



THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

White House Historical Association Honors Designer and Builder of the White House *Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony for James Hoban*



March 23, 2026 (Washington, D.C.) - The White House Historical Association placed a wreath at the gravesite of James Hoban, Irish immigrant and the designer and builder of the White House, on Friday, March 20 at 10:00AM at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington, D.C. In 2021, the Association restored the gravesite of Hoban and has held an annual wreath placement ceremony every year since.

[See images from Friday's wreath placement ceremony](#)

Thursday's ceremony included remarks from:

Stewart D. McLaurin - President, White House Historical Association

Reverend Monsignor Većeslav Tumir - First Counselor, Apostolic Nunciature to the United States of America

Anita McBride - Secretary, Board of Directors, White House Historical Association

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason - Ambassador of Ireland to the United States

Mary Ann Bowery - State Vice Regent/Regent Elect, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Keith Carney - President, Commodore John Barry Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians

Jean-Paul Dongmo, Sr. - Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge F.A.A.M. of Washington, D.C.

Victor Manzueta - Worshipful Master, Federal Lodge No. 1, Grand Lodge F.A.A.M. of Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Green – St. Patrick Catholic Church

In 1792, James Hoban's design for the President's House was selected by the Commissioners for the District of Columbia with the approval of President George Washington. Hoban's contributions to the early growth and development of Washington, D.C., as architect, builder, mason, captain of a militia company, civic leader, and pillar of the Roman Catholic community, maintain his memory and reputation to this day.

This event was made possible thanks to the generosity of Tim and Anita McBride.

Learn more about James Hoban and the history of between Ireland and the United States in [a new episode of the Association's *The White House 1600 Sessions* podcast](#) which features a conversation about the relationship between the two countries beyond the month of March and St. Patrick's Day. In this episode, Stewart McLaurin, president of the Association, sits down with Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, to discuss the depth of America's Irish roots, and the diplomacy and investment driving a longstanding friendship built on a spirit of independence.

For more information, contact press@whha.org.

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About The White Historical Association

Founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House Historical Association is the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization entrusted with preserving and sharing the history of the White House. Supported entirely by private philanthropy and the sale of educational books and products, the Association reaches millions of students, teachers, and lifelong learners through research and scholarship initiatives, public programming, and the authoritative titles published by its independent press. Throughout each presidency, the Association works with the Offices of the First Lady and the White House Curator to acquire and preserve historic objects for the White House Fine and Decorative Arts Collection. The Association also operates *The People's House: A White House Experience*,

a free, immersive, educational museum in Washington, D.C., which welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit WhiteHouseHistory.org.