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IRA dead influence our work - Anderson



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Sinn F  in MLA Martina Anderson has said that the memory of dead IRA volunteers influences every

decision she makes as an Assembly member.

Ms Anderson told a crowd of more than 500 republicans who gathered in the City Cemetery on Sunday for the annual Volunteers' Commemoration, that she is still inspired by the sacrifice made by IRA volunteers and their families.

"We should not forget that the brilliant events that we have seen at Stormont and the driving forward of change would not have happened without the deaths of the volunteers from Derry and elsewhere. I recall their deaths every day. We knew and loved those men and women who gave their lives for Irish freedom. I, along with the other elected representatives think of the importance of their sacrifice every day and they remain the most important memory of all our elected representatives in the work that we do.

"Three months ago myself and Raymond McCartney were elected to the Assembly to serve the people of this city and we are very honoured and proud to do so. Our activities are driven daily by the memory of the fallen volunteers who are buried in this plot," she said.

The Foyle MLA also gave a briefing on her work as a member of the Policing Board. "I, along with Alex Maskey and Daithi McCay are now on the Policing Board. We are there to make policing accountable and to make a police service where the people are the masters as opposed to what we have had in the past. We are also there to oppose the involvement of MI5 and to deal with the issue of plastic bullets once and for all. It is all about empowerment of the people," she explained.

Important role

Ms Anderson said the IRA volunteers from Derry played an important role in the republican struggle and encouraged people from the city to continue to play a part.

"Derry was always to the forefront of the campaign for rights and the men and women of the Oglaiġ na h'Eireann who are buried in the cemetery also fought for rights. We must continue to campaign for rights. No change will happen without the involvement of the people of Derry," she said.

The commemoration was led to the cemetery by a republican colour party and the Spirit of Freedom flute band. They were followed by a large group of former prisoners dressed in white shirts and black ties carrying pictures of the dead volunteers of the Derry brigade. Wreaths were laid at the republican monument on behalf of Derry Sinn F  in, Ogra Shinn F   n, the Derry Republican Graves Association, Toirse, the Prisoners' Dependent Fund, and the Republican Movement. The commemoration ended with the playing of the national anthem.

Last Updated: 26 June 2007 9:48 AM

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