

## National Heritage Fellowship for Doyle

Last week, Sean-nós dancer Kevin Doyle, from Barrington, R.I., was announced as a National Heritage Fellowship recipient by the National Endowment for the Arts, the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

Doyle is among a select group of artists and jazz musicians who were honored for mastering the artistic skills and preserving the cultural traditions of their respective art forms.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "Among these recipients of NEA National Heritage Fellowships there is a recurring theme. Starting at a young age, these individuals were exposed to the arts. Today these artists' passion for their art can be seen both in their long and dedicated careers and their willingness to share their knowledge with new audiences."

Rhode Island Governor Lincoln D. Chafee praised Doyle



Kevin Doyle with Gov. Chafee, family and friends.

for receiving this national honor, saying: "As a retired RIPTA bus driver, he exemplifies the very best our state has to offer. His love for Irish Step Dancing and the arts is clear and should encourage others to pursue their passions."

U.S. Senator Jack Reed offered his congratulations. "I commend NEA for selecting Kevin Doyle to receive our nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. Kevin is an elite artist with a common touch," Reed said. "He makes

Irish step dancing look easy, but he is someone who has poured many years of hard work, sweat, and soul into honing his craft. I think it is great that he is being recognized on a national stage and making Rhode Island and our Irish-American community proud."

Kevin Doyle is a son of County Roscommon through his mother Margaret Taylor Doyle. He is a grandson of County Longford through his father John, whose Irish parents came to live in Provi-



Rhode Island Governor Lincoln D. Chafee, left, congratulating Kevin Doyle last week.

dence, R.I.'s Fox Point in the early 1900s.

He is a performer with the dance show Atlantic Steps and will be teaching at the Augusta Irish Week in July

The 2014 NEA National

Heritage Fellows will be honored at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014 and a concert at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014.