

# In Memoriam

BY GEORGE HARRISON



*George Harrison was born on 2 May 1915 in Kilkelly, Co. Mayo and emigrated to the United States in 1938. He was successfully defended by the firm of O'Dwyer and Bernstein in U.S. vs. Harrison, Falvey, Mullen, Gormley and Flannery in 1982.*

All of us who were privileged to know and work with and under Paul's advice over decades of long and sometimes difficult times were emotionally saddened when he was called away on the 23rd of June. He was the rock we all leaned on in good times and bad. Like many of his comrades in the worldwide anti-imperialist struggle and in the centuries old fight to rid his beloved Ireland of British rule, he had developed into a legend, an almost god-like figure.

The law firm which he founded in 1935 was a second home for many of us and grew into an institution that fought imperialism either British or American—wherever it showed its ugly head. He personally saw that those who became its targets had proper legal defense and always without fee.

He has now joined Michael Flannery, Tom Maguire, Daithi O'Connell, Tom Falvey, [and] Michael J. Quill in the Valhalla of Irish heroism and I know that they have saluted and welcomed him in the Great Beyond. Keep an eye on us, Comrade Commander, we would not be where we are without you.

As in the past, I will say no goodbyes, just a very reluctant so long, Paul! That is our brief and inadequate salute to you and I strongly feel that this is your response to us:

Do not stand at my grave and weep;  
I am not there.  
I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awake in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there.  
I did not die.\*

To all his accomplished and able family, I offer my sympathy and condolence. Let us carry on until all he desperately fought for becomes a reality of life, not only for the people of the land of his nativity but for all the people of this world whether black, white, yellow or brown.

*\*Author unknown.*

*Photo: Paul O'Dwyer protesting Governor Hugh Carey's position on Northern Ireland, 1977. Photo by Peter Dolan. Courtesy of the NYIHR.*

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