



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 6, 2016

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Public Invited to Attend 1916 Garden of Remembrance Opening and Easter Rising Commemoration Ceremonies

Springfield, MA - As the City of Springfield prepares the final plantings in the 1916 Garden of Remembrance, Congressman Richard E. Neal and Mayor Domenic J. Sarno invite the public to attend the commemoration ceremonies planned for May 14th and 15th. All programs are free to the public. The city accepted the global invitation from the Irish Government earlier this year and has constructed the 1916 Gardens of Remembrance at the lower Rose Garden. The weekend of May 14th and 15th will conclude eight weeks of programs that were held throughout the Pioneer Valley commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising.

Mayor Domenic Sarno stated, "We are proud to be the first in the United States to construct the 1916 Gardens of Remembrance. This garden represents the fabric of our community and the Pioneer Valley as the support for this garden has been tremendous. We encourage all of our citizens to join in the planned programs next weekend. We are honored to showcase our local talent, "Billy Egan and the Rising" and "Dee Reilly" who will provide a memorable evening. I look forward to honoring the local Irish organizations Saturday night; it is for their stewardship that has ensured their faith and family traditions have been past through the generations. The Sunday commemoration ceremony will be a time to pay our respect to those who sacrificed to meet the aims of the Irish proclamation."

Congressman Richard Neal said, "The Easter Rising was a seminal moment in Irish history and it helped transform cities like Springfield and Boston. The Garden of Remembrance is a direct call to Ireland's exiled children in America, and the Proclamation is one of the few declarations of independence in the world that references both men and women equally. The Rising of 1916 led to the creation of the

modern Irish state and it was heavily influenced many families who settled here in the City of Springfield and the surrounding communities. I strongly encourage everyone to take part in next weekend's exciting commemoration ceremonies. This is the first Garden of Remembrance to be completed in America, and its dedication will help strengthen the bonds between the western Massachusetts and Ireland."

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Welcome Reception for Our Honored Guests from Ireland

An exhibit prepared by the Springfield Museum will be on display. There will be Irish music and light hors d'oeuvres.

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History
21 Edwards Street
Springfield, MA

Mass of Remembrance to Honor Ireland and Her Diaspora

This Mass, sponsored by the John Boyle O'Reilly Club, will honor the efforts of the men and women who struggled to achieve the aims of the Proclamation. It will also offer a time for prayerful reflection to remember the families who emigrated from Ireland and settled in Western Massachusetts.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

St. Michael's Cathedral
254 State Street,
Springfield, MA

Fáilte Abhaile - Welcome Home 1916-2016

The Pioneer Valley gathers to celebrate its Irish heritage. Spend time visiting with family and friends from across Western Massachusetts and celebrate the Irish community. There will be Irish music featuring Bill Eagan and The Rising and Dee Reilly. Refreshments, light fare, and a cash bar will be available.

7:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History
21 Edwards Street
Springfield, MA
Free to the public

9:00 pm - 9:30 pm - Congressman Neal and Mayor Sarno will present clubs and committees with a 1916 Centennial Proclamation.

Sunday, May 15, 2016

1916 Remembrance Garden Dedication Ceremony

Join Congressman Neal and Mayor Sarno in commemorating the 1916 Remembrance Garden in Forest Park, the first to be built in the United States. Its design represents the seven men who were signatories of the Irish Proclamation and sacrificed their lives for their beliefs and love of country. The Honor Escort, welcoming dignitaries from Ireland, will include officers from the John Boyle O'Reilly Club, the Sons of Erin, the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, and area St. Patrick's Day Parade committees. The commemoration ceremony will include the reading of the

proclamation, a 1916-2016 reflection, and the unveiling of the engraved granite proclamation from Ireland.

11:00 am

Forest Park – Rose Garden

302 Sumner Avenue

Springfield, MA

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