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Garda tribute to memory of Jerry McCabe

By JIMMY Woulfe

IN a poignant ceremony, a bronze bust of the late Det Garda Jerry McCabe was unveiled by the Garda Commissioner, Pat Byrne in Henry Street garda headquarters on Friday.

Det Garda Ben O'Sullivan, who was seriously wounded in the IRA gun attack which claimed the life of Det Garda McCabe in Adare, in a prayer reading reflected: "For 32 years I came to work, I enjoyed your company, Jerry, and the challenge of the job. I had five years to run and I had great plans. But God's ways are not ours and now I am happy, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me...."

Commissioner Byrne said the killing of Det McCabe challenged the bedrock of democracy in this country.

But, he continued, the good people of Limerick "associated and co-operated with An Garda Síochána with unprecedented determination and vigour in the defeat of evil. For this I am grateful. I am grateful for their courage and their determination that the rule of law must prevail. The new awareness of evil by the citizens of this country clearly demonstrate: enough was enough."

Jerry McCabe, said Commissioner Byrne, epitomised the philosophy of policing by consent.

"He was an excellent policeman, an astute detective and a loyal colleague and friend."

He said a tribute to Jerry McCabe would not be complete without mention of his friend and colleague, Ben O'Sullivan.

He praised Det O'Sullivan for his "courage, commitment and performance as a member of this great organisation."

Ann McCabe said that she and her family think of her late husband first each morning and the



Ann McCabe and Det Garda Ben O'Sullivan at the unveiling of a bust of Det Garda Jerry McCabe at Henry Street garda headquarters on Friday. (LL)

"last in our thoughts each night".

She stated: "My own life, the memories of our happiness, the faces of my children and grandchildren always remind me of Jerry. Their lives and my own are living memorials to the man that he was."

In a tribute to the people of Limerick, Mrs McCabe recalled the day of Jerry's funeral when

thousands stopped what they were doing, came out of shops and places of business, and stood in silence as the cortege passed them by.

"At a time of deep personal anguish, this gesture by ordinary decent people was intensely moving and comforting to my family and myself," said Mrs McCabe.

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