Dear Friends,

Yesterday morning, my mother's older brother, Connell Joseph Maguire, died peacefully near his home in Florida, where he lived in retirement after a long career as a Catholic chaplain in the U.S. Navy and with the Marine Corps.

Father Joe, as he was known, was born in Donegal, Ireland, 94 years ago. My Maguire grandparents emigrated from Ireland to Philadelphia in 1929, along with Joe, my mother, and their four other siblings.

As Joe liked to remind us, Donegal, in the Irish language, is called "Tyr Conal," or "Land of Connell," after St. Connell, an ancient Irish saint who converted the people there to Christianity.

Below is a clip to a news report about Father Joe that aired on a local television station in Florida a few years ago, when he was 90 years of age.

I wanted to share this with you, because I know you would have loved Father Joe if you had known him. He will be missed by many nephews, nieces, and great-nephews and nieces -- including my brother Connell, my son Connell, and a great nephew also named Connell.

Thanks.

Frank

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIBPuXSgH98