

SEAN MACKIN

Businessman, Humanitarian, Advocate for Irish American Causes

Born in Belfast, County Antrim, Sean Mackin joined the Irish republican movement at age 11. He was arrested and imprisoned several times by British security forces, starting at age 12, but was never found guilty.

In 1978 Amnesty International cited Mackin's cause as one of the five most serious cases of torture in Northern Ireland. Following his release from prison, he met and married Philomena Devine.

Shortly after immigrating to New York in 1983, Mackin was detained at the behest of the British government. After an eight-year legal fight, the Mackin family won a landmark decision. His wife and daughter became the first Irish women to be granted political asylum in the United States. Mackin's deportation order was denied and he went on to become an American citizen. He has been very involved in the Irish peace process and has worked with elected officials in Washington D.C. promoting peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

Mackin is the owner of Preferred Mechanical Inc. and Preferred Sprinkler Corp. He is co-founder and chairman of the New York Irish Center known for its outstanding services to the senior Irish generation and suicide prevention assistance for the Irish community. In 2014, Sean was honored by the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform for [his work on behalf of undocumented Irish.](#)

He is president of the County Antrim Society of New York, a member of AOH Division 3 New York County and was named one of the top 100 Irish Americans of the 20th Century by Irish America magazine.

Mackin and his wife have been members of the Eastchester Irish American Social Club (EIASC) for 18 years. In March 2017, he will serve as Grand Marshal for the EIASC's 13th Annual Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mackin and Philomena have three children, Jenifer, Sean Og and Ciaran, and four grandchildren, Gavin, Tyan, Ella and Pierce. They all live in Eastchester, NY.