

## 2015 OBITUARIES

### December

**Rick Cluchey**, renowned actor, director, playwright and disciple of Samuel Beckett, passed away peacefully on Dec. 28th at St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica with family at his side, after a brave fight with complications from Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, and Emphysema.

Celebration of Life will be on Monday, January 18th at 11am at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 10750 Ohio Ave., L.A. 90024. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Jameson Cluchey Scholarship Fund.

Beloved husband of Nora Masterson Cluchey, beloved father to sons Rick, Louis, and Jameson, and daughter Maya Cluchey Carroll. Rick is also survived by sisters Lynn and June and several nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews in the Chicago area.

Rick led a life of many paths. His personal story of an upbringing in difficult circumstances, his youthful involvement in crime, and imprisonment in San Quentin for 12 years was followed by a Phoenix like rise above such adverse circumstances through dedication as a sacristan in the prison chapel, reading, writing, acting, and directing, and founding the San Quentin Drama Workshop as a form of rehabilitation. It merits a fitting description as a triumph of the human spirit. Rick turned a sentence of Life Without Possibility of Parole into a parole granted by former Governor Pat Brown (with much encouragement from priests at the prison chapel) and a pardon by Governor Jerry Brown, which was given to Rick while he was working with Samuel Beckett, the renowned Irish writer. Beckett was captivated by the triumph of Rick's spirit, and helped to continue Cluchey's development in his different theatrical areas by his continued financial and moral support.

**David Michael Booth** was born in Los Angeles on 22nd December 1931 and passed away on 26th December 2015. David and Mary Higgins were married in 1951. David served our country during the Korean Conflict as a marine. He was a fourth degree Knights of Columbus and a member of the Serra Club. David was an engineer employed for thirty eight years by Fluor Corporation. David was predeceased by his wife, Mary, in 2008. Survived by two daughters: Catherine (Jeff) Iversen and Margaret Struss; and son Michael Booth and sisters in law Noreen Higgins Masterson and Kathleen Higgins Barela. Also survived by four grandchildren: Kellyann and David Iversen; and Brendan and Daniel Struss. Services took place in Holy Family Cathedral in Orange

### November

**Michael Joseph Courtney** was born in Motherwell, Scotland on 1st June 1928 and passed away here on 26th November 2015. His mom and dad were both born in Ireland. When Joe was seven years old the family moved to England. Joseph met his Margaret, who was born in Yorkshire, in 1953. They married on the 17th December in 1955. The young married couple arrived in Los Angeles in 1957. Joe was a mechanical engineer. His hobbies included Irish music and Model A Cars. He loved playing the accordion. Michael Joseph Courtney is survived by his wife, Margaret in Sylmar. No services.

**Michael (Mickey) Doherty** of North Hollywood passed away on Friday November 13, 2015. He was born January 16, 1928 in a townland known as Urrismana, in the parish of Clonmany, in County Donegal, Ireland. Mickey was the son of Daniel and Mary Doherty.

He grew up on a farm and would remain there through the World War II years. Soon after, he followed some of his brothers to England looking for work. While he did find employment, he did not find satisfaction. He looked to the west for a place to settle. In December 1949, he sailed to America aboard the Queen Elizabeth. As many young Irish did, he landed in Boston and planned to start a life there. In 1950 he was drafted into and served honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War. After his discharge, he returned to Boston. While in Boston, he became reacquainted with Kathleen McEleny who was also from Clonmany. They had been previously met because Mickey was the best man at his brother Roger's wedding. The bride was Kathleen's sister Frances. Finding the Boston winters too oppressive, Mickey and Kathleen moved to sunny California. In September 1956 the couple married in Los Angeles. They settled in the San Fernando Valley in 1965 and raised four boys.

Mickey was the proprietor of Doherty's Tree Service for over 50 years. He helped many Irish immigrants by providing them their first jobs in the United States.

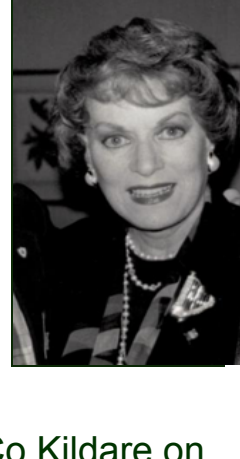
Mickey was active in the Irish community in Southern California. He was a fixture at Irish Football games played in Los Angeles and could generally be found at most Irish functions in the area. He was an active supporter of the Columban Fathers Missionary Order and tirelessly supported their fund raising activities throughout the years. He also provided maintenance support at the Columban Father Residence on Vermont Street for many years.

He is pre-deceased by 13 of his 14 brothers and sisters. His is also pre-deceased by his son Michael (Pauline). His survivors include his wife, Kathleen, his brother Edward (Mary), and his other sons, Daniel (Majella), John (Patty), and Michael (Kathie). He leaves as his gift to the world, his nine grandchildren, Kieran (Brie), Brian, Sean, Maijela, Michael Edward, Patrick Anthony, Patrick, Kathleen, and Bridget.

His life was celebrated at a Funeral Mass held on November 20, 2015 followed by burial at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. Rev. Fr. David Loftus (Mayo) was the celebrant

### October

**Maureen FitzSimons** was born in Dublin on 17th August 1920. FitzSimons studied music and dancing from a young age and enrolled in Dublin's Abbey Theatre School at the age of fourteen. She came to Hollywood for a screen test in 1938. Actor Charles Laughton in Hollywood insisted that her last name be changed to O'Hara. At the age of eighteen and forever more she became known as Maureen O'Hara. The world famous actress passed away on the 24th October in Boise, Idaho where her grandson resides. Maureen O'Hara made more than fifty movies and was the star in several of them. Who hasn't seen "The Quiet Man" or "Miracle on 34th Street" or "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"? In addition to her grandson in Boise Maureen O'Hara is survived by her daughter Bronwyn FitzSimons and two grandchildren in Ireland.



**Celia Murray Kilgallon "Mam"** was born in Belmullet, Co Mayo in February 1921 and passed away in Sallins, Co Kildare on 24th October 2015. Celia is survived by six daughters: Mary Dempsey (Covina), Nancy, Sheila, Eileen, Bernadette and Breda; four sons: Tom, Eamonn, Paddy and Martin; eighteen grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Services were held at St Brigid's Church, Kill and burial in Bodenstown Cemetery.

Eist moran agus can beagan! Hear much and say little! "Mam" was born four months before the end of the Irish civil war and has lived to see the history of modern Ireland first hand. In some respects her life reflects that of many of her contemporaries and in other aspects it is a life that stands apart. Born on the last day of February 1921 on the edge of Blacksood Bay to the family of Edward and Mary (nee Mills) Murray, Celia one of five girls and one boy Mary-Kate, Bridgie, Celia, Eileen, Nancy and Martin. Living on a small holding in the beautiful setting of Bar na Tra beach may, at a distance of some almost 95years, sound idyllic but, the migration of the family to the Rath, County Meath, in 1943 speaks volumes of the hope for a better life of Edward and Mary for themselves and their children. Mam, however, was not long for the Rath as, she soon met our father, Paddy Kilgallon, and in 1946 they married and settled in Sherlockstown near Sallins, Co Kildare where they farmed. Ten children, Mary, Nancy, Sheila, Tom, Eamonn, Paddy, Martin, Eileen, Bernadette and Breda were born to Paddy and Celia. The farm, though not substantial, provided for the family. Milk, butter, eggs, chicken, pork and bacon, vegetables and fruits, homemade bread, scones and tarts fed the family. Her skills with needle and thread kept us clothed and her ability to tell a story kept us and ultimately our children captivated. I imagine Mam gets a great kick out of hearing stories of Ireland's new found environment-talism and the demand for safer, healthier and even organic food; isn't that what she was at for years! the language is not unsurprising given where she spent the early years of her life. But her turn to Irish at times of happiness and sadness suggests the link that the language gives her to people, events and places. How frequently do we all remember the tears of laughter rolling down Mam's face as she passed from working in her kitchen to deliver a lyrical, melodious and wittingly devastating one liner that would leave you speechless?

**Brian Patrick Friel** was born in Omagh, Co Tyrone on 9th January 1929 and passed away in his home at Greencastle, Co Donegal on 2nd October 2015. Brian Friel was an Irish dramatist short story writer and co-founder with actor Stephen Rea of the Field Day Theatre Company. He was considered one of the greatest English language dramatists. The English speaking world hailed him as the Irish Chekhov. Brian Friel was a Tony Award winning author of Dancing at Lughnasa. Other famous works of Brian Friel include "Faith Healer" and "Philadelphia, Here I Come" The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins said Friel was "one of the giants of Irish literature, and a great Irishman" Brian Friel is survived by his wife Anne , three daughters and a son.

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