

Scott medal an 'enduring tribute' to Det McCabe



Ann McCabe, the widow of the late Det Garda Jerry McCabe, who accepted the Scott gold medal for bravery on behalf of her husband

By IAIN DEMPSEY

THE widow of Detective Garda Jerry McCabe spoke of her pain and loss as she accepted the Scott gold medal on behalf of her late husband.

Medals were presented to the late garda who was shot dead in Adare in 1996, and to Det Garda Ben O'Sullivan, who was seriously injured in the attack.

At the ceremony in the Garda College, Templemore, Ann McCabe was presented with the medal by Minister for Justice John O'Donoghue, and she spoke of how proud the family is of her late husband.

"To receive the Scott medal, while it will not lessen our pain, does nevertheless re-affirm the sense of respect which my husband was held in by his colleagues in the gardai, and also, the sense that his bravery and courage in the line of duty has not been forgotten by the people with whom he served," said Mrs McCabe.

"This medal, awarded to so very few members of the force, is something of which we, Jerry's family

and friends, can feel uniquely proud. It is a testament to the enduring nature of our society's regard for the sacrifices that members of the gardai have made, and continue to make, in the face of violent threats to its very nature."

She continued: "We are very proud, as a family, to be here to receive this medal on Jerry's behalf. It will serve as an enduring tribute to him in the years to come. No, it can never lessen the sense of pain and loss, but what it can do is to make us feel that his death has been remembered as being worth commemorating and this is a source of no little pride to myself and my family. This medal will have a place of honour in our house. It cannot take the place of the man in whose name I accept it today, but what it can do is serve as a reminder of the type of man he was."

Also posthumously awarded with the Scott gold medal for bravery was Sgt Andrew Callanan, who perished in an arson attack at Tallaght garda station last year.

His wife, Yvonne, accepted the medal on behalf of her late husband.



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City groups get £78,250

By IAIN DEMPSEY

A TOTAL of £78,250 was allocated to 13 organisations in Limerick under the marriage, child and bereavement counselling grant scheme.

And Minister of State Willie O'Dea has welcomed the news, saying he is aware of the tremendous work these organisations carried out in Limerick.

"This clearly shows that this Government is prepared to provide funds to local organisations that are assisting families who are experiencing marital difficulties. In addition to this the scheme also provides grant aid to organisations that help people to come to terms with bereavement."

Deputy O'Dea pointed out that funding for the scheme was only £900,000 in 1997.

"Under the Fianna Fáil and Progressive Democrat Government, funding for the scheme has been sub-

stantially increased from £900,000 to £3.75 million for 2000. This substantial increase in funding clearly illustrates that this Government is committed to promoting and developing family values."

The scheme was administered by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

The organisation in Limerick to receive the most funding was Accord, which received £28,000.

CARI Foundation got £14,500; Church of Ireland Diocese of Killaloe, £6,000; O'Malley Park Family Resource Centre, £3,500; Milford Care Centre, £2,500; Moyross Bereavement Support Centre, £4,500; St Munchin's Family Resource Centre, £4,700; Limerick Social Service Council, £6,000; St John's Bereavement Support Group, £1,500; Rainbows Limerick, £750; Adapt Limerick, £3,000; Limerick Christian Centre, £1,800 and Citizens Information Centre, £1,500.