



City of Charleston
South Carolina

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: June 10, 2013

CITY DEDICATES IRISH MEMORIAL AT CHARLOTTE STREET PARK

Charleston, SC. The City of Charleston and the South Carolina Irish Historical Society held a Dedication Ceremony for the Irish Memorial on Charlotte Street Park. The ceremony took place at 10:30 AM on Monday, June 10, 2013.

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., local dignitaries, and an official party from Ireland took part in the ceremony. The Irish party included H.E. Michael Collins Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Paul Gleeson Consul General of Ireland, Cllr. Peter Considine Mayor of Ennis County Clare, Dr. Martin McAleese Chancellor Dublin City University, Dr. Brian MacCraith President of Dublin City University, and Patrick McDermott, DCU Educational Trust.

Ambassador Collins delivered the dedication address.

The memorial and park are the culmination of years of planning and effort. Located at the end of Charlotte Street between Concord Street and the Cooper River, the Charlotte Street Park will serve as the entrance to the city's river walk along the Cooper River. It will provide the residents of Charleston's neighborhoods with a place for relaxation, reflection and beautification.

The design incorporates elements gleaned from a competition of graduate landscape architects from the Savannah School of Art and Design. The memorial honors the Irish Americans who helped found, develop and govern the City of Charleston from its inception. The centerpiece of the memorial is a twenty-eight foot by thirty foot ten inch block of granite cut to the shape of Ireland depicting the cities, counties and provinces of Ireland, suspended by hidden underpinnings over a sea of blue granite. The stair-rails reach down to the waters of the Cooper River. Commenting on the project, Mayor Riley said, "This striking memorial and lovely passive park anchor the eastern end of the City's pedestrian pathway around the peninsula of Charleston, offering beautiful views to residents and visitors in perpetuity."

Lenny Branch, president of the South Carolina Irish Historical Society said, "This memorial is both a tribute and a thank you to those who came before us and an inspiration to those who will come behind us." Jimmy Kerr, chairman of the South Carolina Irish Fund encouraged all local Irish not to miss this very historic park.

As part of the celebration The Hibernian Society of Charleston and the South Carolina Irish Historical Society held a reception on Sunday evening for the official party and invited guests from the local Irish and business communities. The Ancient Order of Hibernians together with the World Trade Center of Charleston and the Charleston Chamber of Commerce sponsored a breakfast Monday morning for local business and civic leaders to meet Ambassador Collins. After the ceremony, the official party toured The Hunley Museum and met with officials at the Boeing production plant in North Charleston.

FOR MORE INFO:

Barbara Vaughn, Director
Media Relations/Public Information
Phone: (843) 724-3746 Fax: (843) 724-3734
Email: vaughnb@charleston-sc.gov