

# patrons



of Sinn Féin Poblachtach

"We of Sinn Féin Poblachtach are the nucleus,  
which represents what Emmett represented,  
the soul of Ireland, that prophetic shock minority,  
who will neither be purchased nor intimidated."



# PATRONS

Thomas Maguire

Mick Flannery

George Harrison

Dan Keating

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

Peig King

General Liam Lynch

“We have declared for an  
Irish Republic.  
We will live by no other law.”

Óglaigh na h-Éireann

# TOM MAGUIRE

1892 - 1993

## *Tribute from George Harrison, New York.*

The death of Comdt-General Tom Maguire took place on July 5, 1993 at age 101 in Castlebar, County Mayo, ending a life of uncompromising loyalty to the ideal of a free and independent Irish Republic; an Ireland totally free from all the shackles and tentacles of the monster octopus of British imperialism and its cancerous off springs of sectarianism and puppet parliaments.

Much has been written of General Maguire since he passed on to join his old comrades in the Valhalla of Ireland's heroic dead. Those who have remained true to the legacy he has passed on will try to produce a memorial booklet dealing with the crucial issues he faced during his near century of struggle.

Starting out as a Volunteer in Cross, Co Mayo, he was appointed OC South Mayo Brigade and led the flying column in the Kilfall and Tourmakeady ambushes where he was seriously wounded.

He was later appointed to the rank of OC, 2nd Western Division, Irish Republican Army by Cathal Brugha, and Minister for Defence at the time. He was then elected Sinn Féin TD for South Mayo.

In 1921 he strongly opposed the treaty of surrender and when civil war broke out he became the leading loyal Republican figure in the west of Ireland and a member of the executive of the IRA.

He was captured in October 1922 by Free State forces and interned in Athlone. General Maguire was one of six men set aside for execution in January 1923... five of them died before Free State firing squads.

In April 1923 his younger brother Seán, a mere youth of 17 years, was executed with five others in Tuam Workhouse. The firing squads were busy... This was one of the dirtiest of their many acts of infamy.

General Maguire escaped Athlone in June 1923 and was never recaptured. He remained staunch and



true to the ideals and principles he espoused in his youth and which led his brother and many of his comrades to early graves. To some of us who grew up in Mayo and followed him into the arena of anti-imperialist struggle he was a legend and an almost god-like figure.

In the 1930 General Maguire and the surviving members of the Second Dáil Éireann delegated authority to the Army Council of the IRA. And in December 1969, during an internal crisis in the Irish Republican Movement, he recognised the Provisional IRA as the legitimate successor to the 1938 body.

He journeyed to the United States more than once and reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to the ideal of his youth.

In 1976 his fellow Mayoman Frank Stagg died while on hunger strike in an English dungeon and his mortal remains were seized by Free State forces in a cowardly and obscene act of state brutality.

General Maguire delivered the eulogy at his symbolic funeral in February 1976.

During yet another critical internal conflict in the Irish Republican Movement, General Maguire disagreed with the IRA decision to support Sinn Féin taking seats and to enter Leinster House. He issued the following statement which speaks for itself:

“There is no difference between entering the partition parliament of Leinster House and entering a partition parliament of Stormont.

“I speak as the sole surviving Teachta Dála of the Second Dáil Éireann and as the sole surviving member of the Executive of the Second Dáil Éireann.

“In December 1969, as the sole surviving member of the Executive of the Second Dáil Éireann, I recognised the Provisional Army Council, which remained true to the Irish Republic as the lawful Army of the Thirty-two County Irish Republic.

“I do not recognise the legitimacy of any Army Council styling itself the Council of the Irish Republican Army which lends support to any person or organisation styling itself as Sinn Féin and prepared to enter the partition parliament, and in doing so broke faith and betrayed the trust placed in their predecessors in 1969.

“The Irish Republic, proclaimed in arms in Easter Week 1916 and established by the democratic majority vote of the people in the general election of 1918, has been defended by Irish Republics for several generations. Many have laid down their lives in that defence. Many others have suffered imprisonment and torture, I am confident that the Cause so nobly served will yet triumph.

“Dated the 22nd day of October, 1986.”

Tom Maguire was the last survivor of the Second Dáil and the last person to hold the rank of Comdt-General in the Irish Republican Army. He was patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach and took a keen interest in the organisation right up to his death.

At a suitable time General Maguire will be remembered in this city. May the green sod of his native Mayo rest lightly over him and may his heroic and unconquered spirit rest in eternal peace.

**To all his family deep condolence.**

**Respectfully,  
- George Harrison  
Brooklyn, New York**





# MICK FLANNERY

1902 - 1994

Michael Flannery, a life-long contributor to the cause of Irish freedom and the founder of Cumann na Saoirse was born in Co. Tipperary in 1902. He was the youngest of seven children. His family was staunchly Republican with a long history of opposition to the British occupation of Ireland.

Mike's life was marked by acts of bravery, patriotism and compassion. He believed deeply in a united Ireland and had a great love for the country of his birth.

At the age of 14, while attending Mount St. Joseph's Monastic School in Knocksheegowna, he was forced to flee to avoid being arrested by the Royal Irish Constabulary who had begun a campaign of incarcerating family members of Republican activists at the behest of the British.

After evading capture, Mike joined the North Tipperary Brigade of the Irish Republican Army. Before his fifteenth birthday he took an oath of allegiance to the Irish Republic and fought in the Irish War of Independence.

After the infamous Treaty of 1922, which partitioned Ireland into two sectarian states, Mike took up arms again, this time against the forces of the Irish Free State. He did so as he was unwilling to break his oath of allegiance to the Irish Republic and accept anything less than a free and united Ireland.

He was subsequently captured and imprisoned by forces of the Irish Free State. After two years in Mountjoy Jail, he and his comrades went on hunger strike seeking political prisoner status. He was subsequently freed in 1924.

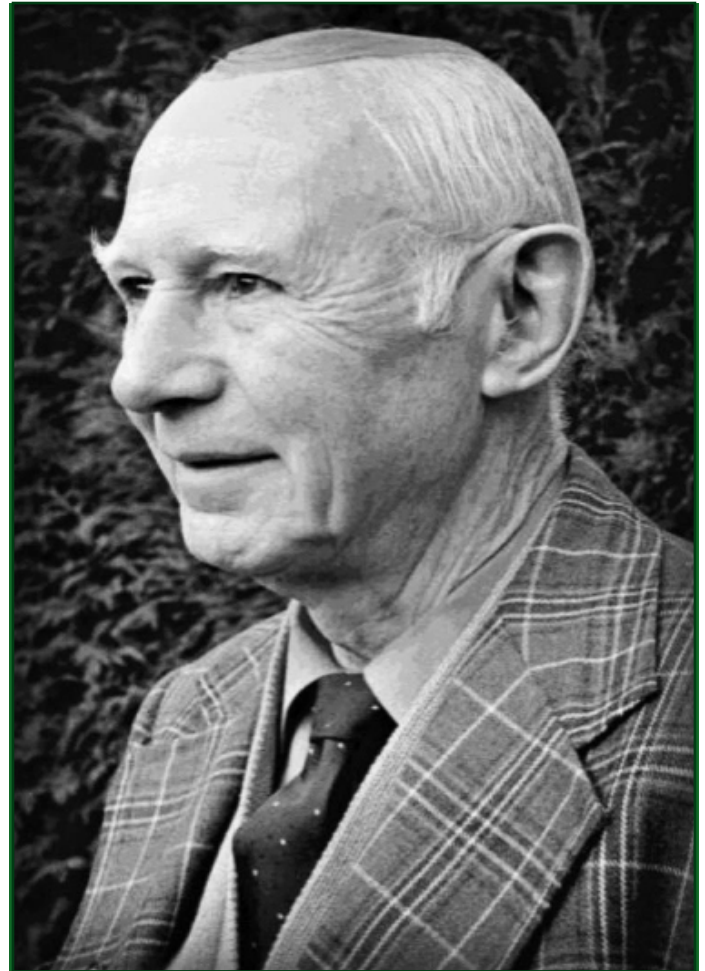
In 1927, Mike emigrated to America, as there was little or no work in Ireland, especially for opponents of partition. In America, he was employed by Metropolitan Life where he worked for the next four decades.

During his early years in America he met and married his wife Margaret "Pearl" Eagan who was also involved in the fight for Irish freedom. Down through the decades, Mike assisted Republican activists who sought refuge in America including Ernie O'Malley in the late 20s, Andy Cooney in the early 50s and others in the 70s and 80s.

Mike was a member of several organizations including the Tipperary Men's Association, the Gaelic Athletic Association and Clann na Gael.

In 1970, after the present phase of the struggle started, he founded the Irish Northern Aid Committee to raise money to support the dependents of Irish Political Prisoners.

As a result of his leadership role in the struggle for Irish freedom, Mike made many powerful and



determined enemies here in America as well as England and Ireland. Despite that he was elected Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York in 1981.

Throughout his life Mike sent aid and encouragement to those refusing to accept the British occupation of Ireland or acknowledge the legitimacy of two sectarian states-the products of partition.

Not only did Mike rebuff those who abandoned Republican principles in the 20s, 30s, 40s and 60s; he, together with George Harrison, characterized the 'Provos' abandonment of Republican principles in 1986 as the "same old departure".

After returning from a visit to Ireland in 1987, Mike along with George Harrison and Joe Stynes founded Cumann na Saoirse Naisiunta – The National Irish Freedom Committee to carry the torch of Irish Republicanism in America.

Mike passed away on September 30, 1994. He was a true son of Ireland and a worthy citizen of his adopted country, the United States of America. Mike's legacy lives on and the torch of Irish Freedom that he carried throughout his entire life continues to burn brightly.

**- Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta**

# GEORGE HARRISON

## 1915 - 2004

George Harrison was born May 2, 1915, in Shammer, Kilkelly, County Mayo, in an Ireland oppressed and impoverished by British occupation. A year after his birth the Easter Rising, which was crushed by British troops, took place. Its executed leaders James Connolly and Padraig Pearse would become Harrison's heroes.

As a young man Harrison worked as a wheelwright and a stonecutter. At age 15, he enlisted in the East Mayo Battalion of the Irish Republican Army. The Depression forced Harrison to leave Ireland. He first went to England, where, like many Irish emigrants, he picked crops and laboured on building sites. In 1938 he went to New York, working first as a bartender and then on the docks. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and later became a security guard for Brinks Armor. Working at Brinks for 30 years, he fought for justice as a shop steward and union organizer.

Over the years, George developed a relationship with the legendary transport workers' leader Michael Quill who would on occasion pass money to George to assist in George's lifelong commitment to supply the resistance in Ireland with the means to resist. Quill knew how the money might be spent and gladly gave it anyway.

George supported freedom movements worldwide. Of George it was said, "Never met a revolution he didn't like." and to paraphrase the old ballad, "God grant you glory, old George, and open heavens to all your men, the cause that called you may call tomorrow in another cause for the Green again."

To George the fight for Irish freedom was one with the world struggle against imperialism and racism. He stood vigil every week outside the British Consulate in New York to support the Irish people. And he was at every march against war and racism or in solidarity with the people of South Africa, Palestine and Latin America.

In 1981 the Reagan regime prosecuted George, Tom Falvey, Michael Flannery, Paddy Mullens and Tommy Gormley for arming Irish freedom fighters. The "IRA Five" refused to deny the charges but waged a political defence. Witnesses on George's behalf included Irish leader Bernadette Devlin McAliskey and Sam Gulabe, United Nations representative of the African National Congress. (Dr. Gulabe, then known as David Ndaba, former colonel in the South African army and physician to Nelson Mandela.) The five were acquitted.



George remained an Irish republican because he was an anti-imperialist and a socialist. Consequently he was the Patron of Republican Sinn Féin and an implacable foe of the Good Friday Agreement.

Unfortunately, the fruits of George's and his friends' labour is now being bartered as the price of admission for revisionist former Republicans to participate in British direct rule of the six occupied counties in the north-east of Ireland. Adams and his purloined posse are swapping semtex for summer homes, guns for governmental positions, and they are cementing over arms dumps to secure their status as second class citizens in their British controlled state – not what George and his compatriots had in mind when they set about their clandestine weapons quest.

But he never stopped thinking of the struggle. On the day he died, Harrison penned a verse for the newspaper *Saoirse*:  
"May the spirit of those who suffered in the torture chambers of the Empire of Hell animate us with enough strength to free the land of our heart's desire. In dedication to all my comrades—the living and the dead."

George died on October 6th, 2004 and his passing left a huge gap in the ranks of Irish American supporters of the Republican Movement in Ireland.

*- Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta*

# DAN KEATING

1902 - 2007

Dan Keating was born and raised in the townland of Ballygamboon, Castlemaine, County Kerry. He received his education in local schools, including the Christian Brothers School in Tralee. In 1917, Dan went to work in Tralee at Jerry McSweeney's Grocery, Bar and Bakery where he did his apprenticeship. Jerry McSweeney's uncle, Richard Laide, was shot in the attack on Gortalea barracks which was the first barracks to be attacked in Ireland. During this time he became a skilful Gaelic football player in his native Kerry.

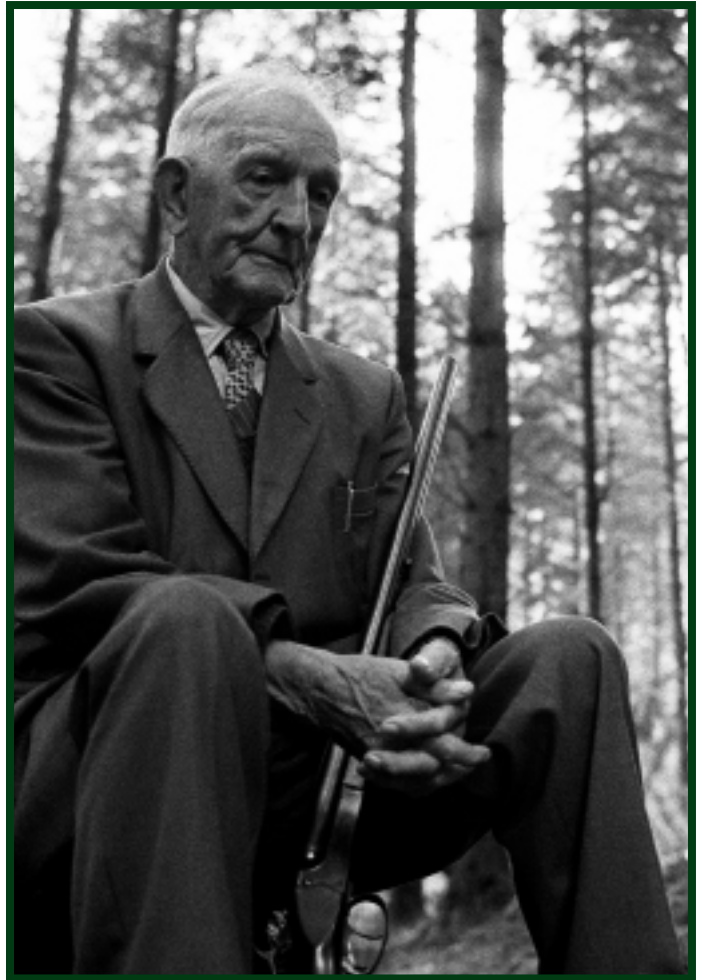
Dan Keating joined Na Fianna Éireann in Tralee in 1918 and about two years later he joined the Irish Republican Army. Others to join at that time were Gerry Moyles, Donnchadh Donoghue, Tommy Vale, John Riordan (Kerry All-Ireland footballer), Jerry O'Connor (better known as "Uncy"), Matt Moroney and Paddy and Billy Griffin.

In the meantime Dan met a soldier who used to frequent the bar where he worked and during conversations procured a rifle from him. This was then handed over to Johnny O'Connor of the Farmers' Bridge unit. Dan was later to join this unit which included men of the calibre of Johnny Duggan, Johnny O'Connor, Timmy Galvin, Moss Galvin, Jack Corkery, Jim Ryle, Mick Hogan and Jamesy Whiston. This unit was very active from 1920 to 1924 and many of its members took part in the Headford ambush which claimed the lives of approximately 20 British soldiers. Volunteers Danny Allman and Jimmy Baily also lost their lives at Headford.

Dan took part in the ambush at Castlemaine in which eight RIC and Black-and-Tans were killed. Gerry Moyles was severely injured in this encounter. The last ambush in Kerry took place in Castleisland on the night before the Truce and Dan also participated in this. Four RIC members were killed in this action and Volunteers Jack Shanahan, Jack Prenderville, John McMahon and John Flynn also lost their lives.

In 1922 Dan was transferred to a unit in Tralee which was commanded by Tommy Barton of Ballyroe when they occupied Ballymullen barracks for a period of three months. Dan took part in the attack on Listowel barracks, now occupied by the Free Staters, in which one Free Stater was shot dead.

In Limerick, Dan, along with comrades from Kerry, fought the Free State troops over a period of ten days. Republican Volunteers Patrick Foran, Charlie O'Hanlon and Tom McLoughlin lost their lives there,



Dan was then sent to Tipperary to instruct Gerry Moyles to return to Kilmallock but on the way they were surrounded by Free Staters. After a battle at Two Mile Bridge Dan and his comrades were taken prisoner and held in Thurles barracks for two days before being conveyed to Portlaoise jail where he was held for six months. This was to be the first of many times Dan was interned by the Free State. During this period in Portlaoise the jail was burned and Volunteer Paddy Hickey from Dublin was shot dead. Dan was then transferred to the Curragh Internment Camp and was held there until March 1923. A Free State soldier named Bergin from Nenagh, who became friendly with the Republican prisoners and acted as a courier to Republicans on the outside, was executed by the Staters.

Dan was charged with possession of a shotgun in 1930 and was issued a summons but did not attend court and was fined £1. In the true Republican tradition he refused to pay and was sent to Limerick and held for one week. During a court case in Tralee involving Johnny O'Connor and Mick Kennedy, in which they refused to recognise the court, their supporters in the courthouse cheered loudly and when things died down the judge ordered Dan Keating to be brought up before him and gave him three months for contempt. Dan was jailed in Cork with Johnny O'Connor but after a hunger strike by Johnny both were released after three weeks.



The next time Dan was interned was after O'Duffy's visit to Tralee; he was sentenced to six months in Arbour Hill. Dan was later captured in Carrigans in Clonmel by a policeman who had previously arrested him in Tralee and was taken first to Thurles and from there to the Curragh where he was held for three years and six months. In this period the camp was burned and Barney Casey from Longford was shot dead.

Dan was also on active service in England during the early 1940s.

Dan returned to work in Dublin and operated as a barman in the Eagle House, James Street, the Cornet and the Kilmardenny public houses. Dan's other great interest was Gaelic games, and indeed between football and hurling he has attended more than 140 All-Ireland senior finals including replays, which must be a record in itself. When Dan retired he returned to Kerry in 1978 and resided at Ballygamboon, Castlemaine.

In 2004 Dan Keating replaced George Harrison of Mayo and New York as the fourth Patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach since 1986, following in the footsteps of such illustrious Republicans as Comdt-General Tom Maguire and Michael Flannery of Tipperary and New York. During his long, healthy and adventurous lifetime Dan has seen many splits and deviations from Republican principles, but he remained loyal and true to the end.

Dan Keating died in Tralee on October 2, 2007, after a short illness.

***I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé.***

***- Sinn Féin Poblachtach  
Comhairle na Mumhan***

***- Photograph's of Dan Keating  
Credits to Seamus Murphy.  
<https://seamusmurphy.com/>***



# RUAIRÍ Ó BRÁDAIGH

## 1932 - 2013

The death took place on June 5, 2013 of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Patron and former President, Republican Sinn Féin.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh was a towering figure of Irish Republicanism in the latter half of the 20th century. He came to embody the very essence of the Republican tradition, setting the very highest standards of commitment, duty, honour and loyalty to the cause of Irish freedom.

Since 1950 he served at every level of the Republican Movement, and from 1956 took on the onerous responsibilities of national leadership with only a short interval, up to the present day. Ruairí was a man of immense capability both as a politician and as a soldier. He holds the unique distinction of serving as President of Sinn Féin, Chief of Staff of the Irish Republican Army and from 1957 to 1961 as a TD, representing Longford/Westmeath.

At critical junctures in the history of the Republican Movement, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, along with his close friend and comrade, the late Dáithí Ó Conaill, manned the gap against the forces of reformism who sought to convert a revolutionary movement of national liberation into a mere constitutional political party, first in 1969/70 and once again in 1986.

For Ruairí the essential principles of Irish freedom were clear and marked the political course to be followed.

He dismissed any cult of the personality, warning always of the inherent dangers of following merely the man or woman over the cause of Irish national independence.

At a time when our sense of identity is being steadily eroded, when our people are discouraged from taking pride in their history or culture Ruairí Ó Brádaigh was a tireless champion of the Irish language viewing it as the cornerstone of our unique identity as a nation.

Like Pádraig Mac Piarais he believed in an Ireland that was: not only free but Gaelic as well; not only Gaelic but free as well. As an Irish Republican he believed passionately in Theobald Wolfe Tones vision of substituting the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter with the common name of Irish man and Irish woman.



He played a leading role in formulating the ÉIRE NUA proposals for a four-province Federal Ireland, which was based on the principles of true decentralisation of decision-making with full participatory democracy involving all sections of the Irish people as trust founders of a New Ireland. Such a democratic template would provide the Unionist minority with a New Ireland with real political power and decision-making. He was among the Republican leaders who met representatives of loyalism and unionism at Feakle, Co Clare in 1974 and later strongly supported the MacBride/Boal talks, which were eventually sabotaged by a 26-County Government Minister.

Such was Ruairí's commitment to the principles of a non-sectarian and pluralist Ireland that he and Dáithí Ó Conaill stepped down from the positions of President and Vice President respectively of Sinn Féin when ÉIRE NUA was dropped as a policy document to further the agenda of a reformist clique operating within the Republican Movement in the early 1980s.

For Ruairí Ó Brádaigh there could be no temporising on the issue of British rule in Ireland. Drawing on the lessons of Irish history he recognised that it constituted the root cause of conflict and injustice for the Irish people. In opposing the 1998 Stormont Agreement he rightly viewed it as a flawed document serving only to copper-fasten British Rule while also institutionalising sectarianism, thereby further deepening the sectarian divide.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's analysis has since been borne out by a number of independent studies which have shown an increase in sectarianism in the Six Counties in the years since 1998. The economically and politically oppressed and partitioned Ireland is far removed from the vision of a New Ireland, which inspired Irish Republicans such as Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.

In an introduction to the biography of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh written by Professor Robert White, the journalist Ed Moloney described Ruairí as the last, or one of the last Irish Republicans. Whilst the tribute was well intentioned the case is quite different. It is because of the life's work of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh that he is not the last Republican but has rather ensured the continuity of Irish Republicanism, passing on the torch to succeeding generations.

We in Republican Sinn Féin are proud to remember him as our President and later our Patron, as a man of great intellect, coupled with great humanity and empathy for the oppressed both in Ireland and internationally. We salute his memory and pledge our resolve to honour him by continuing his work, guided by the same principles and maintaining the same high standards of integrity, truth and that marked Ruairí Ó Brádaigh as man and patriot.

We extend our profound sympathies to his wife Patsy, and the Ó Brádaigh family.

*Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

**- Des Dalton**  
**Sinn Féin Poblachtach**

## BIOGRAPHY: RUAIRÍ Ó BRÁDAIGH

**1932:**

Born in Longford.

**1950:**

Joined Sinn Féin

**1951:**

Joined the Irish Republican Army.

**1955:**

OC Arborfield arms raid.

**1956:**

2 o/c Teeling Column, South Fermanagh.

**1957:**

Elected in Longford-Westmeath TD to the All-Ireland parliament.

**1958:**

Escaped with Dáithí Ó Conaill from Curragh Camp.

**1958-9 & 1960-62:**

IRA Chief of Staff.

**1966:**

Republican candidate in Fermanagh - South Tyrone.

**1970-83:**

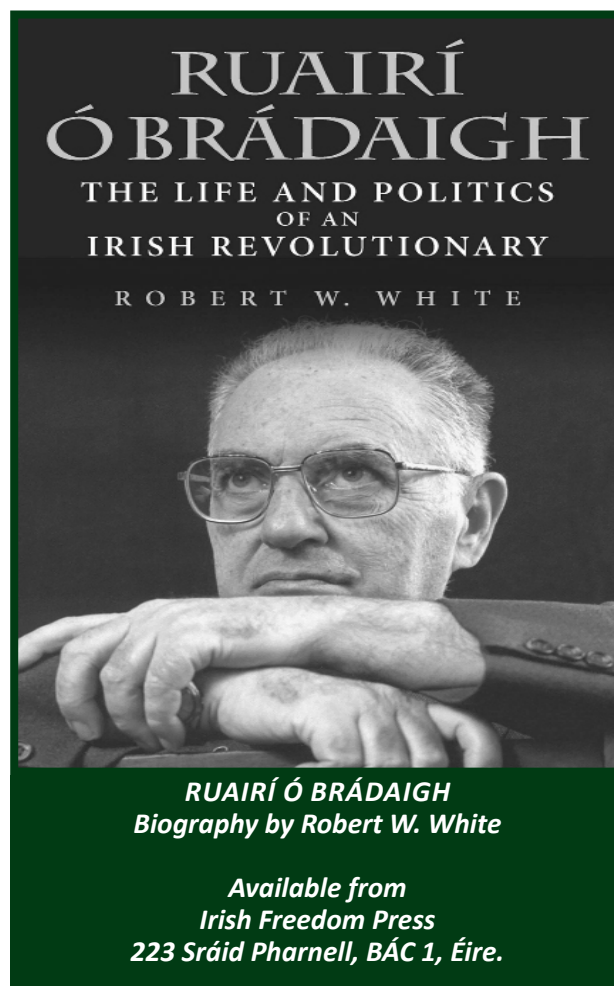
President of Sinn Féin.

**1987 to date:**

President of Republican Sinn Féin.

**2009-2013:**

Patron of Republican Sinn Féin.



# PEIG KING

1930 - 2019

REPUBLICANS throughout Ireland and abroad were deeply saddened to learn of the death on November 19 at St Francis Hospice, Raheny, Dublin of Margaret (Peig) King at the age of 89. Peig King (née Connolly) was born into a strong Republican family in Omagh, Co Tyrone in 1930. Her mother, a member of Cumann na mBan, was amongst the women who handmade the first Easter Lilies in 1925 and in recent years Peig made them to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising. Her father was an IRA Volunteer.

She joined Clann na Gael under Katie O'Connor and later Cumann na gCailíní in 1943, the family having moved to Dublin in 1940. Peig joined Cumann na mBan in 1947 where she was trained by Aoife "Effie" Taffe and worked with Sarah Doody, Margaret Doyle (Langsdorf) and Lily Tweles. Her sister Attracta was also a member of Cumann na mBan at that time. Peig met Paddy King at the Conradh na Gaeilge Craobh Mobhí where Irish language classes and céilí dances were held and they married in 1956. Céilí and Irish dancing were abiding passions for both of them and were intrinsically linked to the Republican beliefs.

During the reorganisation of the Republican Movement in the 1950s Peig was to the fore and became involved also in An Cumann Cabhrach, the Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund along with Rita McGlynn, beginning an association with the welfare of Republican prisoners which continued to the end of her life.

Peig and Paddy continued their work for the Republican Movement while rearing their three children during the 1960s and became more involved again in 1969 when the nationalist people in the Occupied Six Counties rose against British rule and repression. Their house was thrown open to many Volunteers of the IRA and Cumann na mBan from the Occupied area who were forced to flee because of their involvement in the war. Their hospitality was legendary – at times the house resembled a railway station, the kitchen a café and the sitting-room a boardroom. No one was ever turned away and for many years their children were usually sleeping on the floor on sleeping-bags.



Peig was a prominent member of the Executive of Cumann na mBan. Cumann na mBan members were trained in every aspect of the military struggle and Peig was no different. Whether working alongside the Volunteers, visiting, protesting for and assisting Republican prisoners or promoting Irish language, culture and history, she was indefatigable. She also made a very valuable contribution to the promotion and training of Cumann na gCailíní, the youth movement of Cumann na mBan down the years and provided crucial leadership when needed.

As O/C of Dublin Cumann na mBan and a member of the Executive, she and her counterpart in the IRA organised training, billets and accommodation for men on the run and transport when required and she travelled extensively in the Occupied Six Counties carrying out her duties. She was involved in filling in roads cratered around the Border in the early 1970s by the British army and was among those fired on with CS gas and rubber bullets, some of which she collected and brought home. From the early 1970s she was treasurer of the National Commemoration Committee along with Tony Ruane and others. In 1976 she was one of those sentenced to seven days imprisonment for organising the 60th anniversary commemoration of the 1916 Rising which was banned by the Free State Administration.

She refused to go to court or pay the fine and served her seven days. In 1986 Peig rejected the reformist move to take seats in Leinster House and joined Republican Sinn Féin. When An Cumann Cabhrach refused to assist Republican prisoners following the split, it was to Peig Dáithí Ó Conaill turned to form CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund) and she served as Cathaoirleach to her last days.

She was once again involved in the reorganisation of the Republican Movement and was treasurer of Sinn Féin Poblachtach for some years. From 1997 to 2007 she was joint General Secretary of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Following the death of Patron Ruairí Ó Brádaigh Peig was elected Patron of the organisation.

Until her death Peig King was an Executive Officer in Cumann na mBan. She never accepted anything less than the 32-County Irish Republic proclaimed in Easter Week 1916 and established by the First Dáil Éireann 100 years ago. She was a formidable and indomitable Republican who was and is an inspiration to another generation. She will be sadly missed by her comrades in the Republican Movement and by all who knew her.

Her funeral took place on November 21. Her coffin was draped in the National Flag and the flag of Cumann na mBan and the cortege was flanked from the funeral parlour by a guard of honour of her comrades in Cumann na mBan and Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Following Requiem Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Divine Grace, Raheny the burial took place in Glasnevin Cemetery. The guard of honour flanked the coffin from the gates of the cemetery, following which the flags were removed by her comrades of Cumann na mBan.

Galway county councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin chaired proceedings at the graveside and spoke of Peig's contribution to the Republican cause. He then introduced Líta Ní Chathmhaoil, who spoke on behalf of Cumann na mBan. In the course of her address she said: "I am honoured to stand here today and say a few words about my comrade Peig.

"We soldiered together in Cumann na mBan and the Republican Movement since 1971. Peig and I travelled together in the early 1970s to places like Free Derry. In fact we were on our way to Derry on July 31, 1972 when we discovered that Operation

Motorman was underway and the British army had moved in to remove the Free Derry barricades. "We spent nights on the pavement in front of the GPO and elsewhere on hunger strike and other protests and both of us blamed our arthritis on these! Peig's hospitality was extraordinary and she was like a mother figure to young volunteers in Cumann na mBan. She cared about us and looked and admonished us when she felt we were not coming up to scratch.

"She was always concerned about the POWs and worked all her life for their welfare. "Her commitment and dedication to the cause of the All-Ireland Republic was complete and she never deviated. She was one of the last of the 1940s Republicans and worked with many great Republicans, including Effie Taffe, Maggie Langsdorf, Tom Doran and others. She was always to the fore when anything needed to be done and never refused.

"She loved Irish dancing and she and Paddy were well-known set dancers. Both of them were passionate about Irish dancing, music, language and culture and of course Paddy and the GAA. "To say she will be greatly missed is an understatement. She had a long life but to those who knew her she seemed to be immortal and her death comes as a shock to all of us."

Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Des Dalton then spoke and said in the course of his oration: "It is with a heavy heart that we come to say goodbye to our friend and comrade Peig King. We come to mourn Peig but also importantly to celebrate a full life. A life packed with incident and people.

"I am honoured to have been asked to speak here on behalf of her comrades, her Republican family, to try to articulate and do justice to the immense contribution Peig made to the cause of Irish Republicanism. Peig was never one to simply sit on the side lines, to merely to observe events. "Peig King was never content to just witness history unfold. She was determined to make her contribution. Peig was always in the thick of things. For her no job was too big or too small. Her watchword was duty. Duty to the cause of a free Ireland., duty to those imprisoned for their Republican beliefs. Peig's life was one of duty and dedication.



“Paddy and her family were her first love, but it was one followed closely by her love and dedication to the ideal of a free Ireland. Peig’s loyalty to the All-Ireland Republic of Easter Week never wavered in her almost 80 years of service to that cause.

“On behalf of Republican Sinn Féin and the Republican Movement I extend deepest sympathy to Paddy, her sons Colm, and Ciarán, daughter Fidelma, grandchildren Katie, Ruth and Gavin, daughters-in-law Denise, Mairéad and Denise and wider family circle.

“I can think of no more fitting way to conclude an oration at the graveside of a Fenian than the words of the bard of the revolution Brian O’Higgins in his tribute to the volunteers of Cumann na mBan:

*No great-hearted daughter of Ireland,  
Who died for her sake long ago,  
Who stood in the gap of her danger,  
Defying the Sassenach foe,  
Was ever more gallant or worthy,  
Of glory in high sounding rann,  
Than the comrades of Óglaigh na hÉireann,  
The soldiers of Cumann na mBan!  
They stand for the honour of Ireland,  
As their sisters in days that are gone,  
And they’ll march with their brothers to freedom,  
The soldiers of Cumann na mBan.*

“I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sí.”

**- Líta Ní Chathmhaoil,  
Cumann na mBan agus Sinn Féin Poblachtach  
Nollaig, 2019**



# POBLACHT NA h EIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND WOMEN, we are the living embodiment of the dead generations from which she received her being, and through us, summons her children to her flag and to her side.

Having organised and trained her own army, her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Army, through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having waited for the right moment to reveal herself, she now sees that moment has come. She has waited long, and by gallant deeds in Europe and America she has proved her own strength. She strikes in full confidence of her victory.

We declare the right of the Irish people to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unqualified disposal of their own resources and wealth. We declare that the Irish Republic is a free, sovereign, independent State, that it is entitled to recognition by all other States, and that it is the duty of all Irishmen and women to support it. We declare that the Irish Republic is the only legitimate government of Ireland, and that it is the duty of all Irishmen and women to support it. We declare that the Irish Republic is the only legitimate government of Ireland, and that it is the duty of all Irishmen and women to support it.



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