

2010 OBITUARIES

December

Irene Finnerty Hearn was born in Glendale on 21st October 1932 and passed on 11th December 2010. Irene fought a lengthy battle with cancer. She was very supportive of everything Irish. Irene is survived by her daughter Mary Elizabeth and sons William and Robert. The funeral mass was at Incarnation Church, Glendale and internment at San Fernando Mission Cemetery.

November

Michael Joseph (Joe) O'Brien was born in Dublin on 1st September 1925 and passed, surrounded by his family, on 28th November 2010 in La Palma, So. California. Joe was raised in Sandymount, Dublin. He met his wife Catherine (Kitty) Coates of Ringsend there. The 18th October 1950 was a memorable day in the lives of the O'Brien and Coates families. On that day Joe and Kitty got married and then emigrated to Canada to be begin their life together. In 1954 the young couple moved to California. During their fifty four years of marriage they visited the land of their birth, seventeen times. Kitty, often remarked " you can take the man out of Ireland, but you cannot take Ireland out of the man " Kitty O'Brien passed on 12th January 2005. Joe and Kitty O'Brien are together again in their grave in Huntington Beach. Joe and Kitty are survived by one daughter Marie (Robert) Jones in Buena Park; three sons: William (Susan) in Dana Point, Michael (Cindy) in Buena Park and Dennis (Kathy) in Brea; five grandchildren: Michael Joseph, Kelly Catherine, Dennis Robert, Sean Michael and Kyle William; sister Mary Leamy in Dublin; two brothers: William O'Brien in Dublin and Francis O'Brien in Wigan, England; and several nieces and nephews in Ireland, England and the USA.

October

Henry John Cusack was born in Sixmilebridge, Co Clare on 20th July 1926 and passed away on 21st October 2010 in Inglewood, California. "Harry" grew up in County Kildare having moved there at the age of seven with his family. Harry's father was a Garda. After completing his Primary and Secondary education in Kildare, he moved to London to attend College. In January 1960 Harry married the love of his life, Breeda O'Sullivan from Farranfore, Co Kerry. They came to this country in 1965. Harry & Breeda participated in and supported Irish cultural groups in Los Angeles, including Irish Ethos, Irish Dance etc. Their main focus became the Irish language. For many years they discussed and taught Gaelic at the Irish Fair. Harry and Breeda taught a weekly Gaelic class until Harry got very ill. In 1988 Breeda was honoured by Los Angeles City Council for her dedication to Irish Culture here in Southern California. Harry is survived by his wife Breeda; three brothers, Michael in Westchester, Fintan in England and Oliver in Kildare; four sisters Sheila and Mary in Kildare, Catherine and Carmel in England; his brother in law, sisters in law, and several nieces and nephews.

Mary Ward Kilroy, aged 79, was born in East Liverpool, Ohio and passed away in the city of Orange on 18th October 2010. She joins her beloved son Tim who predeceased her in 1997. Mary is survived by her husband Jim; daughter Kathleen; sons John, Patrick, Jim Jr and Michael and eight grandchildren. Donations in Mary Kilroy's name to the Millcreek Children's Center, 44 Essex Street, Youngstown. OH 44502.

Dublin born **Ernie Kinsella** passed away on Sunday 17th October 2010. A memorial mass will take place at 12 noon on Saturday 23rd October at St Francis De Sales Church, 13360 Valleyheart Dr, Sherman Oaks. Ca 91423. (Fulton and Moorpark are the main cross streets).

September

Monsignor John Virgilius Sheridan was born in Carrickmaquirk, Co Longford on 19th December 1915 and passed away on 17th September 2010 at UCLA Medical Center following injuries sustained in an auto accident on 25th August. Msgr John was a member of the first theology class to attend the newly opened St John's Seminary in 1939 and was ordained on 27th April 1943. Msgr John was a regular speaker on two national radio shows: "Hour of Faith" and "The Catholic Hour" Msgr Sheridan served as director of the Catholic Information Center in downtown Los Angeles. He was the first Catholic priest in the L A area to speak in Protestant churches. He wrote a question and answer column in The Tidings and Our Sunday Visitor. Msgr Sheridan authored articles, short stories, poetry and fourteen books. He served as pastor at Our Lady of Malibu from 1965-1990. Msgr Sheridan is survived in Ireland by his brother Thomas and sister Kathleen Galligan and several nephews and nieces. Predeceased by three brothers and one sister: Senator Joseph Sheridan, Father Farrell Sheridan, Father Patrick Sheridan and Sister M. Aquinas Sheridan.

Joseph Richard McNicholl passed away in Long Beach on 17th September 2010 after a courageous battle against cancer. "Dick" McNicholl was born in Belfast on 9th December 1943. He came to this country in 1968. Carol and Dick were married in 1969. Dick became a U S citizen in 1973 which was one of the most memorable events in his life. A carpenter, Dick worked for the public works department in the city of Long Beach for seven years before becoming a building inspector in 1980. He retired in 2003 as the chief building inspector in the city of Long Beach. Dick McNicholl is survived by his wife Carol; daughters Beverly and Christine; son Steven; sister Marie; brother Tom (Irene) McNicholl; niece Anne; nephews Patrick and Rodrick and brother in law, Joe.

Sister Gretta (Wilfrid) Stewart aged 94, passed away in Orange on 8th September 2010 which was the 75th anniversary of her religious profession. Sister was born in Co Galway, one of ten children. She entered the Sacred Heart of Mary Congregation in Tarrytown, New York in 1933. Sr Gretta spent many years as a teacher or principal in schools in New York, Africa and California. After 42 years in education she answered a missionary call and worked with Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in Mexico and Honduras. Sister Gretta is survived by one brother and two sisters: Frank Mairin in Ireland and Sister Vianney, RSHM, and Sister Eileen, MSHR.

August

Sister Mary Campbell, a Sister of St Louis, was killed instantly in a single car accident on 25th August 2010. Sister was a back seat passenger. The driver of the car was the U S Ambassador to Malta, Douglas Kmiec and Monsignor John Sheridan was a front seat passenger. The Ambassador and Sister Mary were both seriously injured but are recovering. The three had attended a 60th anniversary celebration of the Sisters of St Louis at Louisville Convent in Woodland Hills. Sister Mary was born 28th November 1935 in Kiltimagh, Co Mayo. She entered religious life in 1959. Sister Campbell was involved in Our Lady of Malibu School for over 25 years as a teacher and principal. Since 2003 sister was in pastoral ministry at the parish. Sister Campbell is survived by four sisters--Peggy Rowley, Nancy Drew, Noreen Clarke and Sister of St Louis, Zelie Campbell; five brothers--James, Frank, Ray, Paddy and Noel Campbell; sisters in law; brothers in law; nieces; nephews and her entire family of the Sisters of St Louis.

Eileen T.Mackey died on August 24th, 2010. She was born in Birkenhead, England on July 29, 1919 to Delia & Patrick Lowe. She was the second of four girls. The family migrated to the US (when Eileen was 10) and settled in Chicago. In 1941 she married Donald Mackey. The family moved to Burbank in 1951 where Don worked for Lockheed until he retired. Don Mackey died in 1980. She was a resident at Vintage Senior Living in Simi Valley for the past four years. She is survived by her three daughters, Delia Rudiger of Simi Valley, Barbara Carlson of Sun Valley, Cecelia Varosy of Rancho Santa Margarita, 7 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Eileen is interred at San Fernando Mission

July

Paul McErlane passed away on 17th July 2010. Paul was born in Toomebridge, Co Antrim on 12th September 1934. He was the youngest of six brothers and three sisters. Paul emigrated to Canada in 1956 and came to Southern California in 1959. He and his wife Kathy were the proud parents of three sons and one daughter. As a young man Paul boxed, played soccer and gaelic football. Later in life golf was his sport. For years, Paul was very active with the Emerald Isle club which was based in Huntington Park. In 2008, the oldest child, Steven preceded him in death. He is survived by daughter, Carolyn (Jeff) Clingan in Placentia and sons Aaron and Sean; grandchildren Timothy, Molly and Emily Clingan, and Carrin McErlane; brother Aaron (Agnes) McErlane in Downey; sisters Moya Totten in England and Paddy Thompson in Randalstown; and several nephews and nieces in California, England and Ireland.

May

Father Michael Collins was born on 29th June 1918 in Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick and passed on 6th May 2010. Father Collins was ordained a priest on 3rd June 1943 at All Hallows, Carlow. The Funeral Mass took place at Saint Barbara Church, Santa Ana on 13th May 2010 with internment at Good Shepherd, Huntington Beach.

April

James Gabriel "Shay" Duffin was born in Dublin on 26th February 1931 and passed on 23rd April 2010 in Los Angeles. Shay was predeceased by his beloved wife Margaret. Shay was best known for his one-man shows. Shay started his career as a teenager, singing in Irish pubs. In the early 1960s he moved to Canada, where he spent five years with an all-Irish theatrical company. Shay also had a lovely voice, and he recorded several albums as an Irish folk singer. His two one-man shows, Brendan Behan: Confessions of an Irish Rebel and The importance of being Irish won him the Best Actor award from Critics' Circles in several major American and Canadian cities. Shay's film credits include Raging Bull with Robert DeNiro, The Main Event with Barbara Streisand, Head Above Water with Harvey Keitel, Seabiscuit, Beowolf, The Departed and Titanic. Mr Duffin's many television appearances included roles on Star Trek, The Next Generation, Murder She Wrote and Law and Order. Shay Duffin--Stage, film and television actor, musician and writer, passed away in Los Angeles on 23rd April 2010. He is survived by his four daughters Ruth, Laura, Linda and Susan; and his two grandchildren Adam and Alexandra

Peter Eugene Leonard passed away in Mission Viejo on 6th April 2010. He was born in Tubbercurry on 28th June 1937. Peter is survived by his wife Noleen; daughter Patricia (David) Loyd; sons David and Gary Leonard; brother Pearse Leonard; sister Maura King and Maeve Loughnane; granddaughters Julia and Cate Loyd

Veronica Jean Curtis was born on 10th July 1931 in Galway and was a longtime resident of Solana Beach, California. Vera came to this country in 1950 as a flight attendant and met her future husband, Bill Curtis, who predeceased her in 1985. On 1st April 2010 Vera Curtis passed away in San Diego. Vera is survived by her four children: Sean, Derek (Laura), Meg (Tim) and Barbara (David); her two sisters Kitt and Anne; and her five grandchildren; Conor, Timmy, Brendan, Chloe and Kent. The memorial mass took place at St James Church in Solana Beach.

March

James Sheridan was born in Co Mayo in 1922 and passed on 3rd March 2010 in Duarte. He was preceded in death by Rose Sheridan, his wife of 49 years. Jim is survived by sons, Patrick Sheridan of La Quinta and John Sheridan of Alhambra; daughters Rosemarie Snoke of Glendora and Eileen Wibbeke of San Diego; two granddaughters Erin and Claire Snoke; Brother Martin Sheridan AFSC in Ireland; and two sisters--Mae Curtin in Canada and Delia Ruddy in Ireland. The Funeral Mass took place at St Therese Church, Alhambra.

February

John William Hart, "Johnny", was born in Los Angeles on 20th October 1928 and passed on 18th February 2010. Soon after graduating from Mount Carmel High School in 1946, Johnny joined the Navy serving our country during the Korean war. On 22nd February 1957 Johnny married Kathleen O'Connell from County Leitrim. Johnny retired in 1985 from the Marshall's Department--now known as part of the Sheriff's Department. Johnny enjoyed hunting, fishing and all water sports especially at/on the Colorado River. Johnny was a kind gentleman always willing to help. He is survived by his wife Kathleen; sons Robert and Michael; a grandchild, Tiffany and two great grandchildren Sierra and Brooks. Johnny has joined his parents, Byron and Collette and his brother Joseph in heaven. Joseph passed in March 2008. Two brothers, John and Joseph, born in Los Angeles married two sisters, Kathleen and Mary Ellen O'Connell, from County Leitrim.

Sister Philomena Cassidy was born in Banbridge town in Co Down in 1931 and passed on 14th February 2010. She joined the Sisters of St Louis in 1949. After arriving here Sister Philomena taught for 28 years in California including St Bede's, La Canada; Our Lady of Refuge, Long Beach; St Anthony Claret, Anaheim and Holy Name of Mary San Dimas. She also served as Director of Religious Education in Holy Name of Mary, San Dimas for 17 years and one year as Pastoral Associate. Sister Philomena is mourned by the Sisters of St Louis; her brother Ted Cassidy; her sister in law, Una; nephews Brian and Paul; nieces Nuala and Helen and many, many friends.

Thomas Francis Manning, Jr (Tom Manning, AKA The Poor Man's Friend) of Granada Hills, CA passed away on February 5, 2010 of pulmonary fibrosis. He was the beloved dad of Christine O'Shaunnessy (Chrissie Manning), Mary Schumacher and Shelagh Manning and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Tom was a great friend to all who knew him, especially in his work as an independent paralegal during the last decade of his life. He was an ex-Navy sub vet, a singer and lover of Irish folk music, an avid sailor of his boat "Mavourneen", and an active member of his lodges - The Burbank Moose, The VFW and The American Legion. He was also an Elk, a Hibernian and a Mason. Tom, Irish-American originally from Worcester MA, was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Peter David King, fondly known as "Pete", was born on 29th June 1951 and passed on 5th February 2010. Pete was in a tragic motor cycle accident in October 2008 when his lovely 24 year old daughter was killed and he sustained brain damage. Pete is survived by his wife of 35 years, Rose Cox King; his children , Patsy and Shayne Wright; Amber and Zach Presnall; Peter King Jr and Sgt Logan King, (serving in Iraq);grandchildren Gavin, Tanner and Emma Wright, Ava and Cole Presnall; his mother Patricia King; sisters Melody Chasen, Angela, Rosie, Joy, Evelyn and Kelly King; brothers Tom, John and Bob King; While the King and Cox families have grieved, and still are grieving the loss of Katie, Pete, with his damaged brain, found it extremely difficult to accept. It has been a long and painful time for Pete but he is finally at peace.

January

Patricia Mary Murray was born in Belfast on 30th March 1930 and passed on 17th January 2010. She joins her beloved husband John from Belfast who passed on 29th August 2008. John & Pat were married in Toronto in 1954. Speculation says that after John welcomed Pat to heaven that she asked for a cup of Irish tea adding "make sure the water is boiling hot" The Murrays were extremely well known for their dedication to Irish dancing, Irish Dance competition --Feis and the Irish Fair. John & Pat are mourned by their son Gerard; daughter Anne Marie & husband John Powers: and their grandsons Colin and Scott.