For Immediate Release!

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**HIBERNIANS ANNOUNCE 2020 MAURICE A. DONAHUE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians James A. Curran Division One (A.O.H.) and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two (L.A.O.H.) of Hampden/Hampshire Counties have chosen three area students to receive the 2020 Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship. Scholarship Chairperson Paul O. Mengel has released the decision of the committee: Kathleen Beliveau of West Springfield; Julia Pratt of South Hadley and Katherine Taylor of Southampton. Mengel states “that these young people are exceptional students and proven school leaders who are determined to give back to the community. I wish them every success in the future.”

The Hibernians are committed to preserving the legacy of the late Massachusetts State Senate President, educator and fellow Hibernian Maurice A. Donahue to encourage young people to pursue Higher Education. The Institute for Governmental Services at the University of Massachusetts now the Donahue Institute for Governmental Services was created in the 1970’s by Donahue and Dr. Arthur Eve, a faculty member at UMASS School of Education. According to the Institute’s website: over the past decade the Institute has sponsored and coordinated civic and international education programs, worked on early childhood initiatives and assumed a central role in the Massachusetts STEM initiative(STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) The STEM initiative seeks to encourage young people to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The website goes on to say that the Institute was named after Donahue because he was a legislator of uncommon integrity who helped to shape the state’s higher education landscape…. The continued growth and dynamic service of the Donahue Institute today and into the future continue to be a testament to the dedication and vision of Maurice A. Donahue and Arthur Eve.”

Katherine Beliveau, daughter of Scott and Joanne Beliveau of West Springfield attended West Springfield High School and will attend Springfield College. She was nominated by her Grandmother Barbara Gaughan, and is committed to community service. She has incorporated Maurice A. Donahue’s philosophy in her life’s goals: “Let us place ourselves in the shoes of the less fortunate and determine humanely what we must do and do it.”

Julia Pratt, daughter of David and Karla Pratt of South Hadley attended South Hadley High School and will attend the University of Rhode Island to major in speech pathology. She was nominated by her Grandmother Judy Pratt. Besides contributing her energies to the school community at South Hadley High, she continued to volunteer during the holidays with the Holyoke Police Department’s Christmas Toy Drive.

Katherine Taylor, daughter of Mark and Judy Taylor of Southampton attended Hampshire Regional High School and will attend St. Anselm’s College. She was nominated by her Grandfather George Cauley. Katherine is very involved in her community with the weekend meals program, the Northampton Survival Center Soup Kitchen and YMCA- Rise Against Hunger Program in Easthampton to name a few.

The monies for this year’s scholarships were raised at our annual “Irish Night in Holyoke”, a sell-out crowd at the Log Cabin in Holyoke in February- an Irish Cultural Event featuring a corned beef dinner, along with Irish music, bagpipes and dancing. The successful night prompted A.O. H. President Paul Hogan to enthusiastically say: “I recognize the hard work of the members of the L.O.A.H. and the A.O.H. and because of their tireless efforts and continued generosity and support, I am proud to call myself a Hibernian.”

Since February, much has changed in the world and for the Hibernian’s yearly calendar due to the abundance of caution needed during the corona virus pandemic. The L.A.O.H. Quilt fundraising was cut short due to event cancellations. Though the Hibernian Annual Communion Breakfast was postponed, the group looks forward to a new date to award the Christian Charity Award to Sr. Joan Magnani, SSJ , the Executive Director of the Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults at Jericho in Holyoke. The Hibernian Annual Picnic at Hamel’s Summit House had to be cancelled. The A.O. H. can be reached by calling President Paul Hogan at 413-210-1416 or L.A.O.H. President Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031 or the website at aoh-holyoke.com. The Hibernian public relations Chairperson Francis X. Hennessey sends a positive message of hope for the future and urges the community to “hold onto the fond memories of times past, and be determined to create even better times.”