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Jim McGinn recalled at Clady bridge

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By Staff reporter

Several hundred republicans assembled at Clady Bridge on the Tyrone-Downal border last Sunday to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the death of IRA man Jim McGinn, who was killed in an accidental explosion at the spot on December 15, 1973.

The parade to Clady bridge was led by the Strabane Memorial Flute Band. A new memorial plaque was unveiled by Jim McGinn's mother Annie and sister Geraldine to replace the one that was lost to the River Finn when a trailer accidentally collided with

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the bridge during the summer.

The commemoration also saw the launch of a new banner by the Jim Mc Ginn Sinn Féin Cumann, Strabane.

A minute's silence was observed, followed by the laying of flowers and wreaths and the reciting of a decade of the rosary.

The main speaker, Donegal Sinn Fein Councillor, Cora Harvey said: "I wasn't born when Jim lost his life but in our home, as in other republican homes throughout Strabane, Donegal and further afield, his was always a household name.

"People talk of his immaculate sense of style and dress. They mention his sense of humour, and the outgoing, friendly and charming nature that endeared him to everyone he met. Jim stood out from the crowd in terms of his political awareness and maturity.

"It is clear that Jim's decision to become involved in the struggle was not based upon any emotional knee-jerk reaction to turbulent events of the time but firmly upon his deep social and political convictions, moulded through a studied analysis of Irish history and the examination of this history in an international context."

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