

Easter Commemoration 2006 attracts biggest crowd in years

by Lorraine Carey

OVER 200 people turned out for the annual Easter Sunday Republican Commemoration in Mount St Laurence Cemetery last weekend and Limerick Sinn Fein's chairperson Pdraig Malone says "it was one of the biggest in years".

Meanwhile, a public meeting entitled '1916 - Time To Commemorate' is to be hosted by the Labour Party on Thursday April 20 in Halla Ide, Thomas Street, at 8pm.

The evening will be chaired by Jan O'Sullivan TD with main speakers, John A Murphy, Professor of History, and former Senator; Frank

Prendergast, Local Historian and Writer and former T.D. Limerick

East; Karan O'Loughlin, SIPTU Branch Secretary and Liam Cahill, Writer

and Broadcaster.

The event is part of the Liberty Project joint-

march, organised by Limerick City Sinn Fein, assembled outside the

ceremonies were chaired by Maurice Quinlivan, the Sinn Fein candidate for Limerick East in the forthcoming general election.

"It went very well", Mr Malone told the Limerick Post, "in the last number of years, only about 50 or 60 people would turn up for the commemoration and a lot of people commented on the high number that turned up this year. It reflects the general atmosphere around at the moment

about the anniversary of the Easter rising."

A wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement was laid by John Hehir, the Proclamation was read by Declan Roche and the Easter Statement by Pdraig Malone.

The oration was delivered by well known Limerick Republican Des Long who said his oration was on the history of the Easter Rising and the lessons of the past.

"Five of those seven

leaders executed by the British in 1916 had great links to Limerick," said Mr. Long. "I will point out that the cemetery contains the graves of Irish men executed by the British Army, the RIC the Free State forces, and the RUC."

Following the main commemoration, a wreath laying ceremony was held at the grave of Sean Glynn, an IRA volunteer who died in Arbour Hill Military Prison in September 1936.



90 years on, the tributes paid to those who lost their lives to free a nation continued last weekend throughout city and county.

Defence minister says 1916 rebels would be very proud

DEFENCE Minister Willie O'Dea has paid tribute to the troops from the Sarsfield Barracks and the wider defence forces for their display at the 1916 commemorations over the weekend.

Minister O'Dea praised the 2,500 men and women who marched in Sunday's Easter Rising Commemoration in Dublin and particularly, the more than 100 troops from Sarsfield Barracks who were involved.

"You are a tremendous source of pride

and I am confident I echo the feelings of Limerick and the entire Nation," he said this week. "The military display was a magnificent event and I salute the 2,500 men and women of the Defence Forces and especially the members of both the UN Veterans' Association and the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen who took part."

He went on to congratulate Brig Gen Gerry McNamara for an "outstanding and successful parade" and the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Leut Gen Jim

Sreenan.

"The men and women of 1916 would have been extremely proud today to see their successors - Oglagh na hEireann: Defence Forces - march past the GPO applauded by more than 120,000 people who lined the route and the hundreds of thousands more who watched at home."

ly organised by the Labour Party and SIPTU.

Last Easter Sunday's

main gates of Mount St Laurence Cemetery and proceeded to the Republican Plot, where

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