



OIFIG ARD-RÚNAÍ AN UACHTARÁIN  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT

**Message on behalf of President Michael D. Higgins  
Military History Society of Ireland – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
23 March 2024**

On behalf of President Higgins, may I extend his congratulations to all involved in the Military History Society of Ireland as you celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of the Society.

The fundamentally important work of the Military History Society of Ireland, its commitment to preserving and understanding the crucial chapters of our past, with a specific focus on the history of warfare in Ireland and the contributions of Irish men and women in various conflicts, is truly invaluable, not only for the present generation, but also for generations to come.

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The Society's dedication and tireless efforts in the study of our military history plays a vital role in ensuring that the stories of bravery, vision and determination that would build our nation, and indeed the sacrifices and struggles of those who fought so bravely for Ireland and all its people, are never forgotten.

In order to explore these themes more deeply and assist in understanding our past, over the past few years the President has hosted a series of seminars at Áras an Uachtaráin, *Machnamh 100*, reflecting in particular on the War of Independence, the Treaty negotiations, and the Civil War and Partition. In doing so, the President sought to recall the vision and spirit of those men and women who committed themselves to creating a free and independent republic, one they hoped could bring to fruition the vision of the Proclamation.

It is vital that scholars and historians continue their journey of re-examination and critical analysis. Ethically appraising our past, in an inclusive manner, has a bearing on Ireland's future and can aid in our shared journey together towards a renewed and flourishing Republic – one that is marked by inclusivity, diversity, possibility, and a capacity for the sharing of memory in conditions of peace, a Republic of which we can all be proud.

May I extend the President's deep gratitude to the Military History Society of Ireland for your dedication to scholarship, education, and remembrance, a commitment that serves as a vital source of inspiration for all those who seek to understand the complexities of human conflict. The President wishes all those involved in the Military History Society of Ireland continued success and prosperity. May you continue to illuminate the pages of history and inspire future generations to honour the legacy of those who came before us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark O'Sullivan", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark O'Sullivan

Deputy Head of Protocol