

# Ireland's President Michael D Higgins Honours 200,000 Irish Soldiers Who Fought in WWI as He Speaks of 'Official Amnesia' After Conflict

By [Laura Lynott](#) and [Ralph Riegel](#)

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***President Michael D Higgins** led Ireland's Armistice commemorations, marking one hundred years since the end of World War One and honouring the 200,000 Irish soldiers who fought in it.*

Thousands of people defied wind and heavy rain today to attend Armistice Day ceremonies across Ireland for the 49,000 Irish soldiers killed in World War I.

Mr Higgins lay a wreath as members of the Defence Forces held their heads down, as a mark of respect.

Dignitaries from across the globe joined together at Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, as Victoria Cross commemorative plaques were unveiled, in memory of five fallen soldiers from Dublin, Wicklow, Sligo, Antrim and Down.

Each soldier was posthumously awarded the Cross - the highest British military award for gallantry.

Mr Higgins told the crowd, including families whose relatives died in the conflict:

*"We remember, in particular, the 200,000 men from across the island of Ireland, North and south, east and west, who served in that war, and we call to mind in a special way the tens of thousands who never returned home who remain forever in the soil of Belgium, France, Greece and Turkey."*

To read complete article published by [The Irish Independent click here](#)

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*Featured image: President Michael D. Higgins places a wreath on behalf of the people of Ireland at Armistice Day Commemoration Picture: Caroline Quinn*

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