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# IRA victim laid to rest 27 years on

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By David Young  
Tuesday December 23 2008

Almost 30 years since he was snatched from them by an IRA gang, the family of a murdered [Belfast](#) teenager finally got the chance to lay him to rest yesterday.

[Danny McIlhorne](#), one of the so-called Disappeared victims of the Troubles, was buried beside his parents Dan and Lily 27 years after he vanished without trace at the age of 19.

Abducted, shot and secretly buried by republican gunmen, he lay undiscovered on a remote hillside in [Co Wicklow](#) until last month, when he was found by forensic investigators.

The family's three-decade quest ended at a graveside in Belfast's [Milltown](#) cemetery.

Earlier his daughter, granddaughter and surviving brothers and sisters had led more than 500 mourners as they walked the short distance from the family home in Bearnagh Drive for Requiem Mass at St Teresa's church.

During the service, Father Darach MacGiolla Cathain paid tribute to their determination to find their loved one.

"You never gave up hope when people told you there wasn't any," he said.

"You never backed down when people said you were wasting your time.

"You never grew tired of waiting when people said there was no point waiting.

"Today is your reward, today is your answer and the result of your faithfulness and persistence. Today is your vindication."

The priest said sadness was tempered with a sense of relief that the family could at least give him the dignity of a Christian burial.

- David Young

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