



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Commissioners salute Irish American Hall of Fame inductees



The MWRD Board of Commissioners honored the Irish American Heritage Center as it celebrates its fifth year. In the photo (L-R): James O'Connor Corboy, MWRD Chairman of Finance Frank Avila, Sherry Avila, Mike Shevlin and Commissioner Patrick Thompson.

The Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) honored the Irish American Hall of Fame's (IAHOF) latest class of inductees with a resolution at its April 9 Board meeting.

The Irish American Hall of Fame will introduce its inductees at an Awards Gala and dinner on April 25, at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. Several inductees from this year's class have significant ties to Chicago, such as Bob Newhart, Sister Sheila Lyne, Justice Anne McGlone Burke, the Rev. Jack Wall and the late Mother Frances Xavier Warde. Other inductees include: film director John Huston, actor and entertainer Gene Kelly, golfer Ben Hogan and geneticist and Director of the National Institutes of Health Francis Collins. For his advocacy for immigration reform and contributions to the local Chicago economy, Billy Lawless will receive the 2015 Hometown Hero Award.

"Through their various contributions, each of these individuals have left an imprint on Chicago from where they came from to where they have gone," said



MWRD Chairman of Finance Frank Avila (at the lectern) addresses (L-R) Mike Shevlin and Commissioner Patrick Thompson while presenting a resolution to the Irish American Hall of Fame's latest class of inductees.

Chairman of Finance Frank Avila. "We congratulate the Irish American Hall of Fame on its latest class of inductees and thank them for their contributions."

Celebrating its fifth year, the IAHOF recognizes and honors the contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of arts and humanities, business and industry, public service, sports, religion, education and science. These exemplary Americans of Irish heritage have shaped the Irish American identity in the United States, while preserving and promoting the stories of the Irish in America. This year's group will bring the total number of inductees to 51.

"We are excited to celebrate the tremendous impact the Irish diaspora have had on our country and this event allows us the opportunity to tell the story of that impact," said Mike Shevlin of the founding IAHOF committee. "While national in scope, the 2015 class of inductees specifically highlights the contribution of Irish-Americans to the city of Chicago and to the country, and this is our night to spotlight these outstanding contributions." For more information on the event, visit www.iahof.org.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.