

Patrick Joseph Irish

46th State Deputy of Oregon 1997-1999



Patrick Joseph Irish was born on November 30, 1934 in Spokane, WA to Paul and Helen Hertel Irish. Patrick earned a BA degree from the University of Nebraska and a Masters Degree from Chapman College in Orange County California.

Patrick enlisted in the US Air Force in October 1957 and served in the Vietnam War which he was awarded a Bronze Star. Patrick married RuthAnn Mills on August 31, 1965 in Riverside, CA. The couple had four sons and one daughter.

Patrick retired from the service in October 1973. He then moved his family to Roads End, OR where he became a mail carrier for 20 years for the

Lincoln City Post Office.

Patrick was a member of the Lincoln City Council and Grand Knight. Later the council was named in his honor. Patrick served as District Deputy, State Warden 1992-93, State Treasurer 1993-95, State Secretary 1995-97 and was elected as State Deputy at the 1995 State Convention held in Pendleton, OR.

Patrick was a member of BPOE Lodge 1886 and Exalted Ruler. He spent 13 years as an active volunteer with the American Red Cross. He was a national instructor in the Red Cross courses and served nationwide plus helping at 40 different national disasters, including both 9/11 in New York and Katrina in Louisiana. He was a member of the parish council. Patrick received Lincoln City Man of the Year in 1976 and served on the School Board.

Patrick was an avid runner even in marathons. He would run from his home in Otis, OR into the coast range while praying the rosary along the way. Although Patrick became a vegetarian he developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from eating tainted meat while in the service which did not manifest itself for decades. Three of Patrick and RuthAnn's sons died before the year 1999.

Patrick J. Irish died on January 12, 2008 and is buried at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, OR.





"I have never considered this as my State nor have I ever considered myself as the "Grand Poopah". I have never asked anyone to do something that I would not do myself." Patrick J. Irish, May 1, 1998, Coos Bay, OR