

Commemoration of Robert Emmet
and
Celebration of “Robert Emmet Park”



Sunday, September 22, 2019

11:30 A.M.

Robert Emmet Park

Massachusetts Avenue & 24th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC

Welcome to Robert Emmet Park!

Robert Emmet led a short-lived rebellion against the British Crown in July 1803 in Dublin. The plot was betrayed, the rising failed, and Emmet fled to the Wicklow Hills to avoid capture. He soon returned to Dublin to visit his dying mother and re-unite with his fiancée Sara Curran, but was promptly captured by British forces on August 25. On September 19, Emmet was convicted of high treason after a twelve-hour trial, at which he was forced to stand in the dock the entire time. He was found guilty and immediately sentenced to death. He was executed by hanging and beheading on September 20, 1803. At the trial's close, he delivered a defiant "Speech from the Dock" over the repeated objections of the Chief Judge. Emmet remains an iconic figure among Irish freedom lovers, and his patriotism, actions and speech have inspired generations of Irish freedom fighters for over two centuries.



The Emmet Statue was commissioned by the Smithsonian Institution and funded by Irish Americans. It was completed in 1916, and moved to National Park Service land on loan from the Smithsonian in 1966. The statue was re-dedicated and the park refurbished in 2016 by the National Park Service in partnership with the Irish American Unity Conference, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Embassy, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The parkland on which the statue stands was designated as "Robert Emmet Park" in 2019 with the passage of S.47, sponsored by United States Senator Lisa Murkowski. S.47 incorporated the relevant provisions of H.R. 4564, sponsored by Congressman Joseph Crowley. We are thankful to all of the Congressional representatives who supported the legislation.

PROGRAM

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Introduction

Peter Kissel, National President,
Irish American Unity Conference

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Julia Washburn, Superintendent,
Rock Creek Park, National Park Service

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A reading from Emmet's "Speech from the Dock"

Ralph Day, Past President,
Ancient Order of Hibernians, DC Chapter

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Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland

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Joseph Crowley, Sponsor of H.R. 4564

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Ambassador Robert Emmet Lighthizer (invited)
United States Trade Representative

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Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chairman,
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Sponsor of S.47

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"O Breath Not His Name" - Thomas Moore
Read by Bill Black, IAUC Board Member



*"...when my country takes her place
among the nations of the earth,
then, and only then, let my epitaph
be written."*