



## Senator Mark Daly's Monthly Newsletter

### Valentia Coastguard Station Saved from Closure



My long-running battle for the retention of the Coast Guard Service in Valentia has been won. It was a long war that began with publication of the now discredited Feron Report of October 2007. Various incidents over the ensuing months also highlighted the determination of senior civil servants to close the Valentia station.

They have included a statement by management that a major reason for the

closure of Valentia was that it was vulnerable for terrorist attack. This was followed by a senior manager in Dublin insulting the Spanish ambassador by refusing to allow him to visit the Coast Guard Station in Valentia despite allowing English and Latvian groups to do so. The battle came to a head on the 2nd of July 2008 when my request to have the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Transport, author of the Feron Report, come before the Oireachtas Committee was granted.

Along with Oireachtas colleagues from Donegal, especially Deputy Niall Blaney, with whom I worked closely on the issue, we took the report to pieces. All reasons given for the closure of Valentia station were proven to be incorrect by the members of the Committee. It was proven that electricity and telecom connections are up to standard. Education facilities and employment opportunities for spouses were better than other locations. We proved that 90% of staff lived in Kerry. The opposite of what was stated in the Feron Report.

The turning point in the Campaign was the exposure of a quote, attributed by civil servants to Minister of State Pat the Cope Gallagher, which suggested that he wanted one station on the West coast. Pat the Cope refuted this quote. Deputy Blaney read from minutes of the Transport Committee 2006 where he accurately quote the Minister: "Valentia and Malin will be expanded". In this moment of revelation the Assistant Secretary could not reconcile the difference.

I wish to thank all the people of Valentia, Kerry and beyond who helped in this. Thank you to the members of the Valentia cumann and Caherciveen Comhairle Ceanntair and all Oireachtas members and councillors who helped retain the Coast Guard Service in Valentia.

To read Senator Daly's Speech on the Valentia Coastguard Station follow this link: [Valentia](#)

## **Governor of Montana Brian Schweitzer Tours Leinster House with Senator Mark Daly**



On hearing that Governor Schweitzer was coming to Ireland, I contacted his office to arrange a tour of the Dail and Seanad.

For three hours we toured Leinster House. The highlight of the tour was when we arrived at the Flag of the Irish Brigade which was lead by the First Governor of Montana, TF Meagher. The chair of the senate also interrupted the order of business to welcome the Governor to the chamber.



Flag of the Irish Brigade

## Start Date Needed for Building of Kenmare Hospital



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

I have requested a meeting with Minister for Health, Mary Harney as a matter of urgency, to discuss the status of Kenmare Hospital. Also attending this meeting will be Jackie Healy Rae, John O'Donoghue, Tom Sheehan and Paul Coughlan. The people of Kenmare have been promised a better hospital by a number of governments for over thirty years, and we are still waiting.

At this meeting I want to discover why Jackie Healy Rae and the people of South Kerry have not been treated in the same way as Michael Lowry TD, when both support the government.

Phase 1 of Michael Lowry TD's project in Borrisokane has been completed at a cost of €1.4 million. Phase 2 of his project, a 24 bed care unit, has been set a completion date in 2013. It is hard for the people of Kenmare to understand why Kenmare Hospital has no money, no timeline and no completion date.

To read Senator Daly's Speech on Kenmare Hospital, follow this link: [Hospital](#)

## Life in the West Bank

On a recent trip to Israel we visited a school in Bethlehem. One of the brightest and most articulate of the students in the school was Karmel Khaled-Youseef (fourth in from the right). At only 14 years old, she was able to describe in detail, the hardships suffered by her people living in the Aida camp in Palestine.

I have asked Karmel to contribute to a monthly blog of her story. Her first entry is below:

*"Hi Mark,*

*I am so sorry, I was in the hospital, I am so tired...*

*I am Karmel Khaled-Youseef, I live in Aida camp which is in West Bank in Palestine. I am in 10th Grade (14 years old).*

*I have 3 brothers (Sari, Mohamad, Adel) and two sisters (Shatha and Isra).*



*My father is an Arabic teacher so I want to help you in Arabic as you want to help me in English.*

*My mother is an Arabic teacher too but she doesn't work now. She is a wonderful mother.. she is everything in my life... I love my family so much.*

*In Palestine we don't have very much freedom, so I try to fill my free time with simple hobbies such as writing poems and stories, and reading novels (Nizar Qabany and Shakespeare).*

*Finally I will tell you more information about myself in the next email"*

## **Speech on Irish Unity in the Senate following launch of new publication "Countdown to Unity" by Bertie Ahern TD**



I hope tomorrow we will see significant political developments in the North. I seek a debate on Irish unity and welcome the new publication by Dr. Richard Humphreys, *Countdown to Unity: Debating Irish Reunification*, which was launched by the former Taoiseach, Deputy Bertie Ahern, yesterday. It sets out practical steps, a road map and a programme on how reunification can be achieved in a peaceful manner. Articles 2 and 3 of Bunreacht na hÉireann refer to the fact that the State's objective is a peaceful reunification of the country, and Fianna Fáil's principle has always been a united Ireland. To achieve unity it is

incumbent upon us to explain to the Unionist community how a united island would be beneficial to us all. We must be aware that any changes necessary to create this one nation would require sacrifices, but the sacrifices would be insignificant compared to the sacrifices of previous generations.

