

Tenor Kearns in 9/11 tribute

By Irish Echo Staff
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Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns performed at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum Annual Benefit Dinner on September 9 at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City.

The event, hosted by former three-term New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, honored all the victims and heroes of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993.

Bloomberg serves as chair of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

At the dinner, Kearns performed, "Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears," written by Irish composer and novelist, Brendan Graham.

The song tells the story of Annie Moore, who along with two younger siblings, became the first to enter through Ellis Island on New Year's Day in 1892.

"It was a great honor to perform at the annual dinner benefit. New York City is one of the world's greatest cities, one that is a destination of dreams for millions, including myself," said Kearns.

Kearns previously per-



Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns and former New York Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, at last week's benefit dinner. PHOTO BY JIN LEE.

formed "Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears," with General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a tribute to Medal of Honor recipients in Washington, D.C. in January, 2013.

On the same day as the New York benefit it was announced that a nonprofit, "Wells of Life," which provides safe drinking water for people in East Africa, would fund a well in Uganda named "The Anthony Kearns 9/11 Memorial Well," this to honor the memory of those who lost their lives on September 11.

Kearns will be performing at a fundraising benefit for the charity organization October 25th in Mission Viejo, California. More at wellsoflife.org.



Ambassador Designate O'Malley.

Confirmation delay could stretch into fall

By Ray O'Hanlon
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The U.S. ambassadorial residence in Dublin's Phoenix Park looks set to be without an occupant at the start of yet another fall season. And it's been awaiting a new tenant for over two years.

Ambassador Designate Kevin O'Malley remained in diplomatic limbo over the summer after Senate Republicans blocked the final stage of his confirmation. Dozens of other Obama administration appointees are in the same boat.

Unless the blocks are lifted in the next few days, O'Malley's wait will continue.

According to reports, Senate majority leader Harry Reid is planning to adjourn the Senate on Tuesday, September 23, so freeing up members to return to the campaign trail in advance of the November elections.

The Democratic majority in the Senate chamber is under threat polls show and politics, as a result, is poised to trump diplomacy.

Park facility dedicated to Rory

By Ray O'Hanlon
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On the eve of the first national forum dedicated to combatting sepsis, a portion of a park in Sunnyside, Queens, has been dedicated to Rory Staunton, a victim of the often fatal but treatable condition.

The track and field at Sunnyside Gardens Park was dedicated to Rory's memory at a ceremony on Saturday, September 13.

"We have chosen this date because of its significance. September 13th is World Sepsis Awareness Day. Since Rory's death, the Staunton family has worked tirelessly to bring awareness of sepsis to the general public and the medical community.

Approximately 550 people die every day from sepsis," said the Staunton family in a

statement.

"Rory's Regulations are now mandated in New York State, providing mandatory sepsis protocols and a Parent's Bill of Rights in every single hospital. The Rory Staunton Foundation is hosting the 'First National Forum on Sepsis: Defeating the Killer' in Washington, D.C. on September 17th to make what they achieved in New York a national initiative, the statement said.

That forum is set for the Top of the Hill Banquet and Conference Center with Senator Charles Schumer among the speakers.

The Staunton family established the Rory Staunton Foundation (www.rorystaunton.com) in Rory's name to increase awareness of sepsis, and to work for faster diagnosis and treatment of the condition, particularly in children.

Immigration action on hold

By Ray O'Hanlon
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President Obama's pledge to take executive action that would bring relief to undocumented immigrants, thousands of Irish among them, looks like being a long-fingered one.

Reports have indicated that the looming congressional elections in November will result in

the president staying his hand until after the votes are in.

One possible presidential move would lift the three and ten year re-entry bars which wait illegal and undocumented immigrants who leave the U.S. for the likes of visits to family in their native lands.

Former house Speaker Nancy Pelosi has pointed to Thanksgiving or Christmas as possible times for presidential action but there has been no confirmation of this from the White House.

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