherine Craven, Paul Haley, Event Co-Chairs

Custom Luncheon

Preset Salad – Mixed Greens and Charred Courgettes with Pumpkin Seeds, Tarragon Vinegar

French Dinner Rolls with Butter Balls

Entree – Guinness Braised Short Rib of Beef, Champ, Honey Roasted Heirloom Carrots

Dessert – Irish Shortbread Shamrocks (Traditional and White Chocolate Dipped Mint)

Vegetarian meal upon request

Presentation of Honors

William M. Bulger – native of Dorchester MA USA

Regina Quinlan Doherty- native of Brighton MA

Bill Cleary Jr.- native of Cambridge MA USA

Closing Benediction

Rev. Jack Ahern

Maureen Forry-Sorrell
William P. Forry
James Hunt Jr.
Annemarie Lewis Kerwin
Mark Kerwin
Frank Keefe
William F. Kennedy
Nora Kennedy
Rev. Tom Kennedy
Mimi LaCamera
Paul LaCamera
Thomas F. Mulvoy, Jr.
Hon. Christopher Muse
John C. O’Hara Jr.
Robert Scannell
Mary Scannell
Robert Sheridan
Mary Sugrue
Mary Swanton
W. Paul White
Tom Tinlin

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Great Thanks to the sponsors of today’s Boston Irish Honors Luncheon

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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to: Gail Sarni & the staff at the Kennedy Library; Dusty Rhodes, Rachael Patten and Cara Willison at Conventures; Flavio DeBarros & Ted Lewis, whose photos and video images will record today’s event; and to the chef, cooks, wait staff and support staff of Gourmet Caterers for their service to us.

And to our sponsors, committee members and guests at today’s luncheon, go raibh maith agat- Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE GREAT HONOREES!

BILLY CLEARY

BILL BULGER

REGINA QUINLAN DOHERTY

FROM JOHN & DIDDY CULLINANE



Bobby and Billy Cleary, members of the US Men's Gold-Medal Winning Ice Hockey Team in 1960



Bill Bulger talking to President GHWB or WJC and breaking up Elaine Kamarck and John Kerry at one of his St. Patrick's Day breakfasts



Wedding of Regina Quinlan & Gerard Doherty

Senator and Mrs. Paul Kirk

Salute Our

2024 Awardees of
Boston Irish Hall of Honors

Bill Cleary

Bill Bulger

Regina Quinlan Doherty

We are proud to
celebrate Boston's rich
legacy of Irish excellence
with the 2024 Boston
Irish Hall of Honors Honorees

Bill Bulger

Bill Cleary

and

Regina Quinlan Doherty

“Let us toast them all three
together. Let us drink to their
health, wealth, long life,
happiness and prosperity and
to...the position of honor and
affection which they hold in
our hearts.”

James Joyce, “The Dead”

EVERSOURCE



To Regina Quinlan Doherty, pursuit of justice is honorable – and necessary



On the bench and as a lawyer, Regina Quinlan Doherty was, as a colleague judge said, seen as “an unapologetic seeker of justice.”

Quinlan Doherty family photo

BY CHRIS LOVETT

A retired judge who made her mark as a legal defender of adult bookstores, Regina L. Quinlan Doherty had her first skirmish over reading material about sixty years ago, when she was a second-year “scholastic” with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

At issue were two books given to her by her father, Eugene M. Quinlan, that were intercepted by her superior. One was by Daniel Berrigan, a Jesuit priest, poet, and peace activist. The other was by Dorothy Day, a champion of social justice who became a Catholic convert and, after her death in 1980, a candidate for sainthood.

“I mean, they weren’t salacious books,” Quinlan Doherty recalled. “So, I said to my father, ‘The next time, can you get them again?’” And that was how, the next time around, the work by Dorothy Day became the start of an “underground book swap.”

Day co-founded the Catholic Worker movement in 1933, and the Quinlans were among the many Catholic families in the Boston area that received its newspaper.

An attorney who published a newsletter on legal issues, Eugene M. Quinlan had met Dorothy Day and been to the movement’s farm in New York City.

His daughter had another role model in her mother, Alice Mahon Quinlan, a woman she remembers as “very strong” and “very active” at St. Gabriel’s Parish in Brighton. But, for her decision to enter the convent, Quinlan Doherty credits the influence of teachers at her Catholic high school in Brighton.

“I went to Mount St. Joseph’s [Academy] and the teachers – both in the quality of teaching and in who they were – they were powerful women. and I respected them,” she said. “And that was primarily what led me to think, ‘Well, maybe I should do that.’ And, in fact, over the years, it was right. Some of the most powerful and, and brilliant women I know were in the Sisters of St. Joseph that I came into contact with. They were giving, they were strong. They were academically strong, but their views and their visions – the ones that I knew the

best – were very connected to what was going on in the world, in the church.”

Quinlan Doherty entered the convent in 1961, after her first year at Regis College, at a time when professional career options for women, even those with degrees, were more limited. But changes were already taking shape in the church and the world at large: the civil rights movement, the new spirit of of “aggiornamento” ushered in by Pope John XXIII and Vatican II, and the election of a young president, John F. Kennedy, with his appeal to national service, especially with creation of the Peace Corps. The undertones could even be heard at a holiday concert by Quinlan and classmates from the convent, who, forbidden direct contact with family members during the season of Advent, started humming the melody to the civil rights anthem “We Shall Overcome.”

Despite the restrictions of convent life, along with the laborious washing of habits, Quinlan Doherty can look back on conversations that ranged from the frontiers of existentialist philosophy to reforms in the

church to world events. Making that possible, she explained, was a national movement channeling more Catholic sisters into higher education to prepare for work as teachers and hospital administrators. That meant more exposure to a less cloistered mix of material and teachers —in step with the broader access to higher education. It was a shift encouraged by the GI Bill after World War II, but also by investments in the Boston area’s growing base of Catholic schools.

“And so, we became part of that exposure,” Quinlan Doherty said. “We didn’t watch a lot of television, but we read a lot of books, and it was a very exciting time. The best friends I have even now are probably my convent friends, because we had a real bond.” And she emphasized that the bond to the “outside” friends did not rule out a bridge to the “inside.”

After receiving her college degree, Quinlan Doherty taught at two Catholic schools, “It was frustrating for me because I liked teaching history,” she said. “I like teaching

(Continued next page)



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non-mathematic things, and I was assigned to teach a lot of math.”

‘PEACEFUL’ LEAVING OF CONVENT LIFE

By 1968, some of her friends had left the order to pursue variations of its original 17th-century mission of serving the needy, whether in a bread community, living at the Franklin Field public housing development, or getting involved with the United Farm Workers. Quinlan Doherty left the following year, in a move that she said “came peacefully.”

She insisted that “it wasn’t leaving just to leave and go and live the good life. Everybody wanted to be involved. My friends at least were intent on becoming involved in what was going on in the world and in the church. So, the church and religion and faith were a huge component of being in the Sisters of St. Joseph. And that’s a gift that we never lost.”

Also not lost was her early exposure to legal practice. The third of five children, Quinlan Doherty helped with production of her father’s newsletters, and she says the two became closer just before she entered the convent. While with her father at St. Ignatius Church on the Chestnut Hill campus of Boston College, she told him about her desire to attend law school. At first, he tried to discourage her, but shortly after they stepped outside the church, he changed his mind.

After passing the bar exam in 1973, Quinlan Doherty’s first job as a lawyer was working with her father, as was the case with her brothers Henry and Mike. With the transition to her own practice – as a partner at O’Connell, Welch & Quinlan – came the need for clients. Thanks to a call from an attorney who had just been appointed a judge, there was a chance for her to represent the owners of adult bookstores in Boston’s “Combat Zone,” a hub of cheap thrills, dim lighting, and a seedy atmosphere.

“So, I met the fellow who ran the bookstores, and he was sort of a character out of ‘Guys and Dolls’ or something,” Quinlan Doherty recalled. “And I had, all of a sudden, 300 cases I had to work on. I got some regular income, so I survived. And it was good.”

The opportunity came amid shifting legal boundaries between sexually explicit and obscene, as well as new challenges over community standards for content and range of exposure. That nudged the legal focus from sensational material to classifications and procedures. “But it was all law stuff,” Quinlan Doherty explained. “That was what I loved about it. There weren’t any disputes on the facts. It was the law. And whether it was the law on searches and seizures or First Amendment, the difference between a book and a magazine, that is how I got into it.”

Under then-Boston Mayor Kevin White, the city tried to crack down on the bookstores, even pressuring Quinlan Doherty to reveal the investors backing her clients. Though the bookstores still faced penalties, there was, according to a 1983 report by *The Boston Globe’s* Spotlight Team, a fall-off in police enforcement, partly attributed to declining odds of getting a conviction. Even William Weld, the US Attorney for Massachusetts at the time, said he was more concerned with violent crime and public corruption.

In 1981, a US Appeals Court ruled that the city had unconstitutionally refused to renew

peep show licenses for three bookstores represented by Quinlan Doherty. Without claiming that the shows were obscene, the city argued that they harmed the “interests of affected citizens” and would increase “disruptive conduct.” But the court found the first reason too vague and the second to have been unproven.

Quinlan Doherty’s other clients ranged from superior officers on the Boston Police Department to the mobster Howie Winter. And being a prominent champion of the First Amendment did not prevent her from representing Dick Sinnott, Boston’s “city censor” who had headed the agency that regulated licenses in the Combat Zone.

In 1982, Sinnott sued members of the Boston Retirement Board for violation of his privacy, after details of his application for a disability pension were leaked to *The Boston Globe*. Sinnott withdrew the application following the paper’s story of his claim to have been traumatized while attending a concert by the popular rock band The Who. But the case generated more headlines as a legal showdown between personal right to privacy and the public’s right to know.

During the pre-trial discovery phase of the lawsuit, *The Globe’s* reporter, Charles A. Radin, refused to identify the leak’s confidential sources. After a lower court ruling in his favor, Radin was found in contempt by the state appeals court. That ruling was overturned by the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), a decision that was allowed to stand by the US Supreme Court in 1988. The right to know prevailed, and Radin was honored with the first “Freedom of the Press Award” from the National Press Club.

Quinlan Doherty’s last book store case, in 1990, was at Hampden Superior Court, in Springfield, Mass., where a jury stopped short of declaring that materials seized by authorities were obscene. Though the case involved the legal distinction between books and magazines, Quinlan Doherty also grounded her case on an anonymous, unpunctuated inscription at the courthouse, beginning with the words, “We believe in America because we are free to choose our government to speak our minds...”

MEETING UP WITH KIP TIERNAN

Two years later, the quote would be recalled by Weld in his new role as the governor who recommended Quinlan Doherty’s appointment as an associate justice of the Superior Court. But the speaker at her swearing-in was Kip Tiernan, the Catholic social justice activist who founded Rosie’s Place, the first women’s shelter in the United States.

Quinlan Doherty met Tiernan through one of her friends from her years in the convent. By the time of the swearing-in, Quinlan Doherty was a regular volunteer at the shelter, as well as the president of its board. If Tiernan’s presence was a bridge to a future role, the volunteering was also a link with the past. “You’re serving the food, you’re washing the pan, you’re doing what I did in the convent,” Quinlan Doherty said. “And then you got people, you go around, and they’re there, and you start talking to them. You find out what they like to talk about. Or some of them just want to say hello.”

As she put it, the acts of service were personalized or humanized, less a downflow of assistance than a shared plane of connection.



Above, Judge Quinlan Doherty with her late husband, Gerard F. Doherty, who, she noted, tempered political loyalty with a sense of independence. “He didn’t sit there hanging for a call from the Kennedys on any given day. He was there when they needed him.”

Below, Regina Quinlan of Brighton, a Sister of St. Joseph whose friends in the order were intent on being involved in what was going on in the world and in the church. “The church and religion and faith were a huge component of being in the Sisters of St. Joseph. And that’s a gift we never lost,” she said.

Family photos



“You get to the point where you really like to help people that like to know who’s helping them. And you see it in that dimension,” she said, extending the principle to the mission of a judge.

Christopher J. Muse, a retired judge who was nominated to Superior Court in 2001, said he considered Quinlan Doherty a mentor who was “very helpful” with his transition from counsel table to bench.

“It’s a different position, and she was very helpful,” he said. “One of the best things that happened was that she’s such an easy person to like, and she’s friendly, and she’s engaging, and she’s social. So that’s a nice start. The second part of it is she’s brilliant. And the third thing is that she is an unapologetic seeker of justice. And she doesn’t wear it on her sleeve, but it’s there.”

As an attorney, Muse and his father, Robert



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Muse, had made headlines for nine years of efforts to help Bobby Joe Leaster overturn his 1971 conviction for the murder of a variety store manager in Dorchester. Missing from the original trial was corroboration that Leaster had been elsewhere when the crime took place, as well as physical evidence connecting him to the crime. And, in July of 1985, a new eyewitness came forward who was willing to testify that the crime had been committed by someone else. After Leaster was granted a new trial in 1986, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office dropped the charges.

Reflecting on his experience as an attorney and later colleague of Quinlan Doherty, Muse observed, "The best of the system works, and it works most of the time. Sometimes, it doesn't. Sometimes you see things that are just not right. Sometimes, you have a feeling about the case. It is always good to have someone else to talk to. And, if you wanted to know who my someone else was, it was mostly her."

Another former colleague on Superior Court was Geraldine S. Hines, who would later become the first Black woman appointed to the SJC, serving there until retirement in 2017. She recalls Quinlan Doherty as a "tower of strength. I mean, she's fearless, courageous, funny, supportive. When I first came onto the court, she was one of the first people to reach out to me, invited me to her place for dinner, to just talk."

Like Muse, Hines praised Quinlan Doherty for dedication to objectivity. She also said that, when there were fewer women in courtrooms acting as lawyers and judges, Quinlan Doherty stood out.

"Fifty-three years ago, as a new lawyer," Hines recalled, "I was representing indigent criminal defendants, and I used to see Regina in court, and I always thought I want to be like her, because she was one of those women who didn't speak with a soft voice. That was a thing back then: women had soft voices, and they were afraid to be heard, literally and figuratively."

That is, unless they were in a Catholic school. "The nuns ruled at Catholic school," Hines conceded. "When you're in the courtroom, it's the boys who rule – that's a difference. The nuns were the queens of the place, so of course they were going to be heard."

As a Superior Court judge, Quinlan Doherty made news for overturning the conviction of a Harvard grad student, Alexander Pring-Wilson, for voluntary manslaughter in the fatal stabbing of 18-year-old Michael Colono during a fight in 2003. There was conflicting testimony about who started the fight, with Pring-Wilson claiming he acted in self-defense. But, during the trial, Quinlan Doherty complied with state law by refusing to admit evidence of the victim's history of violent behavior.

Five months later, the restriction on that evidence was eliminated by the SJC. Quinlan Doherty decided to allow a new trial, with the additional evidence. After the second trial ended in a hung jury, Pring-Wilson pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter, which resulted in a lighter sentence.

In addition to contacts at work, Hines and Muse both would occasionally get together with Quinlan Doherty and other judges for dinner and socializing at restaurants in a grouping they called the "Motley Crew."



Regina's mother and father, Alice and Eugene Quinlan.

In May 2019, the three of them would be among the 78 retired justices who voiced their objection to the federal indictment of Newton District Court Judge Shelley Joseph and a court official.

CHALLENGING THE FEDERAL INDICTMENT OF A SITTING JUDGE

According to the indictment, the two had helped an immigrant who was in the US illegally evade arrest at the courthouse by a federal immigration enforcement agent in 2018. In a move that met with resistance in some local communities, federal agents were trying to detain unauthorized immigrants at courthouses, arguing that arrests at these locations were safer for the general public. But judges who contested the indictment – for obstruction of justice – maintained that the policy threatened the independence of the courts and access to justice.

Federal prosecutors dismissed the charges in 2022, after Joseph agreed to a review by the state's Commission on Judicial Conduct. In November of that year, she was reinstated by the SJC, pending the review. Two years later, Quinlan-Doherty stands by her decision to join with the other retired judges who expressed their opinion in a public statement and an amicus brief for a motion to have the charges dismissed.

"This is one of the moments in my professional career of which I am most proud," she wrote. "To have been a part of the core group was an honor. I would like to think of myself as one who speaks out on important issues. However, none were more important than that of judicial independence in this case."

Quinlan Doherty says that she and some other retired judges received an email about the case from Hines. But Hines credits her with being the "heart and soul" of the effort.

"There was this group of retired judges who were drawn to that effort, in large part because of Regina and her reputation as somebody who appreciated the benefits of an independent judiciary," said Hines. "That was at the core of it, because that was what always drove her, her thinking and her actions. We're independent for a reason – to do the right thing."

In 2018, two years after her retirement from Superior Court, Quinlan Doherty assumed yet another role through her marriage to Gerard F. Doherty, a longtime political figure from Charlestown noted

as a Democratic campaign strategist and for his friendship with three Kennedy brothers – John F., Robert F., and Edward M. At the time of the wedding, she was 75 years old. Doherty, whose first wife of 61 years, Marilyn, had passed in 2016, was 90.

While living in Charlestown, Quinlan Doherty had known the Dohertys for years, sometimes joining them for dinner on Sundays and hearing Gerard tell his stories. One that Doherty told at the JFK Library in 2017 was about his role in helping RFK win his first presidential primary in 1968, in Indiana. Doherty had argued against campaign advisors who were telling Kennedy to skip the primary, and he also played a hand in efforts to mobilize support from Black voters, who would be the senator's strongest base.

Coming a month before RFK's assassination, the victory in Indiana would be overshadowed by a single campaign event: his impromptu address – from a flatbed truck – to a rally crowd of mostly Black voters, just hours after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Quinlan Doherty praised her husband for his generosity to his lifelong community, and for tempering political loyalty with a sense of independence.

"He lived his own life," she said. "He didn't sit there hanging for a call from the Kennedys at any given day. He was there when they needed him. When they wanted him, they called. If there was something that had to be done, they called him, and it got done."

Hines recalls being at their wedding, which she described as a "very simple, beautiful ceremony" at St. Mary's Church in Charlestown. "It was the most wonderful thing to see, the two of them, finding love at their age," said Hines. "It was most of her colleagues there. We were all in tears at that event."

Among those taking part in the ceremony was Fr. Tom Conway, of the Order of Friars Minor, the executive director of St. Anthony Shrine. Located on Arch Street, two blocks from Downtown Crossing, the Franciscan shrine had become Quinlan Doherty's regular place of worship, starting in the 1990s, amid the turmoil in many Catholic parishes over sexual abuse by priests. She said she was drawn by the sermons, the music, and efforts by its leaders to create "a real community," but St. Anthony's is also noted for programs in recovery and grief support, as well as its LGBTQ+ ministry.

With its low ceiling and subdued lighting,

the shrine's chapel has the unimposing aspect of a church basement. On a recent quiet Sunday afternoon, with two priests on duty for confessions, an elderly friar walked the aisles while solitary visitors stood or knelt, backlit by a glowing statue or banks of candles before the figure of the weeping Jesus.

Behind the altar is a triptych mosaic depicting St. Anthony in heaven and, to both sides, in the world, feeding the hungry or preaching to attentive humans and the legendary waters teeming with captivated fish. The saint is a 13th century Franciscan among figures who could be from different eras, even from the present shrine's opening in the mid-20th century. And the timespan is reaffirmed when a visitor rose from the kneeler before the weeping Jesus, made a sign of the cross and headed toward the exit before he turned around, quickly genuflected, then made the gesture one more time.

Outside the chapel, and off to one side of the lobby, are more figures, in a glass display case with 26 "nun dolls" representing different communities, including Blessed Mother Teresa. They were created by a member of the friar community, Brother John Jaskowiak, but their rescue from oblivion and presence in the lobby was arranged with support by Quinlan Doherty.

In 2018, the shrine honored her with its Pope Francis Award. "Regina Quinlan Doherty embodies the heart and spirit of our Franciscan mission here at St. Anthony Shrine," said Fr. Conway in a written statement. "Her lifelong dedication to justice, courage, and compassion reflects the essence of our faith. Whether serving as a teacher, lawyer, or judge, Regina has always championed the dignity of every person. Her steadfast devotion to the Catholic faith and her service to others have made her an inspiration to all of us. We are blessed to have Regina as part of our community."

Muse characterized Quinlan Doherty another way: as reflecting a "genuine, historic ethic" of Boston's Irish immigrants, with their devotion to education, faith professed in service to others, and justice.

"I think there's a lot of people that are drawn from that history and tradition to actually understand that the pursuit of justice is not only honorable, but necessary," he said. "And so Regina hit the trifecta on that."

Chris Lovett, the longtime news anchor for Boston Neighborhood Network, is a regular contributor to *The Dorchester Reporter*.



As the judge said goodbye to courthouse life, a officer wipes away her tears.

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Salutes Our
2024 Awardees of
Boston Irish Hall of Honors

Bill Cleary
Bill Bulger
Regina Quinlan Doherty

**Congratulations to the winners of this year's
Boston Irish Honors:**

Bill Cleary • Bill Bulger • Regina Quinlan Doherty

WE'RE PROUD TO CALL YOU OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.





Bill Cleary Jr. – The amateur world’s ‘Mr. Positive’ and Harvard’s champion for integrity in athletics

By TOM MULVOY

The name Bill Cleary Jr. has been one for the ages for some 75 years now in and around the hotbed of hockey that Boston has been going back 100 years to Dec. 1, 1924, when the professional Boston Bruins joined the National Hockey League with a 2-1 win over the Montreal Maroons at Boston Arena, and even further, to the formation of the Intercollegiate Hockey Association of America in 1898.

The young, very much athletically inclined Billy learned to skate with noticeable aplomb at the Cambridge Skating Club while practicing his hockey moves on local ponds. He was a regular competitor in the Silver Skates speedskating competitions at Boston Garden when the show was in town, wearing his hockey skates in place of speed skates. On acceptance into high school by the Belmont Hill School, he played hockey in the winter, football in the fall, and baseball, his favorite sport, in springtime, all the while keeping up the pace in its classrooms.

Then came the fateful day in the fall of 1952 when he stepped onto the Harvard campus to begin his freshman year. The romantics among his family and classmates and friends have been known to call that day a marriage of man and institution forged by the gods.

In his memoir entitled “Reflections on an Amateur Life” that was published by the President and Fellows of Harvard College in 2022, Bill described how the Harvard thing happened. “My father grew up right next to campus on Banks Street in a neighborhood called Kerry Corner, after the Irish county. He never went to college and his dream was to see his sons at Harvard. Many of the Belmont Hill masters and alumni wanted to see me there, too. If you were Irish Catholic, there was a strong push from the church to go to a Catholic college. But Father Lally, a priest in our parish whose nephew would be a classmate of mine, encouraged my father to send me to Harvard. He didn’t have to be told twice.”

For the Cleary family, before Kerry Corner and Harvard, there were two villages in Co. Cork across the sea to reckon with as reminders of whence they came: Bill’s maternal grandparents, Timothy Patrick Barry and Nora (Quinlan) Barry, were born in County Cork and his paternal grandparents, John Cleary and Margaret Donovan, hailed from Co. Kerry, from where they crossed the Atlantic and set up house in Cambridge.

As the Clearys grew in numbers and presence in Cambridge – Bill was born in August 1934 and brother Bob arrived on scene two years later – tragedy struck with the death of their mother Eileen (Barry) at age 33 shortly after her younger son’s birth. Notes William J. Cleary III, Bill’s son: “The boys then lived with aunts and relatives until they moved back in with their dad in 1939,” he said, “after his marriage to an elementary school teacher, Helen Sheehan, the only mother they ever really knew.”



William J. Cleary Jr., whose credo is: “Do the best you can at everything you do and do it with a smile on your face.”
Margaret Brett Hastings photo

BROTHERS AND OLYMPIANS

In 1952, Harvard, Boston University, Boston College, and Northeastern agreed to an annual hockey competition that came to be known as the Beanpot Tournament. After the turbulent years of the Great Depression, World War II, and the beginnings of the Cold War, the tourney was one of many local amateur events that brightened the sporting world in the 1950s – the BAA marathon, AAU track meets at Boston Garden, college basketball as played by people named Russell and Heinsohn and Jones and Palazzi, statewide golf matches, and, every four years, the Olympic Games, featuring locales both exotic and prosaic – and players from Boston, Brookline and Cambridge, to name three local amateur hockey bastions.

For the Cleary brothers, the decade of Eisenhower and Nixon and of the US vs. the Soviet Union was a blur of activity in Cambridge and back and forth travel to some of those exotic places and to compete in international hockey games that were played there. To lay everything out here would just extend the blur, so let’s track older brother Bill through those years; it’s all on the record.

Early in the decade, Bill made a decision that had lifelong consequences, all to the good for him, he always maintained. He tells us that “the Montreal Canadiens contacted me about signing with them my freshman

year, and the Bruins came after me my sophomore year. They offered me \$5,000 to sign, which was the minimum for the NHL at the time. I said, ‘I’m not going to sign for that. You wanted me. You’ve got to give me \$15,000 to play and \$10,000 to sign.’ Well, the Bruins went to \$10,000 and \$12,500, but I turned them down. That was the best thing that ever happened to me because I would have missed out on playing in the Olympics.”

On hockey: He was an All-America pick during his two years playing at Harvard, setting team records that still stand. He took time out from Harvard to play on the US Olympic hockey team in the 1956 Winter Games in Cortina d’Ampezzo in Italy, where the US won the silver medal. He spent the next three years practicing, playing and traveling with the US National Hockey Team as preparation for the February 1960 Winter Olympics Games in Squaw Valley, Calif., where the team, competing again in the big leagues with Canada, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Sweden, won the gold medal.

Bill, who was joined by his brother, an A class player himself, in the months leading up to the competition, led the team in scoring for the fetch of its Olympics run that year, a neat punctuation to a heady decade for a man who played first and last not for compensation or awards but for the glory

of school and country.

Looking to the future: In the face of all the traveling and skating, Bill’s next act necessarily involved the means of making a living. He was lucky in that respect. After his graduation from Harvard in 1958, a fellow Belmont Hill and Harvard alumnus named Greeley Summers brought the brothers Cleary into the insurance business at New England Life. After a while, Bill, Bob, Stan Page, and Jim Esbjorn formed Cleary, Page & Esbjorn, an agency that sold property casualty insurance. In 1991, the brothers went separate ways, as Bill III put it, and he and his dad “took a risk” and started Cleary Insurance Inc., which he runs today from offices in Boston, Quincy, and Peabody.

The critical element in all of this for Bill Jr. was that insurance could be done in the mornings and coaching in the afternoons and evenings.

THE LURE OF DOMESTICITY

Bill’s friends always looked out for him, one in particular – the guy who set him up for a date after a game with Yale. She was Jo Kirk, a student at Newton College of the Sacred Heart. Bill has not shied away from telling this story over the years: “During the first period, she said to my friend, ‘I thought you said he was good.’ He’s the best one out there, my friend told her. ‘If he’s that good,’ she said, ‘then why do they keep taking him off the ice?’”

Miss Jo, the second of five children born and raised in Newton, learned a lot more about hockey – and Bill – during a courtship that culminated in marriage in May 1960 a year after her graduation from Newton College. In the nature of things, children followed – Paula, Bill III, and Kate – as did four grandchildren, Aidan, Liam, Quinn, and Cole.

The bride introduced the Cleary clan to a family that brought its own distinction to the pairing. Her father, Paul, had been a Massachusetts Superior Court judge since 1937, and in 1960 was named to the state’s highest tribunal, the Supreme Judicial Court. Her brother Paul, Jr., a lawyer, was inspired towards politics Kennedy-style. He worked with the three brothers, the longest time with Ted, whom he succeeded to the US Senate after his death in 2009.

Asked about the Kirk-Cleary family union for this article, Paul said: “I’m grateful to Jo for many reasons but none more important than her saying “Yes” to Billy. He’s been an additional son and brother to all of us and has enriched our close family in countless ways through the years. ... It’s just the way he’s made, it’s the way he played, it’s the way he coaches, it’s the way he lives. It’s do the best you can at everything you do. Do it with a smile on your face and reach for excellence. He’s just one of those guys.”

As to leisure time for “that guy,” Cape Cod has been where the Clearys relaxed. Bill and Jo have a home in Craigville Beach, said son Bill, and “we have spent all our summers down there!” As to leisure sports,

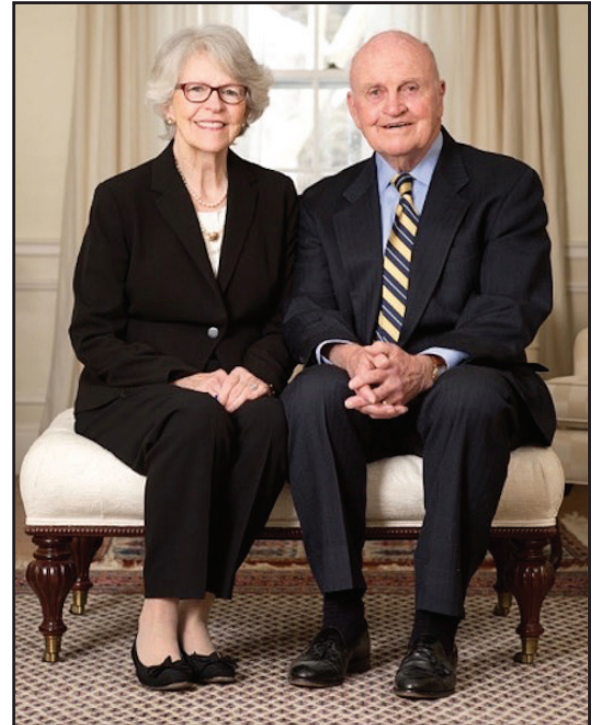
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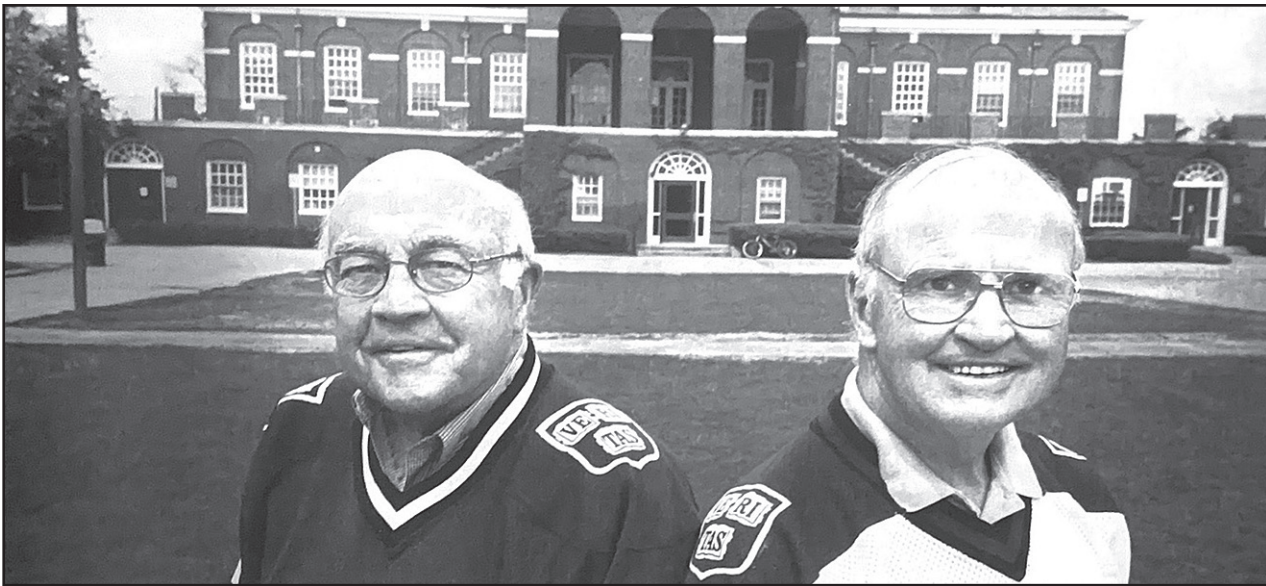
FAMILY ALBUM

At a Cleary family dinner circa 2020, from left in front row: Paula Cleary, Norm Meltzer, Mikaela McDermott, Paul Farrell, Gail Kirk, Liam Cleary, Roberta Hing, Andrew Mc Dermott, Quinn Cleary, Bill Cleary III, Cole Cleary, Paul Kirk, Bill and Jo Cleary, my mother.

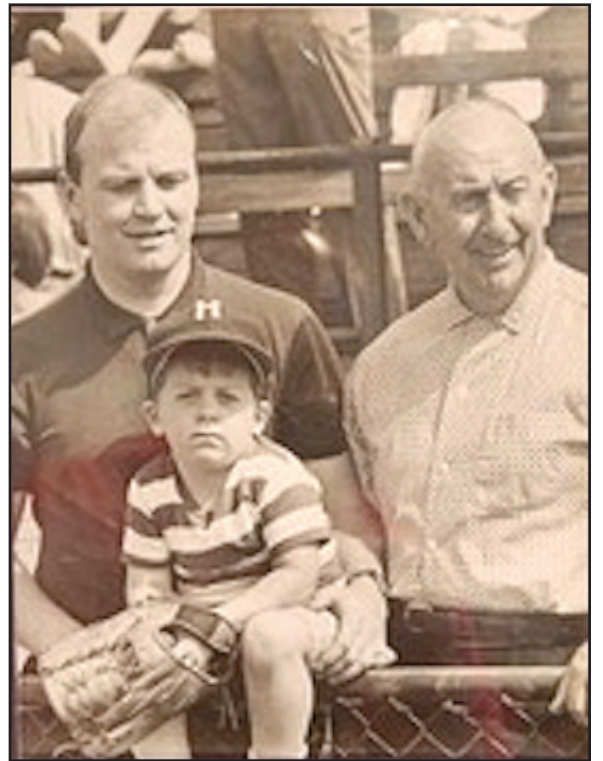
Photos courtesy Cleary family



Jo and Bill at home, circa 2020.



Brothers Bob and Bill Cleary in front of Dillon Field House at Harvard.



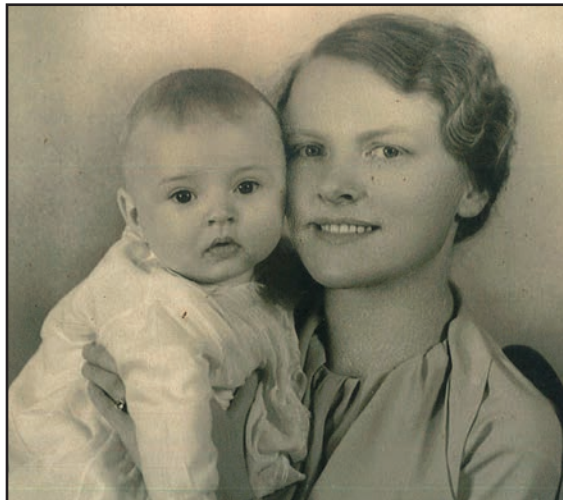
Bill Clearys all: Grandfather William J., Senior, Father William J. Jr, and rail-sitting William J. III in 1969.



At Bill's surprise 90th birthday party on the Cape in summer 2024: Bill Cleary III, cousin Brian Cleary, the honoree, cousins Bob and Andrew Cleary.



At grandmother Helen (Sheehan) Cleary's birthday party on the Cape circa 1994. Bill III, Roberta, Paula, the honoree, Kate, Jo, and Bill.



The new-born Bill Cleary Jr., with his mother Eileen in 1934.



In 1969: a dad and his kids, Paula, Kate in Year One, and Bill III.



Blame it on 'those snickerfences'

Many of those who have known Bill Cleary over the years have learned not to react around him should they hear the sound of a dog barking in his wake or somehow miss his shake of their reached-out hands. They are two of the pranks he employs with people he meets. There's a third, a doubletalk routine he learned while studying at Harvard.

When Bill retired as Harvard AD in 2001, E.M. Swift, a writer for Sports Illustrated and Harvard man, interviewed Mark Fusco, the Crimson's stellar hockey player from the early '80s, who gave his best try at the sort of doubletalk Bill the coach might try on a referee:

"Hey, ref, those snickerfences lock habbentrees with their elbows. They slustle to you as they cross the blue line. Matter a banger intentionally it's a mist loose on every darn shift." And the game moved on.

-TOM MULVOY

Bill long disdained golf and those who used their spare time to play the game – until, his son says, "he hit age 65. Since then, he has played pretty much every day that he can. This summer he shot a 92 at Hyannisport. So, yeah – he's a pretty good athlete no matter what he tries!"

IN FULL GEAR AT HARVARD

Echoes from the cheers at Cortina and Squaw Valley have never died down for Bill Cleary, but reality presents life choices for all of us. He wanted to keep close to amateur hockey at all levels post-Olympics, so for most of the 1960s, much of his time away from home and office was spent on the ice – as a referee, a job his father had done to acclaim for many years before him. High school, Beanpots, NCAA championship, even some minor league pro games with his brother – he was there with his whistle and his skates, moving with firmness as an official and with the skating grace of an Olympian.

"My job was to call the game properly," he wrote in his memoir, "and not to please either team. Call the game and stop explaining everything on the ice to the coaches. At least people knew what to expect of me."

The officiating years were but an interlude to Bill's re-connection to athletics at Harvard in 1968, when he was invited to coach the freshmen team. He was in his element – "frosh teams are a joy to be with" – and he was eager to teach the values and tactics of the game he loved to the younger sets.

Bill later moved up to assist longtime head coach and Bruins legend Cooney Weiland and then succeed him as the boss at the beginning of the 1971-72 season. Over the next 19 years, he guided Crimson teams to a 324-201-22 win, loss, tie record, and a national championship in 1989 when his players won 31 games and lost but 3.

The wins and losses over two decades and the stories behind the players and the teams are too numerous to aggregate here as are the following ten years when Bill served as athletic director, supervising some 1,500 students playing on 41 varsity, junior varsity, and

club sports teams while dealing on a whole other level as administrator representing Harvard athletics in Ivy League, NCAA, and public affairs.

But in totality, they are the measure of a singular and sturdy Irish American man who has walked the walk and talked the talk all the way to this luncheon today. "I always stressed the positive" is his constant refrain. "It's the way you've got to live your life. By its very nature, coaching is negative because you're telling kids they did something wrong. You've got to eliminate all the negatives. If you don't think you can do it, I can guarantee that you won't do it."

Mark Fusco, Harvard '83, tells us that Bill "did it," and all the time. The three-time All American and winner of the Hobey Baker Award as the nation's top player in college hockey wrote this tribute as a lead-in to his coach's memoir:

"Bill Cleary led many generations of boys to men. He saw to it that we had the opportunity to take advantage of our time at Harvard and he prepared us for the future. We got to see and be with one of the greats in hockey but also to meet with his family and see what success on and off the ice looked like. Bill is an American legend. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to play for him."

Such plaudits abound for a man who, over his long life as an athlete and teacher of athletes, has preached that sports played for home, city, country, or school – that is, something other than money – is a sacred calling.

Tom Mulvoy is the managing editor of Boston Irish.

•••

Postscript: On the occasion of his retirement from active duty at Harvard, The Friends of Harvard Hockey established the William "Bill" J. Cleary '56 Harvard Ice Hockey Endowment Hockey to celebrate his six-decade association with Harvard Athletics as a student, athlete, coach and athletic director. The endowment supports staffing, out-of-region travel, recruitment and hockey-specific facility enhancements for the men's and women's hockey programs.



Posing for the camera: the 1956 US Olympic Hockey team.



Bill Cleary III and his father in the fall of 1982 at photo day for the Harvard hockey team.



A "Love Story" publicity item shows Bill Cleary at right, Bob Cleary as the referee and the actor Ryan O'Neal. Bill and Bob were signed up to help the soon-to-be blockbuster movie make it to the big screen. Bill did all the skating moves for co-star O'Neal and Bob played the referee. It was a one and done move for their movie careers, and for years afterward an item for trivia contests.

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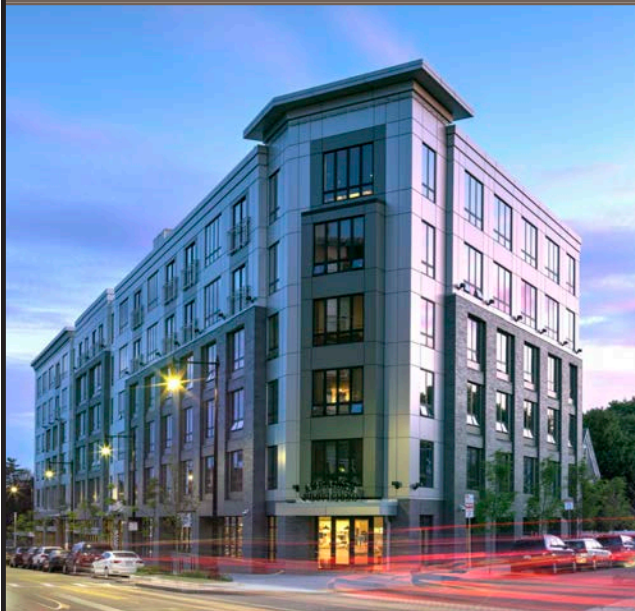


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*Think where man's glory most begins and ends
And say my glory was I had such friends.*

William Butler Yeats



A 'hunger to make a difference' made Bill Bulger a singular public servant

By Robert P. Connolly

For more than four decades, William M. Bulger devoted himself to improving the lives of his fellow citizens: first as a legislator who rose to the presidency of the Massachusetts Senate and then as the leader of the largest university in New England, the University of Massachusetts.

For many years dubbed "the most powerful person in Massachusetts state government," he was a public servant unlike any other from the moment he stepped onto the political scene in 1960.

Bill Bulger was known for his erudition, his oratory, and his command of the classics. To him, "philosophy" wasn't a reference to a bumper-sticker phrase describing one's political views, but rather to the works of Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Kant and Locke – whom he could, and often did, quote.

In his UMass inaugural address as president, he underscored the importance of the humanities, saying that the university was where students could discover "the beauties of Shakespeare and the modern universal voices of conscience, ranging from Gandhi to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Throughout his long life, now at 90 years, Bulger has never stopped reading and learning. His verbal and intellectual abilities are such that the world-renowned biographer David McCullough once said: "Oh, what I would give to see Bill Bulger and John Adams sit down for an evening of good conversation. That would be great."

Born on Feb. 2, 1934, William was the third of James and Jane (McCarthy) Bulger's six children. At age 4, he was the youngest of the three children the Bulgers brought with them when they moved from Dorchester to South Boston. Two sisters and another brother came along after the family had settled into the Old Harbor housing project.

As a young man, Bulger shared an interest in politics and government with his neighbor at Old Harbor, John Joseph Moakley. The Bulgers lived at 41 Logan Way and the Moakleys nearby at No. 51 in a housing project that was intended, as Bulger noted in his memoir, to provide transitional housing for families in need.

"Tenancy was temporary," he wrote. "We were told that was a firm rule. But inconvenient rules in the neighborhood were not strictly enforced. We were still living there twenty-three years later when I left after getting married."

In that memoir – titled "While the Music Lasts" – he recalls walking on Carson Beach with Moakley when the future state legislator, city councillor, and powerful congressman, said that "he found politics more exciting than baseball." Bulger writes: "...as I thought about it, I wondered whether he might have spoken for me as well."

Interested in the classics at an early age, young Bill Bulger famously knocked on the door at Boston College High School and talked his way in. After graduating from the school, then located in the South End, he believed that college was beyond his financial reach, but BC High's Jesuit priests



William M. Bulger on governing: "We must do so without savaging the very reason why government exists – the protection and well-being of the people."

didn't let that stop him; they funded his first year at Boston College. After his freshman year, Bulger enlisted in the US Army. He was stationed in Korea during part of his tour of duty and afterwards used his veteran's benefit to return to BC, completing an undergraduate degree in English in 1958, and, in 1961, a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Boston College Law School.

On the home front in South Boston, he and his late wife, Mary Foley Bulger, raised nine children who have added more than 30 grandchildren to the family rolls.

TAKING THE PLUNGE INTO POLITICS

In his memoir, Bulger writes of first running for public office while in law school and in his mid-20s. He was motivated, he wrote,

by his "hunger to make a difference." He also pursued public service, he said, because "I knew there were injustices for many for whom I had empathetic compassion."

He noted, too, that he was worried about his "alien origin" – being born in Dorchester counting against him by voters in close-knit South Boston. "For some happy reason," he wrote, "it was overlooked" and the upshot was that he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1960.

On his first day as a member of the House, he witnessed President-elect John F. Kennedy delivering his "City Upon a Hill" speech as he prepared to leave for Washington and his presidency.

Throughout the course of his 35 years in the Legislature, including a record 17-and-a-half years as president of the Senate,

Bulger was known as a fierce advocate of the underprivileged and the disadvantaged.

"If James Michael Curley was the Mayor of the Poor, then surely Bulger was the Senate President of the Poor," UMass Boston political science professor Maurice Cunningham wrote in *Common Wealth* magazine in 2011.

Says current UMass President Marty Meehan: "As a legislator, Bill Bulger fought for people. He fought to provide the services people needed and the opportunities they deserved. He knew that government could transform communities and change lives. Bill Bulger believed that government could be a force for good in people's lives. His record and impact may never be equaled."

When the state Senate reconvened on Jan. 2, 1991, then-President Bulger chose to sail against the prevailing political winds that only two months before had swept in Republicans as governor, lieutenant governor, and treasurer and made significant inroads in the heavily Democratic Legislature.

Bulger readily acknowledged the need to balance the state's budget while adding: "But we must do so without savaging the very reason why government exists – the protection and well-being of the people. We cannot turn our backs on the education of the young or the care of the elderly. A recession is not a moral justification for casually punishing the helpless, the homeless, the sick, the disadvantaged. We cannot squander a half-century of social progress to pay the bills of a difficult year."

Three years later, when the Senate was about to approve a significant reduction in benefits for the poor, President Bulger famously noted: "After we have eaten, we forget there is such a thing as hunger. Well, there is hunger. There is need. It is genuine."

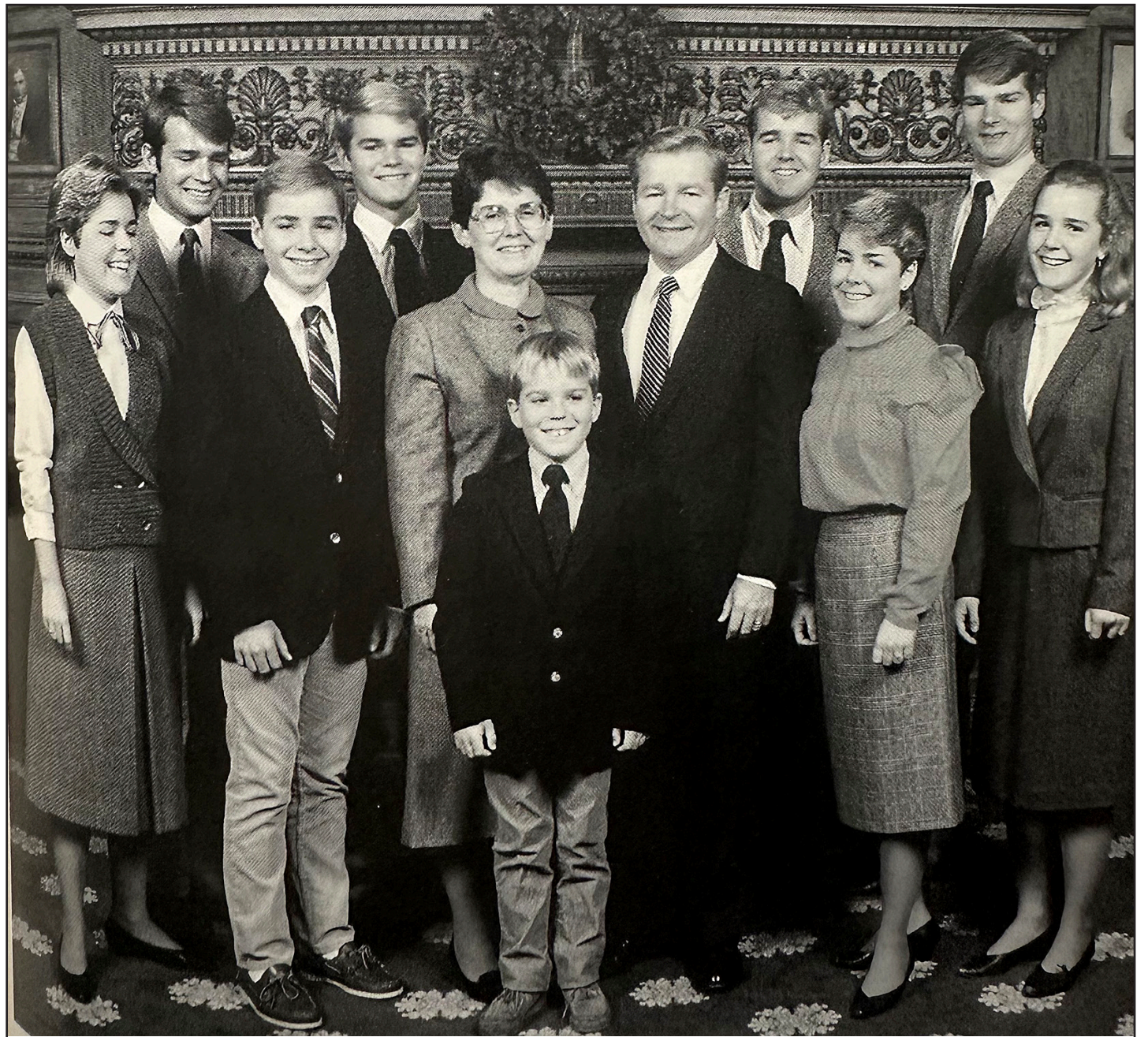
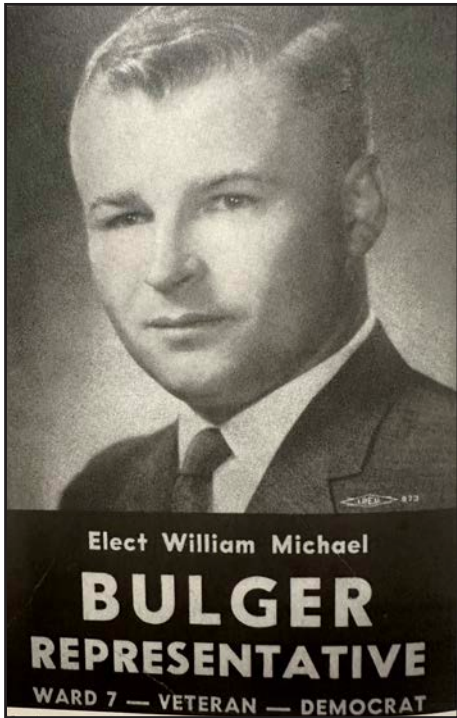
His legislative priorities and accomplishments included:

- Supporting public education and serving as an architect of 1993's groundbreaking education reform law that reduced the funding inequities between rich and poor communities.
- Providing funding for public libraries and support for the arts.
- Championing the cleanup of Boston Harbor, advocating for environmental programs, pushing for the revival of urban beaches, and fighting for beach access.
- Tirelessly advocating for the city of Boston. His efforts included pushing for the Tregor Bill of 1982 that helped Boston steady its wobbling finances and negotiating the land swap that saw the run-down Charles Street Jail move to new quarters on Nashua Street, allowing in turn for the significant expansion of Massachusetts General Hospital. Bulger once called himself "a vigilant advocate looking for opportunities to assist the capital city and its people."
- Working to improve public transportation, protecting the Public Garden, and championing anti-poverty programs and organizations like the Pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place.
- Supporting public higher education,

(Continued next page)



The Boston Irish Honors 2024



SOUTH BOSTON'S TEAM BULGER: Mary and Bill and their girls and boys.



Bill Bulger was the third of James and Jane Bulger's six children.

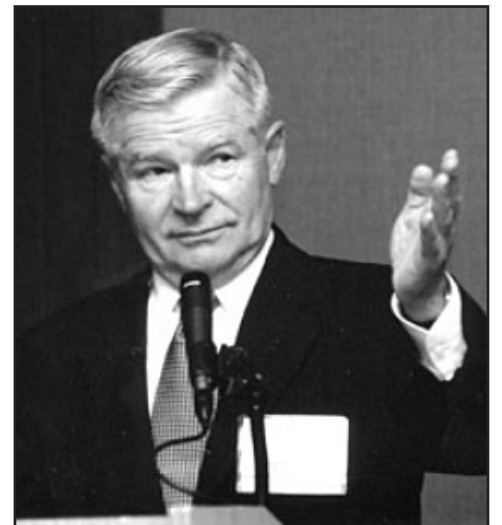


Bill evokes a hearty laugh from Mary at the lunch table at Drydock Cafe.



During his years sitting in the Massachusetts Legislature as a representative (10 years) and senator (25 years, 18 as president), William M. Bulger sponsored a public breakfast on the morning of the St. Patrick's Day parade in South Boston. The "time" drew politicians, priests, entertainers, and just folks who came to see and hear his wit in action as he fenced verbally with his guests. At top left, he takes the mic to jibe with attendees with South Boston electives Michael Flaherty, left, and Ray Flynn, at his side. Above, he sets then-Boston Mayor Kevin H. White to laughing. At left, he takes a minute to chat with Michael Dukakis and South Boston's legendary legislator, Joe Moakley.

At right, UMass President William M. Bulger acknowledges a faculty member at an appreciation dinner. *Harry Brett photo*



He has a 'hunger to make a difference'

including the 1991 bill that created the five-campus UMass system.

Bill Bulger ended his record tenure as the leader of the Massachusetts Senate when he left office on Jan. 3, 1996, to become president of the University of Massachusetts. On the day of his departure, he told the *Boston Herald*: "I feel strongly that it's time. I loved all of the drama, the comedy and the occasional tragedy ... but it's a new season."

OH, AND HE HOSTED A BREAKFAST

One of Bill Bulger's duties as the state senator from South Boston was hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast – a task he embraced with wit, charm, and boundless enthusiasm.

Given his stewardship, the breakfast became a mandatory stop for officeholders and office-seekers at all levels of government who hoped to curry favor with Irish American voters – and survive his barbs. The breakfast rose to such prominence that it served as a focal point for a "60 Minutes" report on CBS in 1993.

Bill Bulger's interest in Ireland and Irish issues went well beyond his annual breakfast and has led to his selection as one of this year's inductees into the Boston Irish Hall of Honors – along with the Honorable Regina Quinlan Doherty and former Harvard athletic standout and coach, Bill Cleary.

It can be argued that Bill Bulger's understanding of the tragedies that run through Irish history helped to mold his world view.

"Bill Bulger takes great pride in his Irish heritage, rightfully celebrating Ireland's beauty, history, and towering achievements in the arts," UMass President Meehan said, adding: "But Irishness always had a broader meaning for Bill. It meant recognizing that people from all walks of life can face social and economic challenges – and being there to do something about it. It motivated Bill to be a champion for the underdog. Irishness was an inclusive and multifaceted thing for Bill Bulger – and it informed his career in the Legislature and at UMass."

As to the latter, while the title "President" didn't change, his focus and responsibilities surely did when he took office as the 24th president of the University of Massachusetts. The position fused Bulger's public service interests with his love for scholarly pursuits and his appreciation for education's transformative power.

He said the importance of UMass and the scope of its impact and its public mission lured him away from the State House. "It isn't too much to say that as UMass goes, so goes to Commonwealth," he told an interviewer during his first year in office.

As his presidency began, the UMass system was consolidating a recent expansion from three campuses to five with the additions in Dartmouth and Lowell. As to the arrival of President Bulger, Jack Welch, a UMass Amherst graduate and then-Chairman and CEO of General Electric Co., said: "This is a defining moment for UMass. And it's lucky to have a president with the vision

and commitment that Bill Bulger has to put it on the map."

Over the course of his presidency (1997-2003), Bulger significantly strengthened and elevated the UMass system by attracting top students to its campuses, increasing private and public financial support, upgrading campus facilities, building closer ties with the business community, and winning new appreciation for the university's impact and quality.

And he appointed the first woman to lead the university's flagship campus in Amherst (Marcellette G. Williams), as well as female chancellors at UMass Boston (Jo Ann Gora) and UMass Dartmouth (Jean MacCormack).

Ensuring affordability and raising money for scholarships were priorities during the Bulger years. The financial hurdles that he had to surmount to attend college – and the defining difference that higher education made in his life – were never far from his mind.

THE PUSH OF ROOTS

However high he rose, Bill Bulger never forgot his roots and always had time for people. Riding home from Amherst late at night, he took time to chat with a young man working in a toll booth on the Mass Pike. *Commonwealth* magazine later noted: "A toll collector on the Mass Pike credits Bulger's persuasive powers during a stop at his booth for his enrolling at UMass Boston."

Taking stock of Bulger's UMass presidency five years after he took office, then-Boston

Globe columnist Brian McGrory, in a column titled "Big Mission on Campus," wrote: "This stint in academia is Bulger's final act, and unquestionably his best. That he didn't disappear into private life a few years back to make more money for less work tells us more about him than we ever need to know ... a state and its university system are better because of him."

William F. Weld, whose governorship spanned Bulger's Senate and UMass presidencies, said: "During those years, I came to know Bill Bulger as a man of honesty, integrity, compassion and strong character."

In the 2021 documentary film "My Name Is Bulger," former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis described Bulger as "one of the most effective presidents of the University of Massachusetts we'd ever had" and credited him with playing a key role in bringing reform to state government in Massachusetts.

"The state government that he and I entered in 1960 and 1962 as young legislators was one of the three or four most corrupt in America. Bill Bulger was the guy that brought integrity to the Massachusetts State Senate ... and we're benefitting from that now."

Added Meehan as a final word: "Bill Bulger had a vision and a mission. He had principals and ideals. He always did what he thought was right. He never wavered."

Bob Connolly, a communications consultant, served as vice president of Communications at the University of Massachusetts before retiring in 2016.



The Boston Irish Honors 2024



The Massachusetts Senate president marches along the parade route in South Boston in 1995.

Alan Duffy photo



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William M Bulger

Billy Cleary Jr

Regina Quinlan Doherty



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William M Bulger
Billy Cleary Jr
Regina Quinlan Doherty

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themselves or the descendants of Irish immigrants, Boston Irish Honorees are admirable for their exemplary endeavors in public service, business and community leadership.

2024

Bill Cleary, Jr.; Bill Bulger; Regina Quinlan Doherty

2023

Vincent Crotty & Kieran Jordan; Hon. Maura Healy;
The Rooney Family

2022

Jon Cronin; Mary Swanton; Jeremiah "Jerry" York

2021

Mary Sugrue; Joseph R. Nolan Jr.; Ed Forry

2019

Jim Carmody; Kathleen & John Drew; Grace Cotter Regan

2018

Rev. Richard "Doc" Conway; Mary & Bob Scannell;
Dr. Trevor McGill, MD

2017

Nora, Annmarie & Bill Kennedy; Tom Tinlin; Kevin Cullen

2016

Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge; Senator Paul G. Kirk Jr.;
Kevin & Joe Leary & family

2015

Margaret Stapleton; Mike Sheehan;
BPD Commissioner William Evans & family

2014

Katherine Craven; Boston Mayor Marty Walsh;
The Burke family of South Boston

2013

Therese Murray; Gerry & Bob Mulligan family;
John P. Driscoll Jr. (Posthumous)

2012

Congressman Richard Neal; Brendan & Greg Feeney;
Mary & Bob Muse & family

2011

Kathleen O'Toole; State Senator Tom Kennedy; families of
Joseph Corcoran; James Hunt Jr.; and Mark & Tom Mulvoy

2010

Hon. Ed Markey; John Donohue, and
Irish families of Peg Geraghty; Jim Brett; Mayor John B. Hynes

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Scenes from the 2023 Boston Irish Honors luncheon



From top, awards were made to: The Rooney Family of South Boston; Governor Maura Healey, pictured with her mother, stepfather, and sisters Tara and Caitlyn; Vincent Crotty and Kieran Jordan, pictured with Kieran's mother Dolores and other family members. Clockwise from left: US Sen. Ed Markey and former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry presented the award to Gov. Healey; Former Boston Irish honoree and former US Sen. Paul Kirk, second from right, gathered with, from left, Bill Cleary Jr., his wife Jo, and Kirk nieces Mikaela McDermott and Beth McDermott; Luncheon co-chairs Brendan Feeney, William Kennedy, and BI Magazine publisher Ed Forry.

Margaret Brett Hastings photos

Here's How Boston's Irish Stay Connected

BOSTON IRISH

Vol. 1, Issue 3 Autumn 2020 BostonIrish.com



Painting created for Boston Irish by Vincent Crotty

BOSTON IRISH

Vol. 2, Issue 1 March 2021 BostonIrish.com



Original painting by Vincent Crotty

BOSTON IRISH

Vol. 1, Issue 2 Summer 2020 BostonIrish.com



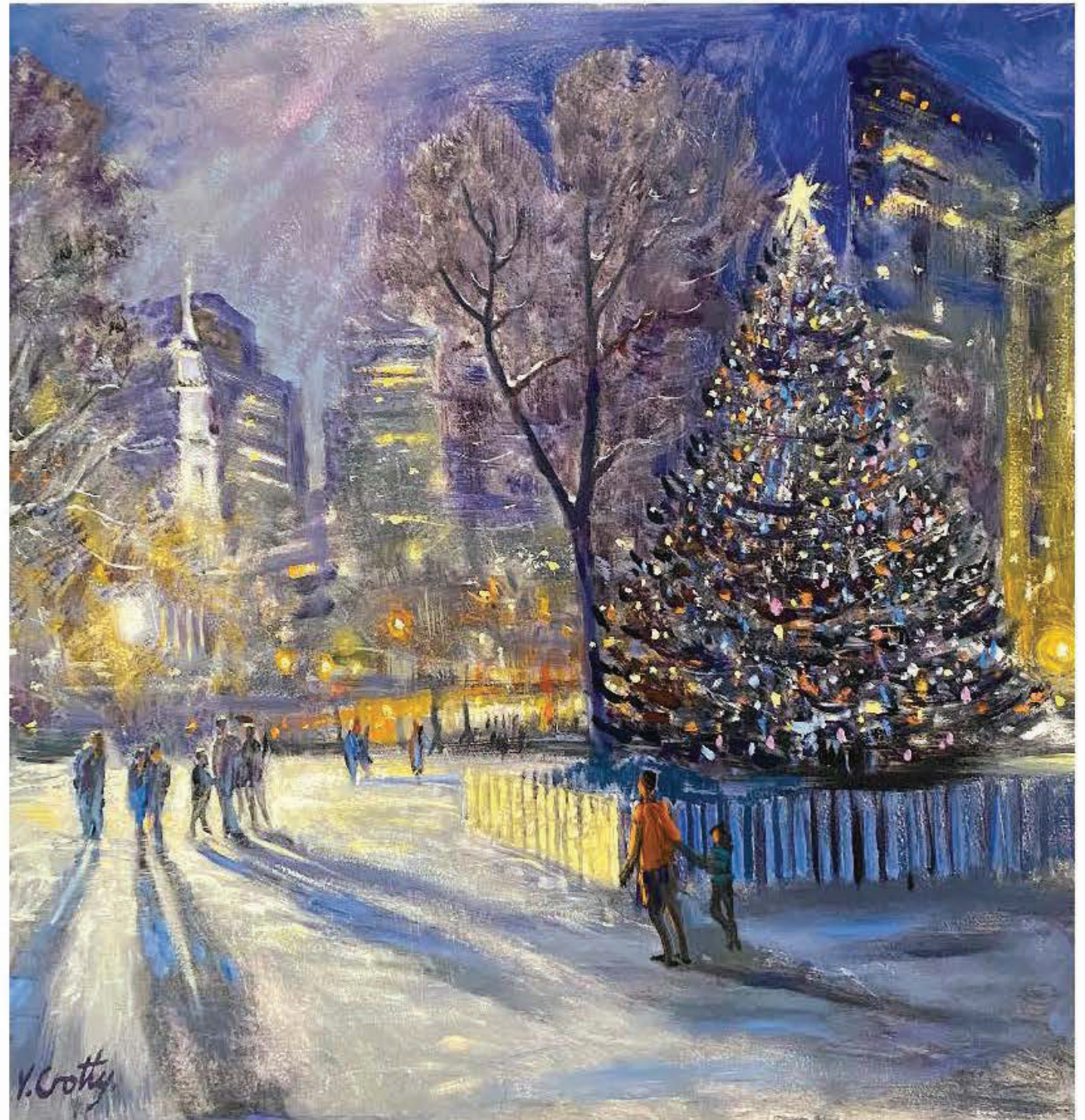
IT'S ZOOM TIME BY IRISH MUSIC CIRCLES - The musicians have become actors during this extraordinary pandemic. Boston Irish's team took a peek at the scenes, and asks what the revival will look like. Page 18. Painting created for Boston Irish by Vincent Crotty

BOSTON IRISH

Vol. 1, Issue 4

Winter 2020

BostonIrish.com



Boston Common at Christmastime.

Original painting by Vincent Crotty

Online at BostonIrish.com

Oct. 25, 2024

Boston Irish Honors

Page 22

Pictured here are our original works by Vincent Crotty that graced the covers of Boston Irish Magazine during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic

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Introducing the Edward W. Forry and Mary Casey Forry Foundation for Community Journalism

New non-profit salutes legacy of The Reporter's co-founders and trains young reporters

Today, we are pleased to announce the creation of a new charitable foundation that seeks to honor the legacy of our co-founders—Ed Forry and Mary Casey Forry— by strengthening and extending the mission of community journalism in Boston's neighborhoods and beyond.

The newly named Edward W. Forry and Mary Casey Forry Foundation for Community Journalism will build on the work of the Forry family and the Reporter newspapers that have been an essential source of well-reported news and opinion in Boston for more than 40 years. The foundation will support young journalists in their training and education and provide an entryway into careers in media here in the city of Boston.

The foundation is particularly committed to creating a pipeline of talent from the neighborhoods of Boston, which have been the focus of the Forry family's work since Ed and Mary launched The Reporter from their Dorchester home in 1983.

The foundation's launch is timed— in part— to honor

Ed Forry, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this year.

"In some form or fashion, Ed Forry has been working in the local news business since he set up an amateur radio transmitter in his Dorchester basement at age 15 to tell his neighbors what he saw going on in his community," said Bill Forry, the executive editor and co-publisher of The Reporter.

"Long before he and Mary started The Reporter and the Boston Irish project, he was writing columns and news stories in weekly newspapers in Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, and South Boston. His unrelenting dedication to covering the neighborhoods of the city has created a path for dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people to follow that journey, too. We would like to keep that going for years to come – and this foundation will be a perfect vehicle to make that possible."

Mary Casey Forry passed away in 2004 and a charitable foundation was set up in her name at that time to support the work of hospice care in and around Boston. The

new foundation, which now includes Ed's name in its title, will continue to support hospice care efforts, but will expand its scope into the journalism space.

"The Ed and Mary Forry Foundation will be devoted to the idea that was really at the root of our parents when they conceived of The Reporter back in 1983: That the stories of our communities deserve to be better told and that the people who live here are best equipped to do that themselves" said Maureen Forry-Sorrell, Ed and Mary's daughter.

A portion of the funds raised by the non-profit entity will assist in paying for the costs of news gathering and will also fund a scholarship in Ed and Mary's name to support young Bostonians interested in a journalism career in their studies.

The foundation will also partner with local schools and institutions to recruit and train aspiring journalists in city neighborhoods.

More information on the Ed and Mary Casey Forry Foundation will be released in the coming weeks.



Above, Mary Casey Forry and Ed Forry are shown in a photo circa 1983. The couple launched their first publication The Reporter that year from their home in Dorchester. In 1990, they expanded their work to include Boston Irish Reporter, a monthly newspaper that now exists as BostonIrish, a quarterly magazine and daily online news hub for Irish culture, news, and opinion. The re-organized foundation that bears their name will fund news gathering for Boston neighborhoods and train young journalists from the city as well. The non-profit will also seek to promote literacy among young readers.



Above, the Forry family is shown with two Boston Irish Honorees from 2023, the celebrated Cork-born artist Vincent Crotty and his spouse, the talented dancer and instructor Kieran Jordan. Pictured from left: Ed Forry, Vincent Crotty, Kieran Jordan, Maureen Forry-Sorrell, Bill Forry, and Hon. Linda Dorcena Forry.

Margaret Brett Hastings photo

BOSTON COLLEGE MAGAZINE



The team behind Boston Irish and the Dorchester Reporter were featured in the Summer 2024 edition of Boston College Magazine. The article and photo spread focused on the BC pedigrees of from left, Ed Forry, Linda and Bill Forry, and associate editor Tom Mulvoy.

"A group of Eagles running the Dorchester Reporter are a model for community news publications launching all over the country," reads one of the story's headline.

The full article "Making Headlines," written by Mulvoy, is available to read online at bc.edu.

Photo courtesy Boston College Magazine

Local news advocate Press Forward awards \$100k grant to The Reporter

The Dorchester Reporter — a sister publication to Boston Irish— has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from Press Forward,

Press Forward >> a national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. The Reporter is one of 205 grantees selected in the organization's "Open Call on Closing Local Coverage Gaps."

Press Forward is a coalition of funders that is investing more than \$500 million to strengthen local newsrooms, close longstanding gaps in journalism coverage, advance public policy that expands access to local news, and scale the infrastructure the sector needs to thrive. The Reporter intends to use the funding to fund additional reporting in Boston's neighborhoods and to improve the news organization's digital presentation.

"We are thrilled to be part of Press Forward's inaugural class of grantees, which include news organizations in all 50

states, Puerto Rico, and Guam," said Bill Forry, The Reporter's co-publisher and executive editor. "This award is a validation of the exceptional work done over the last four decades by The Reporter's team of journalists, editors, and staff.

"It's also a big boost for our ongoing plan to provide timely, insightful, and well-documented information to our readership in the city of Boston and beyond. We are grateful to the Press Forward team and The Miami Foundation for their support of local news across the nation— and particularly here in our communities."

Other Massachusetts-based grantees included Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism, The Boston Korea, El Planeta, Anchor Media, and The Scope at BU.

The public can join in supporting local newsrooms across the country by donating to the Press Forward Pooled Fund. Every dollar, up to \$5 million, will be matched to support newsrooms across the U.S. Learn more at pressforward.news/grantees.

We're proud

to support the Boston Irish Honors. Our congratulations to all the honorees.



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