



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education & Community in Ireland, North & South

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

Seaport Hotel ♦ March 17th, 2017



Partnership Board Member Dave Greaney, Partnership CEO Mary Sugrue, Irish Minister Katherine Zappone, Irish Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan, and John Cullinane

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST 2017

The Irish American Partnership hosted its annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on March 17th at the Seaport Hotel with over 330 in attendance.

Mayor Marty Walsh opened the event with a reminder that the attitudes towards Irish arriving to Boston's shores were once as vitriolic as the rhetoric heard towards new immigrants and refugees today. He emphasized his commitment towards making Boston a safe and welcoming place for all and asked the audience to act compassionately towards new arrivals to our city. **Mayor Walsh** also gave a special tribute to **Joe Leary**, who gave Partnership grants to the schools his mother and father attended. Mayor Walsh said of all the honors he received after becoming mayor, those were the greatest.

John Cullinane gave a warm introduction to **Partnership President Joseph Leary**, praising his visionary work investing in Ireland's youth through education.

President Emeritus Joe Leary reflected on his 28-year tenure at the Partnership, thanking his family for their support and Chuck Feeney for his initial seed-funding of the organization.

State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry presented Joe with an official commendation from the Massachusetts State Senate for his work in Boston and Ireland.

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. She gave a special thanks to Joe Leary for his service to the organization and **Kevin Leary** for his generous, long-time support of the St. Patrick's Day breakfast.

Katherine Zappone TD, Minister of Children and Youth Affairs, spoke on behalf of the Irish government. She commended the Partnership for its work in directly funding schools and community programs in Ireland, which has a transformative impact on the youth population.



State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry presents Partnership President Emeritus Joe Leary with an official citation from the Massachusetts State Senate for his work in Boston and Ireland



Mayor Marty Walsh with Kevin W. Leary of VPNE, one of the breakfast's generous long-time sponsors



Minister of Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone addresses the audience



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 William Joy offers the benediction



Mary Conroy singing the American and Irish National Anthems



President Emeritus Joe Leary was honored for his 28 year career with the Partnership



L-R: Billy Condon from Tourism Ireland, Mary Sugrue, raffle winner Brian McMenimen, CEO of the GPA Dermot Earley. Mr. McMenimen won 2 round-trip flights to Ireland.



Minister Katherine Zappone with State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry



John Cullinane introduces Joe Leary

THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

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the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Celebration a success:

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