



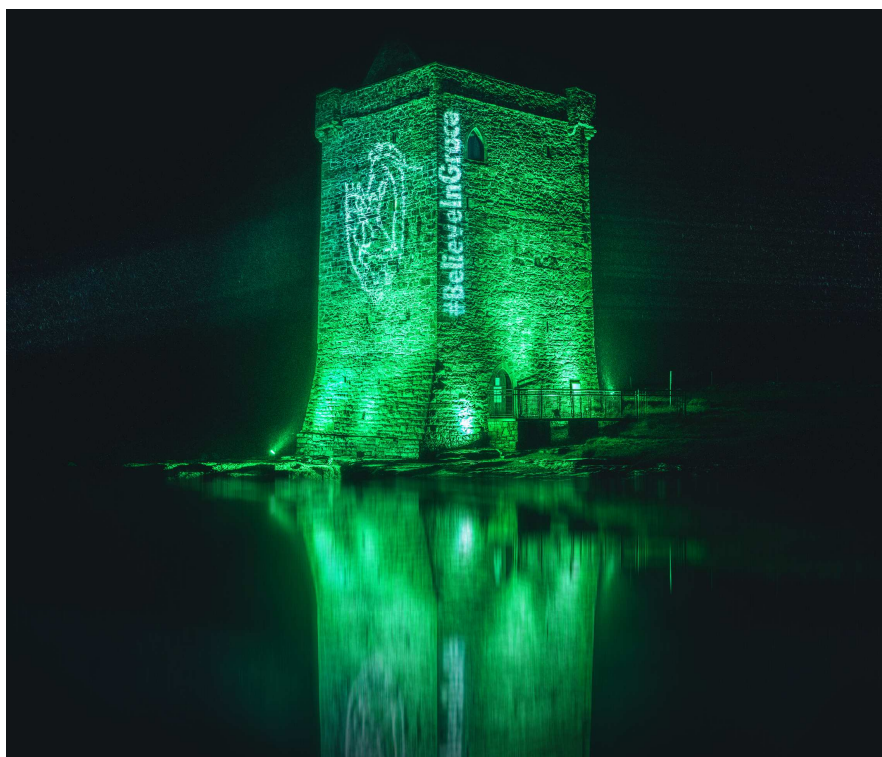
## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights

- Lighting Up Rockfleet Castle with Grace O'Malley Spirits
- Táiniste Martin O'Malley with his memories of Elijah Cummings
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

### Rockfleet Castle lit up to celebrate "Samhain"

A wonderful sight recently, Rockfleet Castle, once home to the Pirate Queen herself, lit up to mark the feast of "Samhain" the original Halloween, courtesy of the folks over at Grace O'Malley Spirits.



### Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an article

that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



## Táiniste Martin O'Malley's memories of Elijah Cummings

### REMEMBERING ELIJAH CUMMINGS

He would have been surprised at the adulation he received in death.

He never quite believed the popularity which all the pollsters claimed was his in life.

Like all people who run for public office, he carried his full share of insecurities. And yet, for all the rough and tumble of urban politics, the heart of Elijah Cummings found its voice in proclaiming unshakeable truths.

Lots of people this week across Baltimore are feeling like they've known Elijah Cummings their whole life. But I really have known Elijah Cummings my whole life — my whole adult life, in any event.

We had first met in the statewide campaign of 1986 when he was one of the young up and coming delegates of the Mitchell Westside Team, and I was the twenty-two year old Field Director for Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski's Campaign for United States Senate.

After law school, I served as a prosecutor in the District Court of Maryland where — most every week — I would see Elijah Cummings as a defense attorney in my Western District courtroom. Real people, real cases, a lot of sadness, a lot of lives broken by violence, addiction, and poverty. I did my best to always call his clients' cases early. And from opposite sides of the trial table, we did our best to balance the scale of justice for individual people living in an unjust world.

"Blessed are those who show mercy, for mercy shall be theirs."

In 2004, we co-chaired a fundraiser in Baltimore City for a little known state senator from Illinois who was running for U.S. Senate, named Barack Obama. And in January of 2009, that same Barack Obama stopped in Baltimore on the way to his inauguration as President of the United States.



## **Táiniste Martin O'Malley's memories of Elijah Cummings**

The crowd on that cold, bright pre-inaugural day was unlike any seen in the heart of Baltimore since Frederick Douglass himself had gathered multitudes near the same spot for the passage of the 13th and 14th Amendments a hundred years before. By 2009, Elijah had become the beloved and long-serving Congressman from the 7th District while I had become Maryland's newly elected Governor after serving two terms as Mayor.

Elijah and I walked out to the podium on the steps of War Memorial plaza, together, to offer welcoming remarks. The People and the press might not have known; but I did — it was a generous gesture on Elijah's part. For he had been the Chairman of the newly elected President's campaign in Maryland while I had sided with the President's primary opponent. He did not have to share that moment, but he did.

"May your power never become a shell in which your heart might atrophy..."

Titles can say a lot about a person's character when they are bestowed by people of humble means. To his colleagues in government, he was Elijah; but, to the people of West Baltimore he was, "Mr. Cummings." Call it a southern thing, call it a Baltimore thing. It was a title of honor that transcended any elected office. And it was earned by being as patient and kind to those who were in trouble as he was unrelenting and fearless in confronting those who abuse their power.

At his funeral, Nancy Pelosi called him the "Northstar of the House." The parade of other speakers could not resist drawing parallels between Elijah the Prophet and Elijah the Congressman. Yes, his parents knew what they were doing when they named their son, Elijah. Like the Biblical prophet of old, he would rail against the conventions of his times, the cruelties of his times, the injustice of his times.





## Táiniste Martin O'Malley's memories of Elijah Cummings

But like all great artists, Elijah Cummings would return again and again to just a few main themes: Justice, Dignity, Generational Progress. The truth that we are all in this together. These were the touchstone themes of this man, Elijah Cummings. They were his rock and our salvation. They were, for Cummings, the essence of the country he loved, the country from which we have strayed, and the country he carried in his heart.

"Our children," he would frequently say, "are living messages we send,... to a

future,... we will never see!" And if ever there were a sleepy crowd who failed to appropriately acknowledge this bedrock truth, Elijah would wake up the congregation or the ribbon cutting ceremony with preacher-like polemics. "....Hello?! Can everybody hear me?... I said: our children... are living messages we send... to a future... we will never see!!!" Applause and amens would resound, and the program could then move forward. But it was the fire of this truth that America saw when Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, ripped into the latest Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for the shameful and cruel treatment of refugee children on our southern border. "Family Separation" is the clinical term some use when referring to our own government ripping toddlers from their parents arms and sticking them in cages. "Do you think you are doing a good job?" he asked the DHS Secretary who stammered for words he dared not speak. That's a serious question,... the Chairman pressed. "I bet," he said more softly now — with the skill of practiced defense attorney — "you must think you are doing a great job?"

"Well yes," the latest DHS Secretary stammered, "given the challenges..."

"Challenges!", Elijah thundered. "Challenges!!.... [the heavens were beginning to part] These are children!!,... these are human beings!!,..." he roared. "Sleeping on the floor, in foil blankets,... rolling around in their own feces!..."

There was no response. There could be no response. The moment hung in the air with the heavy weight of its well-earned discomfort. The Secretary's own eyes seemed to well up in tears of bitter shame. So too, did the eyes of everyone in the Committee Room; and every decent American watching at home.

And then it came. The punctuation, the closing, the smashing of the false idol, the call to action, and the call to return to our true selves — all rolled into one.

Cummings looked with mercy on the flawed humanity of the witness sitting before him, and in a plea for redemption bellowed out — "C'mon, man. We're better than this!!"

It was one of Cumming's time-honored refrains. But it was never uttered in a more heartfelt way or at more needed moment in our Nation's present struggle.



## **Táiniste Martin O'Malley's memories of Elijah Cummings**

My friend, Elijah Cummings, was the first African American in history to lie in repose in the Nation's Capitol. His casket was held atop the same catafalque which once held the body of our slain President, Abraham Lincoln. Elijah's body would lie in repose in Statuary Hall — the Old House Chambers whose walls had heard the great debates of Slavery and Union. In our own time of bitter partisan division, Republicans and Democrat's alike filed by Congressman Cummings' casket to pay their respects.

The statues of great Americans from the past seemed on that day to form a silent, circular honor guard of history — a history that is watching us.

Down the hall, I walk past the darkened House Chambers where Elijah first took his seat so many years before. Then I wait in line at the Capitol Office of the Majority Leader to express my condolences to Elijah's widow, Maya Rockey Moore Cummings. John Lewis, the Civil Rights Patriot and Congressman, stands in line with me. It is not our first meeting. He once told me that when he shed his own blood for our country during the Civil Rights march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, the only book he carried in his student backpack that day was Thomas Merton's, "New Seeds of Contemplation."

Remembering our affinity for Merton, I ask Mr. Lewis, "...what do you think Thomas Merton would say to us, as Americans, today if he were alive?"

After only a brief moment of reflection, he looked me straight in the eye and said, "....'be faithful'... He would say, 'be faithful'."

And so it is — the clock ticks on, and the reputations of some men soar even as their abilities vanish before our eyes.

But some things never die. Some ideas refuse to be buried.

Justice. Dignity. Generational Progress. The truth that we all in this together.

This is still America.

Well done, faithful servant.

And you were right, Elijah — "we're better than this."

Martin O'Malley





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@clanomalley

*The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.*

*The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.*

*We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.*

## The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

The most common queries we get at The O'Malley Clan Association are queries in relation to helping to trace peoples ancestors in Ireland. As we all know, written records can only take us so far, (if you're lucky you'll get back to the early 1800's or late 1700's).

Many of the Irish Census Records and other historic documents were destroyed during the early part of the 20th century and as a result it can be very hard to trace ancestors back beyond the 19th century. Church records are a help, but can be patchy at times.

One way of narrowing down the search is through DNA testing. The O'Malley Clan Association is involved in a project with Family Tree DNA to test as many O'Malleys as possible to try and expand our knowledge of our roots as much as we possibly can.

There's a specific page for the project on the Family Tree DNA website:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/omalley/about>

Check it out, there's lots of info there, and administrators also for any questions.

