

TEXT OF THE INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS delivered by **SENATOR MAURICE MANNING**, University College Dublin - National University of Ireland, Dublin on 7 June, 2002, on the occasion of the conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, on **THOMAS J. MORAN**

A Sheansailéir, a mhuintir na hOllscoile agus a dhaoine uaisle,

Tom Moran is one of that small number of influential Americans who played an important but essentially private part in the events which led first to the commencement and then to the sustaining of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. The firm he leads, Mutual of America, had a significant facilitatory role in bringing in from the cold people who had hitherto spurned the constitutional process and along with the inspirational figure of William J. Flynn, a great deal of quiet behind-the-scenes work was done, often during periods of great public tension, to keep that process in place. There is a story, still to be told, of the drama and crises of those days, especially the days of black despair, of seemingly unbreakable deadlock, but ultimately the successful concluding of this phase of the peace process.

There was no inevitability that the process would conclude successfully. There were strong forces opposed to any agreement. Thankfully these forces did not prevail and one of the reasons they did not prevail was the contribution, selfless, generous, structured and personally demanding of Tom Moran and people like him. They asked for no reward or recognition. They were happy to bring peace and sanity to a situation which hitherto had been lacking in both.

Tom Moran is President and Chief Executive Officer of one of the US's most successful insurance companies.

But Mutual of America is no ordinary company. In addition to leading the way in innovation it is a company whose ethos is characterised by a sense of *pro bono* commitment, whether this be to a variety of charitable, philanthropic and humanitarian organisations, to many educational ventures and most of all to the cause of international peace. It has supported in particular the activities of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy and that forum in turn has helped to create, not just in Northern Ireland but in other major trouble spots dialogue and discussion, where previously there had been confrontation and stalemate.

Tom Moran's contribution to this country goes way beyond his work for the Peace Process. He has been, and is, an active member of the Taoiseach's Advisory Board in the US and is a member of the Board of the Irish Chambers of Commerce in that country and the Irish US Council for Commerce. The economic prosperity of the past decade would simply not have been possible without sustained investment here from the US. In seeking this investment in an increasingly competitive environment the help we have consistently received, the wise advice, the opening of doors by people such as Tom Moran has made an enormous difference.

In the same way Tom Moran has been a significant benefactor to this University. First as a member, then as Chairman of the North American Board of the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business, he has helped organise financial support for the business school, but much more importantly he has brought a sense of leadership, vitality and vision to his task.

Tom Moran's work for Concern worldwide has already been recognised by An Taoiseach, who presented him with the Concern Worldwide Humanitarian Award just a few years ago. Again, as with so much else he does, Tom Moran's work was largely behind the scenes, quiet, unpublicised, as always generous and effective.

In the words of An Taoiseach on the occasion of that award 'his selfless actions have

improved the lives of thousands.'

In all he has done Tom Moran has consistently shown qualities of vision, leadership and professionalism. But more than that he brings to all he does a profound sense of disinterested public service whether it be in Northern Ireland, in his charitable, philanthropic and educational work, in helping the economic development of this country, in helping make our Graduate Business School into a world player. He does this without ever being pompous, without ever losing the run of himself, without ever ceasing to be the quintessential New Yorker that he is, with his great sense of humour, his eye for the absurd, his capacity to deflate the pompous.

Tom Moran is an American patriot in the best sense. His love of his country and in particular of New York is never in doubt - and was never more fully expressed than in his efforts since the massacre of September 11. But he is also someone who believes that no man is an island, that those who are strong and powerful have responsibility to re-invest, to help and to guide. This country and this University are just some of those who have benefited from the practical application of this philosophy.

PRAEHONORABILIS CANCELLARIE, TOTAQUE UNIVERSITAS:

Praesento vobis hunc meum filium, quem scio tam moribus quam doctrina habilem et idoneum esse, qui admittatur, honoris causa, ad gradum Doctoratus in Utroque Jure, tam Civili quam Canonico, idque tibi fide mea testor ac spondeo, totaeque Academiae.