

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

Best of Ireland Gala Dinner

2018 BEST OF IRELAND HONOREES

Bret Baier
Chief Political Anchor
FOX News Channel

Bret Baier currently serves as FOX News Channel's (FNC's) chief political anchor and anchor of "Special Report with Bret Baier", the top-rated cable news program in its timeslot and consistently one of the top four shows in cable news.

During the 2012 political season, he served as co-anchor of FNC's America's Election HQ alongside Megyn Kelly. Baier, Kelly and Chris Wallace anchored three GOP debates for Fox News Channel in 2016 with the debate in Cleveland, OH reaching a record 24 million viewers. He interviewed all of the presidential candidates, including Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders in a Democratic town hall, for Special Report. Baier continues to provide extensive political coverage for FOX News Channel.

During his tenure at the network, Baier has interviewed President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, former President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney. He has also anchored more than thirty political specials on FNC, reported from Iraq 12 times and Afghanistan 13 times, traveled the world with various administrations and military officials and reported from 74 countries.

Prior to his anchor role, Baier was named chief White House correspondent in 2006 and covered the second term of the Bush Administration. Before that, he served as national security correspondent covering military and national security affairs, as well as defense, military policy and the intelligence community from the Pentagon. He is also the author of The New York Times best seller, "Special Heart: A Journey of Faith, Hope, Courage and Love" and "Three Days in January: Dwight Eisenhower's Final Mission."

Adrian M. Jones
Managing Director, Merchant Banking Division
Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Adrian grew up on a farm in Tulsk, County Roscommon. He was educated at Summerhill College, Sligo and the Irish Military College, and earned degrees from University College Galway and University College Dublin. After serving for 8 years with the Irish Army, including a tour with the United Nations in Southern Lebanon, Adrian moved with his wife Christina to Boston in 1990. Upon graduating from Harvard Business School, Adrian joined Goldman Sachs in New York in 1994. For the past twenty years, Adrian has worked in Goldman's Merchant Banking Division, investing in private companies on behalf of Goldman, his colleagues and the Firm's clients. In recent years, he has focused on investment opportunities in healthcare.

Adrian and Christina live with their children, Daniel and Liam, in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Adrian is a board member of The Ireland Funds and the Galway University Foundation, and is Vice Chairman of Autism Speaks. Their younger son, Liam, has autism, and Adrian and Christina support a number of organizations dedicated to children's welfare and mental health. They appreciate the commitment and professionalism of the staff at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, and are honored to be associated with the Children's Medical Research Foundation.

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Henrik Lundqvist
Goaltender
New York Rangers

Henrik Lundqvist is a Swedish professional ice hockey goaltender for the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League (NHL). Before winning the Vezina Trophy in 2012, he was nominated in each of his first three seasons, and is the only goaltender in NHL history to record 30 wins in each of his first seven seasons. His dominating play during his rookie season resulted in the New York media and Rangers fans giving him the nickname "King Henrik". During the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, he led the Swedish men's team to their second Olympic gold medal.

Before joining the Rangers, Lundqvist played for Frölunda HC in the Swedish Elitserien. During his years in Sweden, he developed into the league's finest goaltender, winning the Honken Trophy three consecutive seasons; 2003, 2004 and 2005. In 2005 he also won two of the most prestigious awards in Swedish ice hockey, the Golden Puck and the Golden Helmet.

Lundqvist is considered a butterfly style goalie, though unorthodox because of the aggressive way he performs the butterfly. He is best known for his sensational quickness, athleticism and strong positional play.

Henrik and his wife Therese set up The Henrik Lundqvist Foundation to create positive change in the lives of children and adults throughout the world through education and health services. The work of the Foundation supports the New York Presbyterian Children's Hospitals, the Ronald McDonald Barnfond ("Children's Fund"), the Together for Better programme in the Dominican Republic and the Garden of Dreams Foundation in conjunction with the Madison Square Garden Company.

Conor McGregor
UFC lightweight champion
and former featherweight champion

From Crumlin, Dublin, Conor McGregor is the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) lightweight champion and former featherweight champion.

Over the course of his career, he has competed as a featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight participant. He began his professional mixed martial arts (MMA) career in 2008 after leaving his job as a plumber. McGregor is the only fighter to be champion in two UFC divisions simultaneously after defeating Jose Aldo at UFC 194 in 13 seconds in the fastest UFC title fight victory, and former lightweight champion Eddie Alvarez at UFC 205.

After victory at UFC 205, McGregor announced he would take time off from the UFC to wait for the birth of his first child due in 2017. McGregor would spend the majority of his public appearances in early-2017 campaigning for a boxing match with Floyd Mayweather. After months of negotiations, the two finally came to terms on 14 June 2017 and announced the match to take place on 26 August. The match ultimately ended in the 10th round with a victory by TKO for Mayweather.