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**NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY**

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**DUP NEWS****Latest News:****GAA HAS MUCH TO DO TO WIN COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE**

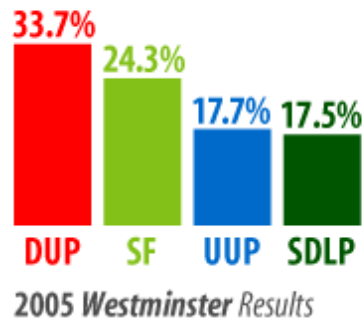
North Belfast DUP Assembly Member Nelson McCausland has said that the GAA has a great deal of work to do in order to win the confidence of everyone in Northern Ireland. Mr. McCausland was speaking out after an exchange of letters between the organisation and the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Gregory Campbell. Speaking today Nelson McCausland said:

*"It would appear as though the GAA leadership are attempting to side-step responsibility for the actions of some of their members in wanting to eulogise the memory of dead terrorists. I think that is regrettable. Whilst we all know of the famous example of the Sam Maguire Cup – named after someone who was a senior member of the IRB – the forerunner to the modern IRA, there are other more contemporary examples of GAA trophies, competitions and grounds being named after criminals that show just how far the GAA has to come to attract confidence and support across the community.*

*The GAA has named various trophies and competitions after people of dubious moral character: ranging from the Michael McVerry Cup for Gaelic football to the Mairead Farrell Camogie Competition. Farrell is of course well known as one of the "Gibraltar Three", who was intercepted by the SAS on a mission to kill British servicemen. McVerry, was killed planting a 100-lb bomb outside a police station, is alleged to have murdered more than 20 people during the Troubles. The fact that the GAA chooses to eulogise such individuals by naming their trophies after them speaks volumes.*

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*A few years ago, the then GAA president Nicky Brennan opened a new GAA ground in Dungiven, named after an INLA criminal Kevin Lynch and a Sinn Fein-sponsored Hunger Strike rally was held at Casement Park in 2006. If other sporting organisations were naming grounds or competitions after dead Loyalist paramilitaries, just how would political nationalism react? There would be a hue and cry from all and sundry in the Nationalist community.*

*Yet it is deemed acceptable for the GAA to name grounds and competitions after such murderous individuals. These are not the actions of an organisation committed to the concept of a shared future and I think that is highly regrettable."*

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