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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Rita: A Memoir

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

This week I've been reading *Rita: A Memoir*. Rita O'Hare preceded me as the Sinn Féin Representative to North America. She agreed to take on the role for a short period that stretched to 21 years. Her life had been one of a republican activist, shot and imprisoned on three occasions as an IRA volunteer. She became a journalist and editor for An Phoblacht/ Republican New and later Sinn Féin's Director of Publicity. Her tenure in the states started in 1998 the year of the Good Friday Agreement and lasted until 2020. She represented Sinn Féin through all of the post-agreement challenges and changes. A steadfast supporter of the peace process.

I knew and worked closely with Rita in our respective roles in Sinn Féin over the years. When it came time for Rita to step aside from the US position I was proud that she had the confidence in me to step up. We traveled around the states to meet supporters and knocked on doors on Capitol Hill.

It is not easy to follow a legend. Many times, it was said, that I had big shoes to fill and Rita would smile. Once I responded that they might be a bit tight, and winked at Rita who threw me daggers. I am 6 foot 1. Rita was 5 foot nothing. I miss not being able to pick up the phone and run things by her.

The book charts the many twists and turns in her exceptional life as an activist. It lays out the development of the peace process and the growth of Sinn Féin. My bookshelves are lined with Irish political books and biographies. This book is more

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The voice of Rita resonates on every page including her love of a good swear word where no other word would do.

It is a very human story of a life lived in struggle, regrets, and the costs paid by a family. It also deals with the loss of many young lives. Above all, it is a story of life lived in hope and activism. The belief that there is a responsibility on us all to rise above hardship to make the world a better place.

Years ago a Sinn Féin representative asked were there really going out in a blizzard to walk in a Saint Patrick's Day parade. Rita responded. "you signed up, you are going to have to march". It became her go-to rebuttal when anyone complained. She lived it. Rita signed up and marched until the end.

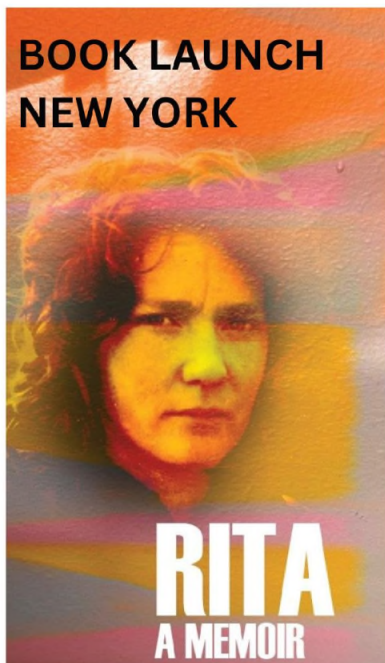
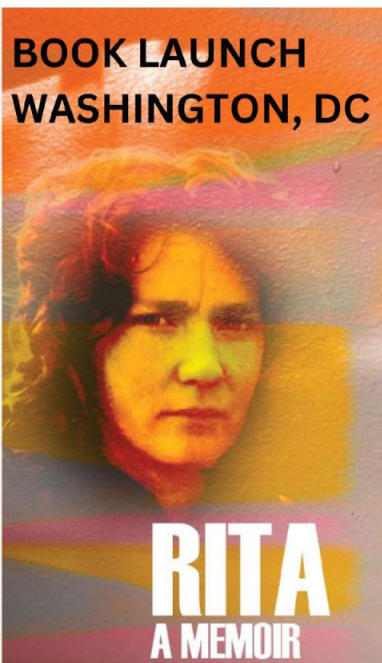
Rita: A Memoir will be launched in New York and Washington in September.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

	Veteran republican, IRA Volunteer Rita O'Hare led an astonishing life. She was imprisoned three times—in Armagh Jail (twice) and Limerick Prison; survived being shot and gravely injured by the British Army; became a writer, editor, Director of Publicity, and Sinn Féin's representative in Washington. Nelson Mandela referred to her as his 'little warrior'. Of all republicans she was the longest 'on the run'. But above all she was devoted to her beloved partner Brendan, to her four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. <i>Rita</i> is the memoir she was writing at the time of her death in March 2023. Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 Bobby Van's 135 W 50th St, NY, NY 5:00pm Books will be available, guest speakers & more.		Veteran republican, IRA Volunteer Rita O'Hare led an astonishing life. She was imprisoned three times—in Armagh Jail (twice) and Limerick Prison; survived being shot and gravely injured by the British Army; became a writer, editor, Director of Publicity, and Sinn Féin's representative in Washington. Nelson Mandela referred to her as his 'little warrior'. Of all republicans she was the longest 'on the run'. But above all she was devoted to her beloved partner Brendan, to her four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. <i>Rita</i> is the memoir she was writing at the time of her death in March 2023. Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024 Bobby Van's 809 15th St NW, WDC 6:00pm Books will be available, guest speakers & more.
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People's Assembly: Diaspora Cleveland, Ohio

The Commission on the Future of Ireland and Friends of Sinn Féin will host a People's Assembly in Cleveland, OH on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

Join us for a conversation with Dáire Hughes, Sinn Féin MP for Newry and Armagh. He will provide a briefing on the effort, progress, and next steps.

A Q&A and discussion will follow.

Tickets are free and limited, and registration is required.

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THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



Tuesday, October 8th, 2024
Cleveland, OH
West Side Irish American Club

Featuring Dáire Hughes, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.



AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN

Walking The Path Of Unity: A Personal Journey Toward Irish Reunification

By Brendan McGovern

As the 4th Annual NYC Chieftain's Walk approaches on September 15, I find myself reflecting on the deep connections that bind my family's history to the ongoing journey toward a united Ireland.

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stroll along the city's Westside Greenway; it's a powerful statement for reunification—an aspiration that once seemed so distant but now, more than ever, feels within reach.

For me, the dream of a united Ireland is not just a political ideal; it's a personal mission that spans generations. My grandfather, Hugh McGovern, was among the brave souls who fought for Irish independence in 1916. After the bitter reality of partition set in, he devoted his life to the Irish Army, serving his country until he retired in 1945. But retirement didn't mean rest for him. He became a union organizer for The Erne Hydroelectric Scheme in Ballyshannon, tirelessly working toward a future where Ireland would once again be whole. He held onto that dream until the day he died.

My father, Sean McGovern, born in Ballyshannon in 1935, grew up just four miles from the border.

That border was not just a line on a map; it was a symbol of division that left him feeling like a second-class citizen in his own country.

The economic hardships of the time forced him to leave Ireland, first to London and eventually to New York City, where he built a new life. Yet, Ireland was never far from his heart.



At 89, my father remains deeply involved in Irish American organizations including the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), the Donegal Association, and the United Irish Counties. His dedication to the cause of a united Ireland has never wavered.

Growing up, I vividly remember the tension and fear that accompanied our visits to the North of Ireland in the 1970s. British soldiers, with their machine guns, would scrutinize us at border checkpoints as we made our way from Ballyshannon to Belfast to visit my maternal grandfather.

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Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation 2024 Dinner

Sinn Féin MLA Ciara Ferguson will be the special guest at the 2024 Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation Dinner which will be held on September 12, 2024 at Bobby Van's, 135 W 50th St, New York, NY.

Visit <https://martinmcguinnesspf.org/upcoming-events> for more details and to register.

The Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation 2024 Chieftain's Dinner NYC

Save the Date
September 12, 2024

**Special Guest Speaker: Ciara Ferguson,
MLA – Sinn Féin**

Date: September 12, 2024

Location: Bobby Vans

Address: 135 W 50th St, New York, NY 10020
b/n 6th and 7th Ave

**Cocktail hour from 6-7 pm, sit down 3
course dinner 7-9 pm**

Check our website:

<https://martinmcguinnesspf.org/>

Tickets - \$250

Sponsorships - \$500

Email Marty Glennon at: mglennon@abgllaw.com



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Irish American State Legislators in Ireland

"There would be no Good Friday Agreement without the US. The progress we now see is made possible by the US continuing to act as a guarantor of the Agreement.

"Our history shows this the US can be facilitators for peace. The US needs to the same in Palestine and stop funding the genocide in Gaza and respect international law," Colm Gildernew, Sinn Féin MLA for Fermanagh & South Tyrone, speaking this week with Irish American State Legislators.



2024 Chieftain's Walk NYC

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The Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation 2024 Chieftain's Walk NYC

Walk for Reunification

Date: September 15, 2024

Location: Irish Hunger Memorial,
Battery Park City

Address: 290 Vesey Street, New
York, NY 10281

Get ready for an unforgettable day as we come together to honor the beloved Martin McGuinness and raise awareness for his Peace Foundation. This year, we're walking for the reunification of Ireland, and we want YOU to be part of this incredible journey!

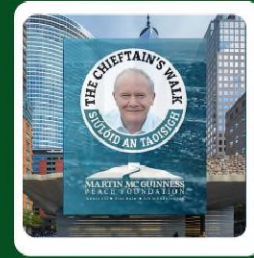
Register Now:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/91998/2024-martin-mcguinness-chieftains-walk-nyc>

Check our website for more information

<https://martinmcguinnesspf.org/>

Email Marty Glennon at: mglennon@abgllaw.com



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NEWS, ANALYSIS & EVENTS

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Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill extend sympathies on the passing of 'trailblazer' Nell McCafferty

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald has expressed her deepest sympathies on the passing of Nell McCafferty.

Ms McDonald said, "It was with great sadness that I heard the news of Nell McCafferty's passing.

"Nell was one of a kind. As a journalist and as a campaigner for women's rights, for civil rights and social justice, she blazed a trail for others to follow.

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about and spoke out on the nature and consequences of embedded injustice and inequality.

“In what was a deeply conservative society, she confronted the issues that the good and the great preferred to sweep under the carpet.

“She constantly pushed the boundaries of social conservation in Ireland during times when it wasn’t easy to do so.

“Her work on the Kerry Babies ‘A Woman to Blame’ is one of the most important books of its time.

Not only did it address a grave injustice, it also helped to inspire a generation of women to challenge second class citizenship and the denial of their rights.

“For her entire adult life, Nell McCafferty spoke the truth to power. She did so relentlessly and without fear or favour. She was deeply intelligent, had a razor sharp wit, and she was kind hearted. Nell really cared about ordinary people and about human dignity.

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