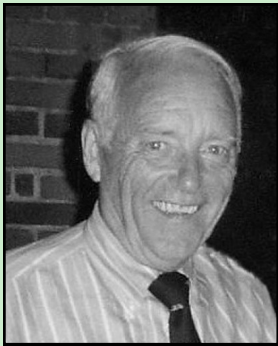


## About

# TOM PORTER

Tom Porter served as IAST president from 1993 - 2002. During his tenure, the IAS grew dramatically, largely due to his Irish charm and recruiting skills, and also established strong links with other Celtic organizations in the area. He was instrumental in working with the Mayor's office to make Bangor, Northern Ireland, a sister city of Virginia Beach. Tom also joined forces with the DC Irish Centre to recognize Irish nationals who fell in U. S. military service with special wreath laying ceremonies at and IAS bus trips to the Viet Nam Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. He was a major presence in the founding of the Multicultural Alliance of VA.

Originally from Derry, Northern Ireland, Tom came to America in 1958 to join the U.S. Navy, which he retired from as a Senior Chief Petty Officer after 30 years of proud service. He and his wife, Monica, raised 2 daughters (Sonia & Michelle) and 5 grandchildren (Sean-Patrick, Quentin, Monica, Kala, & Jacqueline) in Virginia Beach. Tom was a true people person and an enthusiastic promoter of Irish culture. He started many IAS meetings with an Irish song delivered in his lilting tenor, and he was quick with a joke and a smile. For years, he and his beloved Irish wolfhound, Willie, were a frequent sight at events in the Tidewater area.



To recognize Tom Porter's many contributions, to celebrate our 25th anniversary as an organization, and to support the perpetuation of our shared Irish cultural heritage, the 2005 IAS executive board (Mike Bromley, President; Lynnette Fitch Brash, Sr. Vice-President; Lynette Gilmour, Jr. Vice-President; Lori Shea, Secretary; and Bill Sweeney, Treasurer) unanimously decided to establish and award for the first time this scholarship fund in 2005. The current IAS board in any given year will serve as a scholarship committee to make this award annually, preferably with a member of Tom Porter's family serving in an advisory position on the committee each year.

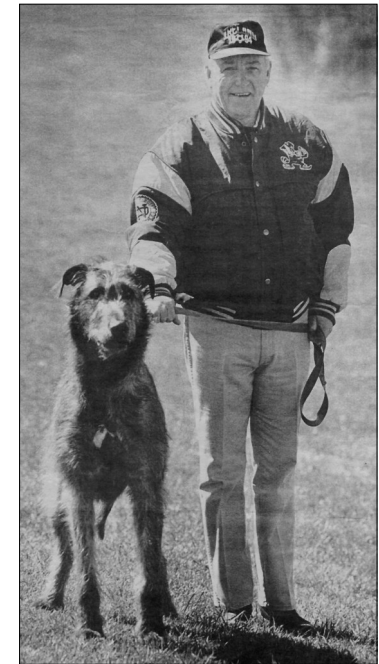
Irish American Society of Tidewater  
c/o Lynnette Fitch Brash, Senior VP  
P. O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450  
WWW.IRLUSA.ORG

**Irish American Society of Tidewater**



**IAST  
25th Anniversary  
1980 - 2005**

**Annual  
IAST  
Thomas Henry  
Porter  
Memorial  
Scholarship  
for the Promotion of  
Irish Culture**



**Irish American Society of  
Tidewater**

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IAST Thomas Henry Porter  
2009 Memorial Scholarship  
for the Promotion of Irish Culture

**GUIDELINES:**

♣ The purpose of the IAST Tom Porter Memorial Scholarship is to provide financial support toward the study and preservation of Irish culture. This includes but is not limited to: Irish history, literature, dance, music, languages (Gaelic & Hiberno-English), genealogy, politics, design/art, sport, cuisine, traditions, and Diaspora/immigration issues & contributions. Only applications relevant to the promotion of Irish culture will be considered.

♣ Scholarships will be awarded up to \$200. The scholarship committee may split this amount between multiple recipients or give all or part of it to one recipient. The committee may elect to use part or all of the moneys in any given year to support a deserving Irish cause, particularly if no strong applications are received. The committee's decision is final and non-negotiable.

♣ **All applications must be postmarked by May 1st, 2009.**

♣ Applicants must be at least 10 years of age; there is no upper age limit.

♣ Applicants must be willing to attend an interview with the scholarship committee, if requested. Awardee(s) must attend specified IAST event to be presented with scholarship.

♣ Awards will be given based on relevant study and potential educational/cultural benefit to our community.

♣ Applicants MUST be current members of the IAST. Annual dues may be submitted with this application (\$15 single/\$25 family, checks made out to IAST). All other things being equal, preference will be given to those with longer IAST membership.

♣ All scholarship monies must be utilized within 12 months after the award date. Scholarship recipients must submit a letter confirming enrollment, registration, or apprenticeship in the program toward which the scholarship will be applied.

♣ Scholarship recipients must submit a certificate or letter from the institution, organizer, or instructor confirming completion of the program.

♣ Scholarship recipients are expected to attend a monthly meeting of the IAST and/or submit a IAST newsletter article to share how the scholarship funds were used.

IAST Thomas Henry Porter Memorial Scholarship Application

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Institution/Employer (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Month & Year Applicant Joined IAST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Irish ancestry (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**On an attached sheet, please answer each of the following:**

- 1. (REQUIRED) How will you use the scholarship money if you are chosen as the recipient? How will you share what you learn with others?**
- 2. (REQUIRED) What is your involvement with Irish culture? How do you feel about this involvement?**
- 3. (OPTIONAL) Additional comments or information supporting your application. You may include up to 3 letters of recommendation; however, letters of recommendation are not required.**

**Please mail completed applications to the Irish American Society of Tidewater.**

c/o Lynnette Fitch Brash, P.O. Box 9614 Virginia Beach, VA 23450

**WWW.IRLUSA.ORG**