



# CITY OF WATERLOO, IOWA

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November 4, 2022

Mr. Denis J. Buckley, International President  
Irish in Europe Association  
Brussels, Belgium

RE: IRISH IN EUROPE REMEMBRANCE SATURDAY COMMEMORATION

Dear Mr. Buckley:

On behalf of the citizens of Waterloo, Iowa, please accept our warm greetings!

The Five Sullivan Brothers answered the call to duty, putting freedom and liberty before self and they paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Sullivan family holds a special place in our citizens' hearts as well as the nation and world. Waterloo is proud of her native sons and their contributions to world peace. The Sullivan's parents devoted their lives to the war effort. Their sister, Genevieve, served in World War II as well. We are eternally grateful for their service.

In August each year the Iowa Irish Fest is held in Waterloo. This year's celebration honored the Sullivans marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the Juneau. Waterloo hosted veterans and current crew of the two Navy ships named *USS The Sullivans* (DD-537 and DD-68). Also present were sailors from the new *USS Iowa* submarine. This was the result of the efforts of Kelly Sullivan, granddaughter and grandniece of the Sullivan brothers. Kelley is the official Navy sponsor of the DDG-68.

Kelly's father, Jim Sullivan, is Albert's son, in his early 80's, and still lives in Waterloo. Jim is a Navy veteran himself and retired electrician for the City of Waterloo. Kelly's brother, John, lives in Kansas City. Genevieve Sullivan Davidson, the Sullivan brothers' sister, is deceased, but she and her husband Murray had two sons, Murray and Tom Davidson who live in Waterloo. Albert's widow, Katherine, died in 2016.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day in the U.S. Waterloo's Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum is hosting *Service and Sacrifice: Remembering the USS Juneau and the Five Sullivan Brothers*. A video about the Sullivans will be shown, Kelly Sullivan will speak about the significance of the anniversary, and three living history presentations will be offered relating to the Sullivan Brothers.

CITY WEBSITE: [www.cityofwaterlooiowa.com](http://www.cityofwaterlooiowa.com)

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The following is a poem written by Eugene E. Grollmes, who, at the time of publishing, was assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences at St. Louis University. The poem was read for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Five Sullivan Brothers in 1992:

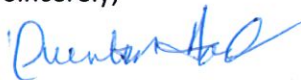
***To the Five Sullivan Brothers: A Commemoration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Their Death***

*Gunner's Mate Second Class George Thomas Sullivan  
Coxswain Francis Henry Sullivan  
Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Joseph Eugene Sullivan  
Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Madison Abel Sullivan  
Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Albert Leo Sullivan*

*Your names still roll like thunder  
Fifty years after the morning that dawn broke...  
But not nearly as bright as the  
Juneau exploding, splitting in two,  
Sinking in seconds, off the shores of  
Guadalcanal—before any of you could be  
Saved. The nation shuddered. The Navy declared,  
"It will never happen again." As your  
parents asked, "Which one?"—of the  
Naval officer standing on the porch who  
Responded, "All five." But even he was  
Certain of few details other than the ocean  
Now held you in its deep, immeasurable dark.  
But no! Your courage, your spirit, your  
Love for one another could not be kept captive,  
Could not be buried there. Nor could the  
Memory of your going off to war together  
Ever be limited to a week, a month, a year.  
But, for all time, you stand side by side,  
Inseparable, in your brotherhood, in your heroism---  
An inspiration in war, in peace and  
Day...after day...after day, in the lives of  
Men and women---everywhere---devoted to their  
Country, who would be like you. The Sullivans.*

Waterloo is proud to be the home of the Five Sullivan Brothers. May their courage, determination and selfless action to serve the world never be forgotten. May they rest in peace.

Sincerely,



Quentin Hart  
Mayor