



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 4, 2016

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Congressman Neal and Mayor Sarno to Announce Events Commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising

Springfield, MA- Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and Congressman Richard E. Neal, along with Springfield Parks, Recreation and Building Management Executive Director Patrick Sullivan, will announce local events commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. The press conference will take place today, March 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History.

The scheduled events will begin March 8 and conclude May 22. Included are flag raisings, film showings, and other celebrations commemorating Irish freedom, culture and the deep connection between Ireland and Western Massachusetts. Included with this press release is a complete listing of events.

"The Easter Rising in 1916 was a seminal moment in Irish history, and many people in western Massachusetts had relatives and loved ones who participated in the fight for Irish independence. Our own Revolution in 1776 helped inspire the Rising, and Ireland's "exiled children in America" were some of its strongest and most vocal supporters. One hundred years later, we recognize their courage, celebrate their determination and honor their memory with these special events in Springfield," said Congressman Richard E. Neal.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno stated, "The City of Springfield is honored to be hosting events commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising. Springfield has strong ties to Ireland, and I encourage all of our citizens and those of neighboring communities to take part in the programs soon to be offered throughout the region. On this 100th anniversary, it is an appropriate time for reflection on the sacrifices made by our ancestors. I believe that all nationalities can relate to the tenets of the proclamation set forth in 1916. And the Springfield community shares with Ireland the objective of achieving the goals set forth in the original proclamation."

"Everyone that has settled here came to seek a better life and to raise their family with dignity," Mayor Sarno continued. "I am proud we have accepted the invitation of the Irish Government to host a Remembrance Garden in Forest Park, as it will be a constant reminder for tolerance, honoring our beliefs, and ensuring that we respect one another as individuals. Please join with me in attending the activities being offered as your involvement will highlight the vision of our community."

Patrick Sullivan said, "I would like to thank all of the Irish clubs and institutions throughout Western Massachusetts for sharing their information to assist us in developing an impressive calendar of events to commemorate the Easter Rising. The various programs and activities being offered to the public reflect the culture for which Ireland is admired, and offers everyone the opportunity to partake in this county's love of the arts, literature, and music. We look forward to the Springfield community's enthusiastic participation and we welcome our neighbors throughout local communities to join us in this global initiative."

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