



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

October 15, 2010

Governor John Gately Downey

It is a pleasure to extend my greetings to all who have gathered in the beautiful village of Taughmaconnell, Ireland for the unveiling of a bronze bust of the late Governor John Downey.

John Downey was California's first foreign-born Governor. His landmark governorship from 1860 - 1862 set an important precedent and opened up opportunities for immigrants in our Golden State. During his time in the state government, Governor Downey defended the rights of the general public and fought to maintain just economic conditions and regulations. At the outbreak of the American Civil War, he pledged California's allegiance to the Union and reaffirmed his commitment to the American values of freedom and liberty for all.

My gratitude goes to everyone who made today's fantastic occasion and monument possible. Governor Downey left an undeniable impact on California, but he always remained proud of his home and his roots. I am sure he would have been humbled and touched to witness Taughmaconnell's tribute to his legacy.

Please accept my best wishes for a joyous event and success in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger