

To mark the 4th July-Independence Day 2020

Launch of Policy Document to establish:

The Tip O' Neill International Summer School in Mallow (Ancestral Home of Tip O' Neill), Co. Cork, Ireland at a weekend date between July & September 2021.

Date of launch 4th July 2020.

Inaugural Memorial Address/ Lecture & press conference to announce launch was unable to take place due to logistics to comply Public Health Regulations.

The Tip O' Neill International Summer School – Mallow

“Strengthening the Irish Bridge between the United States of America & Europe”



(photo courtesy of the Tip O' Neill Exhibition)

Organised by the Tip O' Neill International Summer School, Mallow in association with the Irish in Europe Association, Brussels and others to be named.

Thomas Phillip "Tip" O'Neill Jr. was an Irish American politician who served as the 47th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987, representing northern Boston, Massachusetts, as a Democrat from 1953 to 1987. Patrick O' Neill, one of five children, was born in Mallow, County Cork, Ireland to John and Johanna (Julia) nee Fox in 1832. He was Tip O'Neill's grandfather. Tip's maternal grandparents were Eunice Fullerton from Sleidrin, Bunrana and James Tolan from Inishowen, County Donegal.

In 1991 President George H. W. Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom – America's highest civilian award, which is presented for especial meritorious contributions to the national interests of America and World peace.

President Bill Clinton is quoted as saying: "Tip O'Neill was the nation's most prominent, powerful and loyal champion of working people... He loved politics and government because he

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saw that politics and government could make a difference in people's lives. And he loved people most of all."

Mallow, the Capital of North Cork is situated on the river Blackwater and is referred to as the Cross-Roads of Munster. Mallow in addition to being the paternal ancestral home of Tip O' Neil, it is also the birthplace of the Irish Patriot, Thomas Osborne Davis. Tip O' Neill made his first stop-over visit at Mallow in March 1985 on a Congressional Delegation to Cork City where he received the Freedom of Cork City. He got off the train at Mallow Station and kissed the ground in memory of his Mallow ancestors. In an earlier, if not his first visit to Ireland in 1956, Tip represented the United States Government at the ceremony in Wexford at the unveiling of the Statue to Commodore John Barry the founder the United States Navy. He again visited Mallow in July 1987 where a civic reception hosted by Mallow Urban District Council at Mallow Castle was held in his honour. During this same visit to Ireland, Tip O' Neill was awarded the honorary degree of LL.D by Trinity College Dublin on 10 July 1987. The oration in his honour delivered by the then Chancellor Francis Joseph Charles (Frank) O'Reilly, referred how the former Speaker "acquired an unrivalled knowledge of parliamentary procedure, assisting in the passage of much social legislation, particularly in the sphere of civil rights and federal aid to health services. He was the first public representative to propose the ending of the war in Vietnam, for it has been his abiding conviction that political problems must be solved by discussion not violence".

The Tip O' Neill International Summer School-Mallow will aim to imbue the life and times of Tip O' Neill from the time of his initial political engagement in campaigning for Al Smith in the 1928 Presidential campaign, his New Deal philosophy, his achievements as an elected public representative and Speaker of the House of Representatives, his quest throughout his life for equality and fairness and, last but not least, his and other Irish Americans commitment and contribution to the Peace Process in Northern Ireland and the maintenance of good relations between Ireland and the United States.

The principal aim of the Summer School is the strengthen the Irish bridge between the United States of America & Europe.

The School will set out to define itself as evolving Irish Bridge that will span Ireland's historic connections with Europe and from the time of its New World connection with the United States that initially became a melting pot of all European Peoples. It will, through its global Irish Emigrant & Diaspora network seek and explore avenues to be a progressive and active medium of reconnecting the USA with its Irish and European roots.

In the agreed programme for government, the participating political parties in Ireland referred to the 'Relationship with the United States'. They stated that "The relationship between Ireland and the United States is of unique significance on an economic, social, historical, and political level. We will: Strengthen our diplomatic, cultural, and economic relationship with the US at all levels, recognising the unique significance of the transatlantic relationship between us". They also reinforced their policy to:

"Act as a bridge in the transatlantic relationship between the EU and US"

The Tip O' Neill International Summer School will have a much broader remit to include all of Europe with its relationship building with the USA.

To paraphrase Tip O' Neill's famous quote that "All Politics is Local", the summer school will apply that grassroots principle; that building relations between nations must also have their foundations in local communities and the need for communities of different nations and regions to interact and understand each other. The School will aim to be a community-driven bridge of bringing the peoples of Europe and the USA together to complement the institutionalised and diplomatic relationships that normally take place between governments and States.

The school will be a bridge of people, ideas, and reflections. It will not just be an annual weekend event but an ongoing active process of engagement in all facets of social, cultural, economic and political life that will flow from communities bringing people together within Ireland, with Irish Emigrants and the Irish Diaspora, thus facilitating interaction of people in Europe and the USA.

The school will evolve at different levels and phases contingent on the budget, human resources and all support made available to it. It will lay its foundations by drawing from its own pool of academia and experts from Mallow and North Cork. It will also establish a Roll of Honour to recognise the North Cork citizenry that achieved fame and distinguished themselves in different walks of life at home and abroad.

Following an international consultation process, a weekend date will be decided for the first Summer School between July and September 2021.

This school will aim to become the premier summer school in Munster.

There will also be a Junior Summer School that will run in parallel with the main school. Initially, the Transition students of all the secondary schools in North Cork will be invited to participate in the Junior School and be requested to form a North Cork Youth Forum to consult with fellow students and to set the conference agenda each year keeping in the mind the main aim of the Summer School.

To reflect the maternal family roots of Tip O' Neill in Donegal, it is proposed that Junior School input would also come from Rathmullan and Inishowen peninsula at some stage in the evolution of the School. Inishowen is where Tip O' Neill's maternal family came from and Rathmullan across from Inishowen in Lough Swilly is where the Flight of the Earls took place and which marked the beginning of mass emigration from Ireland to Europe and later to many countries in all corners of the world including the United States. Rathmullan/Buncrana and Inishowen would in turn also be invited to form a Youth Forum and participate in the Junior School that would serve as the basis for a regional twinning between Mallow & North Cork and Rathmullan/Buncrana and Inishowen. At a later date, it is envisaged to create similar youth structures for the Cambridge-Boston area of Massachusetts where Tip O' Neill grew up and also

with the Leuven area of Flanders in Belgium where the Irish Refugee Chieftains found sanctuary with the King of Spain in 1607. In time, all four regions would be part of an international regional youth twinning programme brought together under the auspices of the bridge building agenda of the School. Schools visits of visiting lecturers on the life of Tip O' Neil and relationship building would be an integral part of the junior school programme.

The Tip O'Neill project would also facilitate the growing of relations between Boston, Cork, Derry-the natural hinterland of Inishowen and Leuven in Belgium. The project would also seek to grow community ties between Washington DC, Dublin, and Brussels Capitals.

To symbolise the bridge building theme of the Summer School, the International Committee will be making representations to the National Roads Authority and Cork County Council that the architectural design proposed for the new M20 bridge over the River Blackwater near Mallow should reflect and showcase the historic diversity and features of North Cork and that it should be named after Tip O' Neill as a lasting reminder of the bond between Cork and the USA and in memory of all the Irish Emigrants that embarked from the County. From time to time, O' Neill Clan Gatherings will take place in Mallow and will reach out to the O' Neill Diaspora dispersed around the world.

The Tip O' Neill International Summer School Committee will have as its founder President, Michael O' Neill, Mallow native, Member of Mallow Heritage Committee of the Mallow Development Partnership, and a relative of Tip O' Neill. Support groups will be established in Dublin, Mallow, Boston, Brussels, and other locations where necessary to help establish the School and enlist support for its work.

The promoters and partners of the Tip O' Neill International Summer school are the pan-European Irish Diaspora body, the Irish in Europe Association (International) aisbl (Incorporating the Brussels Saint Patrick's Day Parade of the Nations & Regions Committee) with their Headquarters in Brussels.

They were established in 2011 by Royal Decree to help Irish Emigrants and Diaspora, promote Irish Culture, Integration & Interstate Trade at local Chapter level in Europe. They also organise the Irish in Europe Cultural Exchange Programme and Community Ambassador Programme in Ireland to help promote local communities in Europe. Over 1.2 million persons have viewed Irish in Europe Exhibitions since 2011. The 2020 Irish in Europe Year Theme is:

"Remembering the Irish Contribution to Peace, Democracy & to The Liberation of Europe"

The first Saint Patrick's Day Parade of the Nations & Regions was started in Brussels in 2009, so named to recognise the 180 nationalities living in Brussels. If it were not for the support of the Irish American Diaspora at the time, it would have been exceedingly difficult to organise the first Parade. In recognition of the Irish American contribution in establishing the Parade, Linda Kennedy Irish African American was Chief Aide to the first Parade Grand Marshal, Fr. John Kealy, the last Franciscan of the Irish College of Leuven (Louvain). Since the first Parade, the

Irish in Europe Association have been actively engaging with the Irish-American Diaspora in Europe and look forward to working with the Tip O' Neill International Summer School-Mallow to building-on these connections and its Irish in Europe Network to help grow the relationship between Europe and the USA. The Irish in Europe Association in supporting the main aim of the Summer School will in addition, form alliances with grassroot likeminded Irish Emigrant/Diaspora groups and Diaspora groups of European origin based in the USA.

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Policy Document Consultation facilitated by the Irish in Europe Association and issued from their Office in Brussels. For feedback, Contact: Denis J. Buckley at info@irishineurope.org www.irishineurope.org

All media inquiries and for radio & TV interviews should be directed to:

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Postal Addresses for the Tip O' Neill International Summer School-Mallow

Dublin: C/O 3 Faiche, an tSráidbhaile, Bóthar Rathfearnáin, Baile Átha Cliath, 14. EIRE.

Mallow: C/O Mallow Heritage Committee, M.D.P, Floor 3, Mallow Parish Centre Building, 27/28 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Brussels: C/O IEAI, International Association Centre, Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

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Tip O'Neill And the Democratic Century

By JOHN ALOYSIUS FARRELL <http://movies2.nytimes.com/books/first/f/farrell-tip.html>

RTE Archive Video of Mallow Urban District Council Civic Reception to honour Tip O' Neill at Mallow in July 1987. <https://www.rte.ie/archives/collections/news/21254519-tip-oneill-visits-mallow/>

Press related links on Ireland's role as a bridge between USA & Europe

Brexit will strengthen Ireland-US relations, says Irish ambassador

Daniel Mulhall predicts Ireland will emerge as the main bridge between US and Europe

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/30/brexit-will-strengthen-ireland-us-relations-irish-ambassador-daniel-mulhall>

Ireland can act as a bridge between the US and EU to prevent a trade war the Taoiseach has said, writes **Elaine Loughlin**.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/ireland-can-act-as-a-bridge-to-prevent-us-eu-trade-war-says-varadkar-832389.html>

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has said Ireland could play an important role as a bridge between the US and Europe post-Brexit.

<https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/ireland-could-act-as-bridge-between-us-and-eu-after-bexit-says-varadkar-832213.html>

Ireland–United States relations

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland%E2%80%93United_States_relations

CAN IRELAND STEADY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE E.U.? <https://psmag.com/news/can-ireland-fix-america-and-european-relations>

<https://sfs.georgetown.edu/event/bridging-the-atlantic-irelands-role-in-eu-us-relations-after-brexit/>

Bridging the Atlantic: Ireland's Role in EU-US Relations After Brexit

The BMW Center for German and European Studies, Georgetown University's Global Irish Studies Initiative, University College Dublin's Clinton Institute, and the Embassy of Ireland invite you to:

[Bridging the Atlantic: Ireland's Role in EU-US Relations After Brexit](#)

Podcast <http://theeuropedesk.libsyn.com/bridging-the-atlantic-irelands-role-in-eu-us-relations>

Irish America has a vital role in North's future and in US-Europe Relations

<https://www.irishcentral.com/news/bridging-the-atlantic-conference-2019>

Revised 3rd July 2020.