For Immediate Release!

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Three Area Students to Receive the Hibernian 2021 Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship

The Ancient Order of Hibernians James A. Curran Division One and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden/Hampshire Counties have chosen three area students to receive the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship for 2021. Area students selected are Ethan Dupont, Holyoke; Catherine Morrissey, Westfield, and Aidan Sullivan, Holyoke. Hibernian Scholarship Chairperson Paul O. Mengel , recently released a statement on the students chosen: “These are three bright hard-working students who are extremely proud of their Irish heritage. They genuinely represent the values of scholarship and community service advanced by Maurice A. Donahue, for whom the scholarship is named. They are truly deserving of these awards.” Each student will receive a $1,000 scholarship, according to Mengel.

This past March due to Covid 19 restrictions at indoor venues, Mary and Joe O’Connor of Holyoke and their committee raised the money to benefit the scholarship by sponsoring a take- out traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner (“Irish Night A Go Go”) prepared by the Log Cabin, Holyoke.

Ethan Dupont, son of Mark and Cheryl Dupont of Holyoke attended Holyoke High School and will attend Massachusetts College of Arts and Design in Boston where he hopes to attain a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in communication design. He was nominated for the scholarship by his mother Cheryl Dupont (LAOH). Ethan worked for several years at the Wherehouse? on the Hibernian Irish Night alongside AOH President Paul Hogan and friend Charlie Popp and expressed a sadness at their recent passing.

Catherine Morrissey, daughter of John and Mary Morrissey of Westfield, attended Westfield High School and will attend Fairfield University in Fairfield Ct. She was nominated by her Grandfather George Cauley (AOH). She echoed the words of the late Mayor Martin Dunn about Maurice Donahue: “He dedicated his life to helping other people and making his community a better place to live.” Catherine plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Aidan Sullivan, son of Michael and Wendy Sullivan of Holyoke, attended Holyoke High will attend AIC College in Springfield, Mass. Aidan volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House. He was nominated by his mother Wendy Sullivan (LAOH). Aidan was happy to receive the scholarship so that he can concentrate on his studies so he will be in the best position to succeed.

Locally, the Hibernians helped Irish Immigrants assimilate in America- AOH was founded in Holyoke in 1880 and the Ladies Order was founded in Holyoke in 1897. As a National Organization, with Divisions in 42 states, the Hibernians were founded in New York City on May 4, 1836. Today, the club’s mission is to: promote Friendship, Unity ,and True Christian Charity amongst its members; encourage Civic mindedness; promote loyalty to country and community; promote Irish Culture, and Are a Voice for Ireland.

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship is for a child or grandchild of current AOH/LAOH member in good standing. Besides the scholarship, the Hibernians serve and prepare meals at Kates Kitchen every 6 weeks; create floats for Holyoke St Patrick’s Parade and assist with the Road Race. For more information, go to our website aoh-holyoke.com or contact AOH President Patrick Hogan at phogan413@gmail.com or LAOH President Paula Paoli at paula5412@comcast.net.