



International Headquarters
PO Box 1716 • Morristown, NJ 07962
Tel: 973-605-1991
www.iaci-usa.org

Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

Guest contributors are always welcome! Please note, the IACI is an apolitical, non-sectarian organization and requests that contributors consider that when submitting articles. The IACI reserves the right to refuse or edit submissions. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily represent those of the IACI or any/all contributors to this site. Please submit articles for consideration to cbuck@iaci-usa.org.

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Irish American Determination

By Ray Aumack

The Maddox Investments corporate jet winged its way to Philadelphia. When Joe O'Malley told the company president and officers his plans, they insisted that Joe use the company plane, for the first time in all the years he was with the company. Joe graciously accepted.

Staring at the puffy cumulous clouds along the route turned out to be a unique meditative experience. He thought of his daughter from birth to adulthood. Tragically, he had lost all that time in between worshipping at the altar of Mammon. He was very successful at it, earning millions for his clients and a few billion in his personal accounts.

He was thrilled to meet Charlie and thoroughly enjoyed the company of his daughter. Fortunately, God sent Lou Massa, her boyfriend during her senior year in high school. He came into her life at the right time and the experience of their genuine friendship brought his daughter back to the real world of real people and normal, genuine relationships. His wife's dream of cotillion balls and coming out parties would never materialize. The attractive high school girl had grown into a beautiful and successful woman of means without any of his help. She and Charlie told him about their pre-marriage encounter counseling experience and he knew that they definitely intended to marry later this year or early next year. He was very happy about that, though, there was the prospect of loneliness for him. They wanted to marry at their Philadelphia parish. Since retirement was coming into his picture, the prospect of settling into Philadelphia began to look attractive. He could build a private practice there and become a doting grandfather. He had accumulated several million dollars in his daughter's accounts, and she didn't even know about them. He liked the idea of becoming a philanthropist. Bono, Bon Jovi, and Josh Grobin, whoever they were, were apparently people of means and role models of philanthropy in his daughter's circle of acquaintances. He knew of David Garvey as a legendary lawyer and was looking forward to meeting him.

His meditation was abruptly broken as the plane touched down on the runway.

An Uber car was waiting for him at the airport. Joe gave the driver a paper with the address and the driver plugged it into his GPS. With traffic, it would take approximately an hour to reach the destination.

During the ride, Joe went back to memories of his daughter. She started growing up basically as her mother's child. That meant that she was destined for a high place in the social milieu. Given the opportunity, her mother would be selecting her spouse, one that would strictly conform to her social expectations. His wife was tragically terminally ill with schizophrenia. He also kept the seriousness of the illness from his daughter. The mental breakdown had the effect of also causing a physical breakdown.

When they arrived, Joe noted that the building was one of those old Philadelphia classics. Fr. Jim had a list of physical needs in the building that just kept growing. However, with June's encouragement and clever budgeting, they were able to slowly rehab the building. John Garvey was an invaluable resource for necessary repairs in an order of priority. Jim was pleased that Joe admired the building. The first floor had been reconstructed into an operations center with careful attention to preserving the architectural beauty of the century-old building.

Joe introduced himself. "Fr. Keenan, I have been looking forward to meeting you. My daughter, Grace, speaks very highly of you."

“OK, thank you! first, no one calls me Fr. Keenan. Please call me Jim or Fr. Jim around here. I ordered some coffee and a couple of donuts. So sit down and let’s get to know each other a little bit. “

“Well, thank you. I live alone in a mansion. But I feel quiet at home here..”

“Grace told me about her mother’s illness. I am of so sorry for all of you. Fortunately, you are able to provide the best of care for her.”

“Thank you, she is not doing as well as we had hoped. Her mental illness is so severe, it is causing a breakdown of her body. Grace isn’t aware of this, yet. I plan to tell her later this week.”

“I pray that goes well for both of you.”

“Jim, you obviously know Grace.”

“Yes, she is part of a group of friends that gather every Sunday after Mass. There are 30-somethings who still go to Mass. I frequently join them after Mass for a fabulous lunch and amazing, good company. But more than that, those friends are the heartbeat of this ministry. Theresa Malone Garvey, co-founded this with me and built it up for ten years. Her friends, Maeve Garvey, Maria Costo Dowd, and June Guillian Garvey brainstormed the possibilities for this mission. They are responsible for the clinic across the street and the insurance company we created to support the health needs of this region of the city. When you meet these women you’ll see why. Maria is a Ph.D. who volunteers English as a Second Language Courses. Theresa started this with me and after ten years has joined Maeve Garvey’s company and is a divisional Vice President. June Guillian Garvey is a UPenn Ph.D. and now runs the entire show here. I’ve ask her to join our meeting. She was also an All-America basketball player at Immaculata. Maeve Garvey Malone is our attorney.”

“Wait, I almost met those women at Grace’s graduation.”

“They are the closest of friends.”

“So you know Grace’s friend, Charlie.”

“Oh yeah! Both are gems. They are doing their pre-Cana here with my colleague, Damian Kelly. This pre-Cana program was devised by Maeve Garvey. It has been very effective and helpful for all those couples.”

June respectfully knocked on the door and waited for Jim to tell her to come in. When she came into the room, she recognized Joe immediately. “You’re Grace’s dad. We almost met at our graduation.”

They talked amiably for another half hour. Joe could not get over the beauty and grace of the Black woman he had just met.

Finally, Joe said, “I’m using my company’s plane and they are going to want it back. The reason I am here is that I want to make a significant contribution to the Jesuit Mission. I will give you one million dollars a year for ten years, with an option to continue the gift. The pledge is in this letter along with a banker’s check for the first million dollars. I also want to advertise on the back cover of the ad book for your golf tournament. The text and another check are in this envelope.

Jim and June just sat there with their mouths open. Jim said, “Other than thank you, I don’t know what to say. We have generous donors, but nothing like this. Would you like us to name a building for you? Dierdre, one of Grace and June’s friends, wants to build homes on an abandoned city block.”

“No, No, nothing like that. I’ll tell Grace but other than that, I don’t want any publicity.”

Jim stood up. "I've never been speechless in my entire life. Why are you doing this?"

"Several reasons. One is that I appreciate the friendship you have given my daughter. Her mother had destined her to be a socialite. She has grown to be a wonderful, normal person. I know of her commitment here. I did my normal investigative due diligence and I'm impressed with what you have done. I know how much more you can do, and I would like to be part of it. This kind of social engineering has actually built great cities and even countries. When I thought it was important, I was and still am a very successful investor. Making money was play and after generating fortunes for clients and a couple of billion dollars for myself, I realized that it was real money, and it was useless unless I did something with it. Grace never saw a dime of it. I have several investment accounts for her. She doesn't know anything about them. She has done very well on her own without any help from me. I am very proud of her and I really like Charlie. I am considering retiring to Philadelphia and opening a small investment practice. Grace is our only child and now I'm looking forward to playing with grandchildren and really getting to know my daughter. Finally, I have been a practicing Catholic my entire life. I want to be a faith-filled Catholic like Grace and Charlie seem to be. I know I have some work to do."

"Please, not a word to her. I will be speaking with her on Tuesday."

"Now, I have an airplane I have to get back by suppertime."

"Joe," said June, "before you go, I want to hug you." He shook hands with Jim who also hugged him, and then he was gone to his waiting Uber.

Joe was aware that this kind of philanthropy usually takes months of negotiations, something he did not want to do. He always experienced a certain sense of smugness after closing a big deal. He had a new feeling after his meeting with June and Fr. Jim. It was a sense of satisfaction. "Wow, this feels good," he thought. "I want more of this."

At precisely 3:00 PM, Dierdre O' Rourke, an EMT volunteer at the Jesuit Urban Mission, was at Congressman Seachuk's office. "This had better be good, young lady."

"Sir, we are not doing this to feed your appetite for anything. And threats are not part of our vocabulary. We don't understand that language. I have been on fifty combat missions with intense firefights. There really isn't anything that scares me anymore. I am a team player but one thing I couldn't tolerate was any kind of perfidy on my team. But enough of this fruitless sparring. I am about to make you a hero. Actually, you will have to make that decision. "Hero or has been, your choice." The rest of the reasonably short trip to the Jesuit Mission was mercifully silent.

When they arrived, Seachuk was startled to see his four congressional colleagues who represented the other city districts. "Did she coerce you like she coerced me," asked Seachuk of his colleagues?

"Didn't have to," said Tony de Salvo. "Dierdre has big, bold ideas that could be a model for every city in the country. It pays us to listen." Fr. Jim joined the group to meet Seachuk. Dave Garvey, Chairman of the Mission Board, arrived and was mixing with some of the staff, being greeted with hugs and kisses along with Lola Santiago and Yvonne Washington, two of the new breed of young congressional firebrands, and Myles Farley, the senior member of the group and apparently a good friend of Dave.

Dierdre called the meeting to order. She explained the purpose of the meeting, to discuss and brainstorm ideas for creating model neighborhoods within a deteriorating city. She signaled for the lights to be dimmed

and Susan took over presenting a dramatic and disturbing slide presentation of the neglected areas of the city. Susan was articulate and professional.

When Susan's presentation was complete, Dierdre used another projector to present drawings of the possible solutions.

"That is a remarkable vision," said Congressman de Salvo. "It is very expensive," said Seachuck. "Where do you expect to get the money?"

"That is a relatively moderate issue," replied Dierdre. "It is far more economically effective to create wonderful neighborhoods and save a dying city especially at this time when there is a developing movement back to the cities. If everything goes according to plan, you will be intimately involved. I'll assemble teams to do the same thing in every major city in the country. There is HUD money budgeted for such projects that hasn't been used in years. HHS has grants available for the same purpose. I have identified the money and its source. We have a long way to go before the concepts are into a concrete plan. We want you to be part of the plan. We'll want to get commitments before you take it to the floor for a vote. You can be a winner or a loser. It is your choice. If you lose your election next year, we have a job development program down here if you need it."

Seachuck's colleagues, just smiled or laughed. "Dierdre is better at this than the NRA," laughed Lola Santiago from the third ward.

June intervened, "we are really quite far away from discussing finances. We want to meet with neighborhood groups, a presentation like this requires the total input of a number of constituents. We'll make our next presentation to the City Council. We'll need to sharpen our vision for property searches. We'll need to have architects' fertile imaginations to draw up possibilities. What you saw today was Dierdre and Susan's fertile imaginations. A project like this may take ten years. But every great project has a beginning and our meeting today begins this one. Our meeting doesn't require your commitment now. When the time comes, we will require your commitment. We are moving forward on this and we will keep you informed every step of the way."

"I'll get a ride home with one of my colleagues," said Seachuck.

"Dierdre, you continually amaze me," said Dave Garvey. "I always knew you were extraordinary. I just heard about your fame and glory on the soccer field, your academic achievements in high school, your work in the community, and you will be the speaker at the graduation of your high school. "I'll tell you more when I get back to the office. The project you outlined is fantastic. Count on me to help wherever. God bless your imagination."

"Today was a great day for us," said Fr. Jim. "I'll tell you as Board members but keep it secret until I let you know it is OK to discuss it. Grace O'Malley's dad flew in from Pittsburgh for breakfast this morning. He is donating a million dollars a year for the next ten years with an option to extend. I have a bank draft right here if anyone wants to see a check for a million dollars. Grace doesn't know this yet. He will tell her on Tuesday during their twice weekly telephone conversation.

Dierdre, here is an ad for the back cover of the ad book for the Golf Tournament. The check is for ten thousand dollars. Joe O'Malley said to keep the change.

Later that evening, they met with Fr. Fred for the next chapter in their pre-Cana. Tom went first with his letter. The discussion was all the financial machinations in marriage. Tom wrote about his feeling that the time was appropriate for a formal engagement, but he still didn't have enough money saved to propose. He saw the unhappiness, in his parent's life and would never want to put Dierdre through that. That was his quandary, but the fear was that he couldn't afford it. He definitely wanted to marry Dierdre and would she be willing to wait a couple of years.

"How much do you think it would take to put us in position for marriage?" Tom replied that it would probably take about thirty thousand dollars in the bank. He loved his job working for the Jesuit Mission, but he also realized that with his Business degree and extensive EMT training and experience, he could earn a much greater salary.

"Tom, you know I earn a Department Director's level salary at Garvey Legal. We never talked much about money and I don't know how you feel about me sharing the load."

"I don't mind that at all. You saved my backside in battle and most recently in that fire. but what will we do when children come along?"

"Tom, I have been frightened to death to talk about this and we should have. I am as committed to marrying you as you are to marrying me. Maybe it will be easier to talk about this if you read my letter."

Tom read Dierdre's letter and then went back to read it again.

"You have this much money."

"It came at the cost of losing a parent, the home I grew up in, my parish, my community. I had scholarships to every major and minor college in the country. A lot of friends who provided great emotional support. When my father died, I just couldn't see myself playing soccer and being a college student. I knew I was clouded with grief and needed a purpose. So, I joined the Marines. I wasn't a big fan of basic training, but I wouldn't let them strip away my dignity and independence. They just didn't know that. I kept that all to myself and play acted at being a Marine. Being a girl, they put me behind a computer after the best computer training the world could offer. It was new and different, and I really got into it. When they noticed that and also remembered that I had near perfect SAT scores they offered me a scholarship to study Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, just next door to the base. I studied in the summers and finished in three years. They designated me as a computer expert and gave me all kinds of marvelous tasks. I also trained Search and Rescue teams. When I got bored with office work, I asked for a team of my own to train. I had a couple of tough but snooty girls to train and they resisted it. When we were on patrol to search for a group that failed to check in, all hell broke loose when we approached our location. I gave the girls assignments and then took off to circle around the action. By the way, for all the heroics, I never did anything I thought I couldn't do. That part of Marine training worked well for me. I never let my ego go "Gung Ho." Anyway, it was a tough battle, but we saved a company of GIs. My team did well but they were frightened to death. I had earned their respect and we trained far more intensely than anyone else.

The battle where you and I met was one of the toughest of my tenure. There was only a glimmer of hope to save you guys and we pulled it off. You were wounded. When you picked up your weapon and got back into the battle, I knew you were the guy I wanted to marry.

Now, I have about ten million dollars to put into our pot. Are you still as courageous as you were in that battle?"

“Yes, I think so. We’ll talk more about this during the week.”

On the following Tuesday evening, as they had carefully planned, Joe O’Malley, telephoned his daughter. After the usual, casual, warm up conversation, Joe announced that he had two important things to tell his daughter. “First, I want to tell you that I contributed a pledge of \$10 million to the Jesuit Urban Mission over a ten-year period, with an option to continue at the end of the initial commitment.”

“Dad, I’m speechless. That is a wonderful gift, but why?”

“Grace, I am an investor. I have made fortunes for Maddox’ clients. I also made .a fortune for myself. It started to bother me that I had so much money that is totally useless unless I do something constructive with it. I was impressed with your commitment to the Jesuit Urban Mission. I did my usual due diligence and liked what I saw. I called Fr. Jim and flew in on the company jet for breakfast with him last week. I really like the guy. I also met your friend, June, a very impressive young lady. I don’t know if Jim told you about your friend, Dierdre’s, amazing ideas and the way she has planned to achieve them. Jim can use the money any way he wants, but I love Dierdre’s project. By the way, I read about her heroics along with her fiancé. Saving twenty-one lives is a big deal. I hope they are well.”

“Yes, they are very well and can’t get over why everyone is making a big deal about it. They were shocked in the morning when they came in for breakfast and discovered the fame they had achieved.”

“I look forward to meeting them when I come in in May.”

“The second issue is a lot more difficult to discuss. Your mom is not doing well. In fact, the mental illness is destroying her total health. She is in critical condition and I think it would be good for you to come in later this week.”

“Oh Dad,” she tearfully sighed. I’ll try to get in tomorrow. I’ll let you know.”

After a somber good bye, Grace sat in a chair and cried her eyes out. When she felt composed, she called Charlie.

Grace made arrangements with her colleagues at her office. She called John and alerted him to the situation. “Have the meeting,” she said. “My responsibilities are covered.”

She arrived at her parent’s home in mid-afternoon and she and her dad went directly to the hospital. Her mom was barely conscious, and it was shocking how much she had wasted away so rapidly.

Charlie arrived in the early evening and they went back to the hospital to keep the vigil that everyone dreads. The chaplain came by and sat with them. The rapid deterioration took place over the course of about a month.

She had been given the Sacrament of the Sick and the Eucharist. The world that she was in didn’t exclude the comfort she felt with the presence of the priest and the blessing of the Sacraments.

In the early hours of the morning, Grace rubbed a cloth bag of chopped ice across her lips. Her mom looked at her gratefully and then looked at her husband who was holding her hand. She exhaled a sigh from a deep cleansing breath and was snatched up by angels into the bosom of the Lord.

Grace, with her dad and Charlie sat together near the bed until the nurses came to prepare the body for the undertaker.

Joe planned to wait three days before the wake and the funeral, to let news of the event spread through the community.

Grace's mom would have been so proud of the turnout. Grace thought she had never seen so much fun outside of the zoo. Grace and Joe knew most of the people. Grace introduced Charlie as her fiancé.

A surprise visitor was Lou Massa. Charlie knew him right away as the Stamford basketball star. Grace had filled him in on their life-saving relationship. Grace's mom did not like Lou. He was not the kind of companion she envisioned for her daughter. None-the-less, Lou was there, a courageous act of friendship.

Grace's mom would have liked him better if she knew he would be a multi-millionaire because of his professional basketball career. He was accompanied by his wife, Angela. Her mom would have been even more impressed that he was an Under Secretary at the United Nations working with the Italian Ambassador. After introducing Charlie, Grace invited them back to her dad's home after the wake. Mrs. Reilly was prepared for guests.

During the evening, a busload of Grace's friends from Philadelphia, led by Dave and Brigid Garvey arrived at the funeral home. It was a significant gathering of all her friends and Grace was moved to tears and Charlie was equally as thrilled. They had flown in on Garvey Legal's corporate jet. Fr. Jim was with them as was Fr. Fred. Grace introduced everyone to her father. Joe was thrilled to meet Dave Garvey. He told him he was looking forward to their meeting in May and spending some time together. Dave respectfully declined the invitation to come back to the castle for drinks after the wake. Patrick has to teach in the morning. Rosellen has a class in the morning. Tom McNally had to get back for class. He was still a probationary Law student. Maeve and Theresa have meetings together outside of the office. Michael and Brian both have court appearances with clients in the morning, Maria has a class to teach. Fr. Fred has a funeral Mass in the morning. They were going to fly back to Philadelphia after the wake.

Dave told Joe that when he comes to Philadelphia, there will be plenty of time for them to talk.

Charlie walked out with them to the bus and thanked each one for coming with proper hugs and kisses.

Meanwhile, a line of visitors was building up to speak with both Joe and Grace.

Toward the end of the evening, the parish priest conducted a brief but poignant wake service.

Later on at the at the O'Malley house, the remainder of the evening went well even with the cloud of death that pervaded the atmosphere. Charlie told Grace how much he enjoyed meeting Lou and Angela. He could easily see how their friendship could make a difference in both their lives.

They talked about the wonderful appearance of the Garvey family, spouses, and friends.

The Funeral Mass the next morning would have made Grace's mom proud. The Cardinal presided, a dozen priests concelebrated, the mayor attended, and the church was filled to overflowing with dignitaries from every walk of life. The pastor preached a beautiful homily. The Cardinal preached at the end of the Mass as did Joe. Joe told the story of their life together. He was a classic introvert overwhelmed with a classic extrovert. She was right about having an active social life as the key to good business relationships. Joe followed her lead and fortune came along. Joe did not speak long but what he said came from the depths of his soul.

After the entombment, there was a large catered gathering back at the house. Mrs. Reilly, though she was a guest, directed the traffic of the caterers. Many of Joe's financial colleagues were present. The repast lasted through the rest of the day. Charlie had arranged to stay an extra day with Grace.

Joe sat with Charlie and Grace in front of the fireplace. It was

Grace who broke the comfortable silence. "Mom would have been pleased with the way you handled this, Dad."

"The way I handled it", asked Joe? "I thought you handled it. You knew mom's style better than anyone."

"Dad, you know I spent the last decade escaping from mom's style."

"Well, who did all this, Mrs. Reilly?"

Mrs. Reilly suddenly popped into the room. "I heard my name. Does anyone need anything?"

"No Mrs. Reilly. How did all these arrangements happen?"

"I took care of everything, Mr. O'Malley, but Mr. Charlie told me what to do and how to do it."

"Oh, you carried all the water. You should have taken all the credit," said Charlie.

Joe walked over and hugged Charlie. Grace walked over to Charlie and fiercely kissed him. *Thank you* was all that was required.

"It was so nice to meet the Massa's last night. I have such fond memories of the two of you running and hiding from room to room."

"Please, Mrs. Reilly. Don't tell my father any of my secrets."

Everyone laughed together except for the blushing Grace who gingerly suppressed her smile.

It was a fitting end to a difficult couple of days.

Back in Philadelphia, John hosted the next meeting of the golf tournament committee. Two months before the tournament, everything seemed to be well in hand. John provided drinks for the meeting and his kitchen provided hors d'oeuvres. Fr. Jim had given the "all clear" to talk about the O'Malley gift. Dierdre announced that Maddox investments purchased the last page of the ad booklet at \$2500.00, with a \$10,000 "keep the change" check. They had over 100 ads with two months left to go. Every law firm to which Garvey Legal had referred business had purchased an ad. All five congresspersons had purchased an ad. Dierdre's committee would remain active for at least another thirty days. Grace had told John that the donations from the sports memorabilia companies had been very generous. Grace had been actively steering business their way throughout the year and this was their way of saying, "thanks." As with all "not - for - profits," fund raising is a never-ending quest. The Jesuit Urban Ministry had built the nucleus of annual gifts under Theresa's administration but the explosion of services and personnel after the success of the first Gala was formidable. There was a dearth of medical services in their section of the city. The Urgent Care Center was a huge but necessary risk. They created a minor health insurance company to fund "fee for services," thanks to an early retiring insurance executive who wanted to pay his success forward. The ambulance turned up at a bargain price. It needed a lot of repairs but the many military homeless had automotive skills that fit the need, for

which they were paid. Dierdre and Tom boosted the Mission's credibility with their heroics that generated a lot of free publicity in all the Philadelphia news outlets.

Tommy and Dierdre presented themselves for their appointment with Father Fred. They were early and Fr. Fred offered them coffee and a share of his dessert.

"What were the responses to your heroics? By the way, those people were very lucky to have you right there for them."

"They lost everything they had," responded Dierdre. "We were able to provide clothing for them. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army have been a big help. Everyone is relocated with enough help for them to start over."

"How did your discussions go about money during the week?"

"Well," said Tommy. "I think I was surprised at the amount of money that Dierdre had saved. And then I realized the painful price that generated that money. Her father's tragic death redirected her entire life. The Marines were very good to her. She received her college degree. Their computer training program is acknowledged to be the best in the world. It is also nice to know that we are not going to have the pain my parents had."

"We plan to live simply," said Dierdre. "We don't have to rush into anything. I would like to purchase a home like the one Maria and Desmond have, and fill it with children. Otherwise, we can live simply."

"I would like to stay with my job at the Jesuit Mission. With my education, skills, and experience, I have much that I can offer to them and still keep contact with the homeless military."

"And I plan on staying with Garvey Legal for the rest of my career," said Dierdre.

"OK, on that note I will disappear, and you can share your letters."

The Easter Rising – 1916 – Eirí Amach na Cáisca

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom. So began the *Proclamation of the Irish Republic*, read from the steps of the General Post Office (the “GPO”) in Dublin on **Easter Monday 1916**, by **Pádraic Pearse**, President of the Irish Republic, and Commander-in-Chief of its military forces. Analogous to the Old Testament, there was a messianic tradition in Irish literature, looking forward to the re-birth of the Irish nation in a bright new day of Freedom. Perhaps the best example of this is found in the prophetic play, “The Singer”, by Pádraic Pearse, in which the sacrifice of but fifteen men redeems the nation. Like the sacrifice of Robert Emmet in 1803, the 1916 Easter Rising provided the blood sacrifice, which resulted in **the resurrection of the national consciousness of Gaelic Ireland** and set the country on the road to freedom.

On **Easter Monday, 24th April 1916** - like those who stood and fought in defense of American Liberty on Lexington Green and at Concord Bridge on the 19th of April in 1775 - brave Irish men and women took up arms to rid Ireland of its cruel invader, England. In so doing they set in motion events – the Irish War for Independence (1919-1921) -- which would inspire the unraveling of England’s vast empire, on which it could once be said that “the sun never set.”

Those who went out during Easter Week, in 1916, the Irish Volunteers (supported by Na Fianna Éireann), the Irish Citizen Army, the Irish National Foresters, the Hibernian Rifles and the ladies of Cumann na mBan, without regard to their own personal safety, went into the gap of danger, made the sacrifice, set the example.

For the poet William Butler Yeats, Easter 1916 transformed Ireland - from a place where “motley was worn,” ...

“all changed, changed utterly, a terrible beauty is born.”

Among those who fought for Irish Independence were a number of **American Fenians**, the **Hibernian Rifles (Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish - American Alliance))**, plus **veterans of the “Fighting 69th”** and a professor of mathematics, **New York-born Commandant Éamon de Valera**, of the Irish Volunteers (who would remain a major figure in Irish politics until his death in 1975). Significant support for Irish Independence also came from **Ireland’s “exiled children in America,” Clan na Gael, AOH and Friends of Irish Freedom**. Of particular note are Judge Daniel Cohalan and **John Devoy**, and, from the “Fighting 69th”, Jeremiah O’Leary, J.J. (“Ginger”) O’Connell, John T. Prout and Alexander Anderson.

When **Sinn Féin**, as a separatist, abstentionist republican party contested the general election of 14th December 1918, promising to NOT represent their constituents, or their country, in the mighty Westminster Parliament in London, but rather to set up, without foreign let or hindrance, a republican assembly which would form an Irish government for all Ireland. **Sinn Féin won** an overwhelming majority of the popular vote in all Ireland, and 73 of 105 seats, in what can only be described as a **plebiscite for independence**. The delegates who assembled in the Mansion House in Dublin formed **An Chead Dáil Éireann** (The First Dáil Éireann – Assembly of Ireland), and issued the *Irish Declaration of Independence* on 21st January 1919 (legally the equivalent of the American Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress, promulgated on the 4th of July 1776). Brian O’Higgins, himself among the elected **Teachta Dála Éireann (TDEs)**, points out, in his Wolfe Tone Annual, that **Easter Monday, 1916** is regarded as the significant date as a consequence of the pre-existing Army Council of the Irish Republican Army – **Óglaigh na hÉireann (the IRA)**, the army of the government of Ireland virtually established, insisting upon The First Dáil Éireann recognizing, and swearing allegiance to, the **Irish Republic proclaimed in arms in 1916**, as a condition for the IRA coming under the authority of the democratically elected government formed by The **First Dáil Éireann**.

Ireland’s Freedom struggle in the twentieth century began with the **Easter Rising in 1916**. †

ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY

April 22

1671 - An English Navigation Act prohibits direct importation of sugar, tobacco and other produce from the colonies to Ireland; act expires in 1681 but is renewed in 1685 and extended in 1696

1918 - A general strike takes place throughout Ireland against the British government's attempts to introduce conscription

April 23

1014 - The Dublin Norse and the king of Leinster, with Viking allies from overseas, are defeated by Brian Boru's army at Clontarf. Brian, now an old man, is killed. This thwarts the potential domination of Ireland by the Norse, but they are well established in the coastal towns, and will continue to have a major influence. Máel Sechnaill succeeds Brian as high king

1918 - The Military Service Act 18 April threatens conscription for Ireland: there is a one-day general strike in protest (except in Ulster) on this date

1961 - A census shows the population of Northern Ireland is 1,425,642; an earlier census on April 9 shows the population of the Republic to be 2,818,341

April 24

1596 - Pacificatie of Ireland drawn

1913 - Large supply of guns from Germany are landed at Larne for the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)

1916 - On Easter Monday, the Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army seize the General Post Office (GPO) in Dublin and demand Irish sovereignty

1993 - A massive IRA bomb rips through the City of London, killing one and injuring more than 40

1998 - The Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Freedom Fighters' Inner Council - the North's largest loyalist paramilitary group - backs the Stormont Agreement, saying it secures the state's place within the United Kingdom

April 25

1185 - Henry II sends his son John to Ireland; John lands at Waterford on this date to assert control over Hugh de Lacy, but he fails to achieve this. Henry still suspects that de Lacy wants to be king of Ireland

1707 - Thomas Erle, MP for Cork city, commands the centre at the Battle of Alamanza and loses his right hand on this date; David Dunbar, later MP for Blessington, is wounded and captured in the same battle, and John Upton, later MP for Co. Antrim, distinguishes himself

1861 - William Ford, who crossed the Atlantic from Ireland by steerage, marries fellow country woman Mary O'Hern. Their son Henry Ford, pioneered the mass manufacturing of the automobile

1918 - Irish Labour Party declares one-day strike in protest over conscription act

Anglo-Irish agreements on defense, finance and trade (25 April) end the 'Economic War': the 'Treaty' ports are ceded by Britain; the Irish Government pays £10 million to settle financial claims; both sides repeal penal duties on imports

1938 - Anglo-Irish agreements on defence, finance and trade end the 'Economic War': the 'Treaty' ports are ceded by Britain; the Irish Government pays £10 million to settle financial claims; both sides repeal penal duties on imports

1946 - Birth of Peter Sutherland; in 1981, he becomes Ireland's youngest ever Attorney-General in the Fine Gael-Labour coalition government. In 1997, he becomes chairman of BP and when BP merges with Amoco in 1998 he becomes non-executive chairman of the new company. BP Amoco has a market value of about \$40 billion. Sutherland is also on the boards of ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., Investor AB and Eriksson. He is chairman of the Overseas Development Council in Washington and the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and awards in Europe and America.

1976 - About 10,000 people attend the Easter week commemorative rally at the GPO, convened by the Provisionist IRA, despite government prohibition

1998 - The first ever mass demonstrations against immigration laws and racism take place in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. At the same time, protests are staged by Irish people outside embassies all over Europe and the United States. Dublin edges close to a standstill as more than 1,000 protesters march from St Stephen's Green to the GPO

April 26

1718 - Thomas St Lawrence, 13th Baron of Howth, receives £215 14s 1 1/2d for the expense he incurs in building a quay at Howth for landing coals for the lighthouse

1745 - On this date, John Allen (3rd Viscount Allen), former MP for Carysfort, kills a dragoon in a street brawl. 'His Lordship was at a house in Eustace Street. At twelve in the night, three dragoons making a noise in the street, he threw up the window and threatening them, adding as is not unusual with him a great deal of bad language. The dragoons returned it. He went out to them loaded with a pistol. At the first snapping of it, it did not fire. This irritated the dragoon who cut his fingers with his sword, upon which Lord Allen shot him.' The wound occasions a fever which causes Lord Allen's death on 25 May

1756 - John Ponsonby is unanimously elected Speaker of the Irish parliament

1784 - Death of Nano Nagle, 'God's Beggar', founder of the Order of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1808 - Benjamin Burton, son of William Burton (former MP for Gowran and Co. Carlow) fractures his skull in a fall from his horse while hunting but, having apparently recovered, goes out again with the hounds and dies from 'brain fever'

1895 - The trial of Oscar Wilde for homosexuality, then a crime, begins at the Old Bailey

1916 - Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, writer, suffragist, pacifist and patriot, is apprehended while trying to stop Easter Rising looting and is later executed by the British without a trial

1999 - Former Supreme Court Justice, Hugh O'Flaherty, confirms he will give a full and frank account of his role in the Philip Sheedy affair before the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality and Women's Rights

April 27

1696 - Act 'for encouraging the linen manufacture of Ireland': Irish linen gains duty-free access to the British market on this date

1739 - Lord Barry of Santry is tried by his peers in the parliament house for the murder of his former servant Laughlin Murphy in August 1738. They unanimously find him guilty, but recommend him to the royal mercy. The Lord Lieutenant endorses this plea, and Santry is pardoned under the great seal on 17 June. His estates, which had been forfeited for life, will be restored in 1741

1880 - The Royal University of Ireland is founded by charter

1904 - Cecil Day-Lewis, poet, novelist, critic, and Ireland's poet laureate from 1968 to 1972, is born in Ballintogher, Co. Sligo

1920 - Georgina Frost wins a legal battle to allow her to be clerk of the petty sessions for Sixmilebridge and Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare; she is thus the first woman to hold public office from central government in the UK

1923 - De Valera announces end of operations against the Irish Free State, effectively ending the Irish Civil War

2001 - Ireland's foremost literary town officially opens a permanent home for its famous wordsmiths and their works. A 19th century Georgian house, in the heart of Listowel, has become the Kerry Literary and Cultural Centre, where life-size models and audio-visual presentations help portray the personalities and output of various writers. The £1.5 million centre is appropriately named Seanchaí after the art of storytelling and in recognition of the folklore and traditions that inspire great literature.

April 28

1714 - Sir Wentworth Harman, MP for Lanesborough, 'coming in a dark night from Chapel-Izod, his coach overturning, tumbled down a precipice, and he dies in consequence of the wounds and bruises he received'

1864 - Birth of William Ellison, clergyman and the sixth director of the Armagh Observatory. On his appointment in 1918, he donates the original late nineteenth-century telescope to the Observatory - an 18-inch Newtonian reflector, made by the famous English telescope maker George Calver; for many years it is one of the largest telescopes in Ireland. During the 1920s and 1930s, Ellison and others use the telescope for observations of the planets and for taking spectral images of the stars, using a spectroscope to split the starlight into its constituent colours

1936 - The Daíl introduces a bill awarding pensions to the Connaught Rangers who mutinied in India in 1920

1998 - Some 30 years after waiting on Eamonn De Valera and literary luminaries of the day in the Great Southern Hotel in Galway, 57-year old Rita Gilligan from Bohermore is presented with an honorary MBE

by UK Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, at London's Hard Rock Cafe where she has worked as a waitress for 27 years

2000 - It is announced that 100 free bicycles will be placed on the streets of Dublin for the Heineken Green Energy Weekend. The free bicycles will be placed outside Trinity College, outside Dublin Castle and at the top of Grafton Street and will be available to anyone wishing to cycle around the city to take in the atmosphere of the Festival

April 29

1665 - Birth of James Butler, 2nd Duke of Ormonde and an ancestor of Princess Diana. The Dublin-born Irish general becomes one of the most powerful men in the Tory administration, governing England in the early part of the 18th century - from 1710 to 1714

1680 - The first stone of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham is laid by the Duke of Ormonde

1916 - Pearse orders surrender of the Easter Rising rebels on this date. Approximately 64 rebels have been killed, 132 crown forces, and 230 civilians. 2,500 people have been wounded; the centre of Dublin has been devastated by the shelling

2001 - A monument is unveiled in Inniscarra, Co Cork, in honour of an Ulster chief who could have changed the history of Europe if he hadn't been killed in battle. Chief of Fermanagh, Aodh Mag Uidhir (Hugh Maguire) is shot dead during an ambush in 1600 at Carrigrohane before the Battle of Kinsale the following year, which sees the last struggle for an independent Gaelic Ireland fail. "Maguire was a great strategist, and some believe that had he survived, the result of the Battle of Kinsale might have been different, changing the course of European history. He was the Rommel of the 1600s," says Seán O' Ceallacháin of the Hugh Maguire Commemoration Committee

April 30

1428 - Sir John Sutton, Lord Dudley, is appointed lieutenant for two years from this date; he has some success against the various rebels

1795 - Rev. William Jackson of the United Irishmen returns from France, unaware that his travelling companion, John Cockayne, is a spy; Jackson is arrested and found guilty of high treason; he commits suicide in the dock by taking poison

1942 - Because of petrol rationing, all private motoring in Ireland is banned, and bicycle thefts soar overnight

1951 - The first demonstration of television in Ireland is held at the Spring Show in the RDS, Dublin

1970 - "B-Specials" reserves within the Royal Ulster Constabulary formed to contain violence in 1933 (but notoriously violent in their own right) are disbanded