**Garda Jerry McCabe**

**7th June 1996**

SEFF remembers Garda Jerry McCabe who was murdered by the actions of Provisional IRA terrorists.

Widow Ann McCabe recounts the events of that fateful day and the legacy of pain and injustice which remains for her family:

Contributing within the SEFF Publication, Uniting Innocent Victims Mrs McCabe remarks:

*“On the morning of June 7th 1996 my husband Jerry kissed me for the last time.*

*“It was just after dawn. Jerry was about to set off on a routine Garda escort of a delivery of pension and welfare payments to the Post Office at Adare in County Limerick.*

*“It was a task he and his comrade Ben O’Sullivan had completed without incident on countless occasions.*

*“Jerry whispered that he’d be back after 9.00am for a cup of tea.*

*“Spic and span as ever. Shoes polished. Hair groomed. Jerry was wearing a brown suit and a matching tie with a crisp white shirt. Even after 29 years of marriage I still thought I was the luckiest woman in Limerick.*

*“Jerry was close to retirement. He had modest dreams for a future we never got to see.*

*“He was open, generous, and fun-loving. He was committed to me, his family, his friends and his duty as a Special Branch Detective protecting all of us from those who sought to take the law into their own hands and impose their will on the Irish people at the point of a gun.*

*“As he quietly shut the door to avoid waking the children I never for a moment thought I’d never see him alive again.*

*“Within an hour or so of leaving me, Jerry was cruelly murdered on Main Street Adare, by men who claimed to be patriots. Men who set out to rob and kill to show how much they cared for Ireland and its people.*

*“From point blank range a Provisional IRA unit led by Kevin Walsh and Pearse McAuley fired over a dozen rounds from a Kalashnikov. Ben was hit in the shoulder, arms, hand and head. Miraculously he lived. Jerry was shot in the back. The high velocity bullet piercing his spine and heart killed him on the spot.*

*“Then came the knock on the door. I can barely recall the words.*

*“Jerry, Adare shot, dead, Sorry, anything we can do…. The hours and days and weeks after are still a blur.*

*“My daughter Stacy was about to start her Leaving Cert Exams. Somehow she sat all the papers.*

*“Ross our youngest just went to his room and slid under the duvet where he sobbed for hours before his brother Mark found him.*

*“None of us will ever be the same again.*

*“I am still reeling from the trauma of that moment that ended the world as I knew it.*

*“It is now 22 years since Jerry said goodbye and never came home.*

*“In those years our children have grown up, coped as best they could, and made lives for themselves. They now have children of their own. Jerry saw none of those beautiful landmark moments we all take for granted.*

*The Provisional IRA men who took him from us have condemned us to a life sentence that carries over to the grandchildren and beyond.*

*“They say time heals.*

*“Not for me.*

*“Some of the Provo killers were arrested and faced trial. But the IRA intimidated witnesses and corrupted the judicial process. Men who should have spent 40 years in jail are now free.*

*“Others are still on the run. Still protected by Sinn Fein, the powerful political party that for 22 years obstructed the murder inquiry.*

*“When Jerry died at the ruthless hands of McAuley and Walsh, the political wing of the Republican Movement had no representation in Dail Eireann.*

*“Now they hope to be part of the next Government of this Republic, a republic they despise and have attempted to overthrow.*

*“If that day ever comes to pass I know the Provisional IRA fugitives will never be held to account and this democracy will have reached a new low.*

*“But until I die I will not cease my quest for justice for Jerry”.*

Jerry McCabe was a true and loyal servant of the Republic of Ireland State, those who stole away his life subscribe to an ourselves alone mantra, which holds abhorrence and contempt for both legitimate States on this Island.

Jerry is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt; Terrorism knows No Borders. Within his individual patch are included the poignant words, ‘My husband died for Ireland, it was not his choice.’

Jerry’s widow Ann, their children and the wider McCabe family are in our thoughts and prayers today and every day.

**“Time does not heal- Justice does.” - Ann McCabe.**

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the McCabe family today and every day.