



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education & Community in Ireland, North & South

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

Union League Club of Chicago | March 10, 2017



Irish Senators Billy Lawless and Denis O'Donovan, Governor Bruce Rauner, and Alderman Ed Burke

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST 2017

Nearly 400 people kicked off the weekend's festivities at The Irish American Partnership's annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, held at the Union League of Chicago on March 10th. Guests enjoyed classical Irish music and inspiring remarks from **Governor Bruce Rauner, Alderman Ed Burke, Alderman Patrick Thompson, Irish Senator Denis O'Donovan, and Irish Senator Billy Lawless.**

The event commenced with **Catherine O'Connell's** powerful renditions of the American and Irish national anthems and Father Jack Clair's timely call to compassion for immigrants as he offered the benediction. **Governor Bruce Rauner** began the speaking program by discussing his family's immigrant background and the important contributions the Irish have made in Illinois.

Alderman Patrick Thompson resumed the program after breakfast, recognizing his mother, Patricia Daley Martino, along with Bridget Flanagan for their vision in founding the Partnership's annual breakfast nearly twenty years ago.

Irish American Partnership CEO **Mary Sugrue** spoke about the Partnership's programs, emphasizing the direct grants to primary schools across Ireland, science learning initiatives, and the Partnership's new poetry program which focuses on themes of emigration and the Irish Diaspora.

Irish Senator Denis O'Donovan, Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, praised Irish America's contributions to the Easter Rising and the Northern Irish Peace Process and encouraged continued engagement as Ireland navigates the implications of Brexit and its economic recovery.

Irish Senator Billy Lawless, the first ever overseas senator, promoted immigration reform in the United States, emphasizing the role Irish Americans must play in creating a just and welcoming society.

Special thanks to **Master of Ceremonies Alderman Ed Burke** for keeping the program lively with his incredible knowledge of Chicago Irish history.



Governor Bruce Rauner addresses the audience



Irish Senator Denis O'Donovan, Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, gave the keynote address



Irish Senator Billy Lawless, Irish Vice Consul General Ragnar Almqvist, Father Jack Clair, Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza, Partnership CEO Mary Sugrue, Irish Senator Denis O'Donovan, Alderman Patrick O'Connor, and Alderman Ed Burke



See the full album on our website www.irishap.org or facebook www.facebook.com/irishamericanpartnership

Thanks to all those who attended

The Irish American Partnership's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

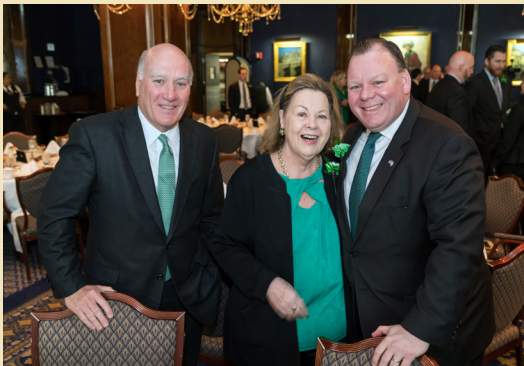
The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives and community development programs in **Ireland, North and South**. The Partnership provides forums for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the U.S., connecting Irish-Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange.



Father Jack Clair offered the benediction



Catherine O'Connell singing the American and Irish National Anthems



Former Chief of Staff to President Obama Bill Daley, Patricia Daley Martino, and Alderman Patrick Thompson



Raffle winner John Wrenn with Marie McKown from Tourism Ireland and Justice Mary Jane Theis. Mr. Wrenn won 2 round-trip flights to Ireland.



Partnership Chief Executive Mary Sugrue with Senator Billy Lawless



Musicians Paddy Homan, Kavan Donoghue, and Larry Nugent

THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

would like to thank the following for their assistance in making
the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Celebration a success:

Breakfast Sponsors

**THE LAW OFFICES OF
EDWARD T. JOYCE & ASSOCIATES**

CLUNE
Construction Company



Host Committee

John Barrett
Dan Brennan
Patricia Bidwill
Seamus Byrne
Gene Callahan
Mike Clune
Kevin Conlon
Jim Coyne
Rose Doherty
Rev. Scott Donahue
Jim Durkan

John Fitzgerald
Tim Fitzgibbon
Bob Flood
Kevin Flood
Bill Gainer
Frank Harmon
John Hartigan
Jack Hartman
Mary Pat Hay
Martin Healy, Jr.
Patrick Heneghan

Brian Hickey
Liz Livingston Howard
Ed Joyce
Austin Kelly
Jim Kilbane
Chris Kozicki
Senator Billy Lawless
Margaret O'Ryan Lombardo
Jim Madden
Aine Mallaghan

Fiona McEntee
Bridget McMahon Healy
Brian J. Murphy
Donal O'Brien
Peter O'Brien
Mary Pat O'Connor
Rosie O'Neill
Kathy Taylor
The Hon. Patrick Thompson
Marcy O'Keeffe Twardak

