



**IAAS Walks of Life 2007  
Gerald Quinn**

Gerald M. Quinn, an award-winning broadcaster and community leader born in Garracloon, County Mayo (pop. 44) and now living in Euclid, has played a decisive part in keeping Cleveland area Irish in touch with their heritage. He conceived and chaired the efforts that led to the founding of Cleveland's Irish American Club-East Side in 1978 and the Mayo Society in 2004, serving as president of both. He further was a founding trustee of the Irish American Archives Society.

His weekly show, "Gerry Quinn Irish Radio" (WHK 1420), 27 years on the air this month, has received the Achievement in Radio Award (A.I.R.) and was named Best Ethnic Program in Northeast Ohio.

Gerald Michael Quinn was introduced to the achievements of civilization at the local National School a few miles from Ballina, a school which has been educating Irish youth since 1865. He attended under the watchful eye of his own father, Liam Quinn, its schoolmaster.

In the spring of 1961, work then being scarce in Ireland, young Gerry sailed from Cobh Harbor to New York, where he was met at the dock by his friend John Garvey, already two years in the States. He then was entrusted to the care of his aunt and uncle in East Cleveland, Bridie O'Donnell and Pat Quinn, who had signed his immigration papers. It was there he would meet his bride, Nellie Stack, the daughter of a Kerry man and a colleen from Wexford. Gerry and Nellie reared a daughter, Mary Ellen Benitt, and five sons: Patrick, Sean, Kevin, Gerard and Michael. (No doubt about their nationality!)

At one time Gerry and Nellie owned two companies; one was sold but they still have QIP Mechanical Corp. which handles process piping, air conditioning and heating. It was as a project engineer for a Philadelphia construction and engineering company that Gerry traveled to Dublin in 1979 to manage construction of a pharmaceutical plant. This subsequently led to a long phone conversation about Ireland with his friend, Leo Darcy, that was taped for a radio station that Darcy managed here in Willoughby. He signed Gerry on the spot, launching the lad from Garracloon on his own three-decades long career as a broadcaster.

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