

President Keenan,

I want to share the wonderful news that Garda Brian Hanrahan and his lovely wife Emma have safely returned to Ireland! It was a very long journey beginning on Saturday. Due to liability reasons, the Hanrahan's had to take a limo from New Orleans to Houston. From Houston, they flew British Airways to London, then from London to Shannon, Ireland. I received a message from Brian that they arrived yesterday at 4:00PM.

Brian, Emma, and his parents, Brian Sr. and Rose asked me to convey their sincere appreciation to all of the Irish and law enforcement communities who provided moral, spiritual and financial support during their time of need. They said they could never repay the kindness and gifts that they received during this traumatic ordeal. We will be staying in touch with the family as Brian continues his rehabilitation and I will pass on updates as I receive them.

I also want to give a special thank you to the members of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) who worked tirelessly to apprehend the two individuals responsible for this horrific attack. In particular 5th District Detective Johnny Magee, lead investigator on the case, who will be honored by the Emerald Society of New Orleans after Mardi Gras. We have all heard the negative about the NOPD, but I can promise you when an incident like this happens you can count on the NOPD!

On behalf of the Emerald Society of New Orleans I want to thank President Joe Keenan and the National Conference of Law Enforcement Emerald Society for once again "stepping up to the plate" and coming to the assistance of a person who needed help. From the beginning of this horrible incident, that tarnished the true nature of our wonderful city, the Hanrahan's experienced the spirit of the Irish and law enforcement people of not only the City of New Orleans, but of this great nation of ours! Just to name a few of the organizations that coordinated efforts to assist were Irish Network of New Orleans, numerous chapters of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Marching Club, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Police Association, and last but definitely not least the many chapters of the National Conference of Law Enforcement Emerald Societies.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Chef Matt Murphy of the Irish House for not only spearheading the fundraising events at the Irish House but for providing a home away from home for the Hanrahan's during their time here in New Orleans.

I couldn't possibly begin to even name the numerous individuals who provided their time and treasures to turn this tragic event into a labor of love for the Hanrahan's. I received many emails, phone calls, etc. offering and providing assistance and I can't thank you enough.

Please continue to keep the Hanrahan's in your thoughts and prayers. God bless NCLEES, the Irish, the City of New Orleans, and the United States.

Bobby Anderson, President, Emerald Society of New Orleans