DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE


DOCTOR IN LAWS

‘From home to home’ sang Pindar as he celebrated the pledging of a lasting alliance1, and it would not, I think, be inappropriate to use these words to signal the praises of the very distinguished lady now standing before you. LORETTA BRENNAN GLUCKSMAN, whom I have great pleasure in introducing to you, was born and educated in the New World, and takes a heartfelt pride in her Irish ancestry. She recalls hearing Irish spoken by members of her mother’s family, and she herself as a child learned Gaelic prayers and songs. In Allentown (Pennsylvania) she regularly marched with the Girl Scouts in the Sixth Ward parade on St. Patrick’s Day. Thus were laid the foundations of that good will towards Ireland which has been so remarkably manifested in more recent years. But first she had to find and follow a career in her own country. Tradition tells how the Sibyl of Cumae, hidden in the innermost recesses of a cavern, proclaimed her prophetic message through a hundred orifices; in similar fashion our Loretta, working behind the scenes, achieved a high reputation as a successful deviser and producer of television programmes on the educational channel in Trenton, New Jersey. Indeed she became a major innovative force in the development of political television nationwide, when, against much local opposition, she secured T.V. coverage of the New Jersey legislature and the State Supreme Court. In view of this sustained and single-handed involvement in public affairs, it is no surprise to find that in happy marriage partnership with Lewis Glucksman, himself a noted philanthropist, she has devoted herself with added vigour to the cause of peace and reconciliation on this island. What shall I say about Ireland House which she and her husband established at the University of New York in 1992? It has become a flourishing centre for Irish studies, and a focal point where a wide range of Irish organisations have been drawn together in cooperative projects. Loretta also serves on the board of Ireland’s National Library, and is the current President of the American Ireland Fund. You see before you a most vigorous and effective supporter of Ireland’s cultural heritage. Please welcome her with a truly Irish ovation.

1 Olympian Ode, 7.1–6: the quoted words formed part of the toast at a wedding banquet in which the bride’s father drank to the groom’s health from a golden goblet, and then presented the vessel to him as a pledge of the marriage alliance.