

# LEITRIM GUARDIAN PERSON OF THE YEAR

## Shane Grahame Flynn

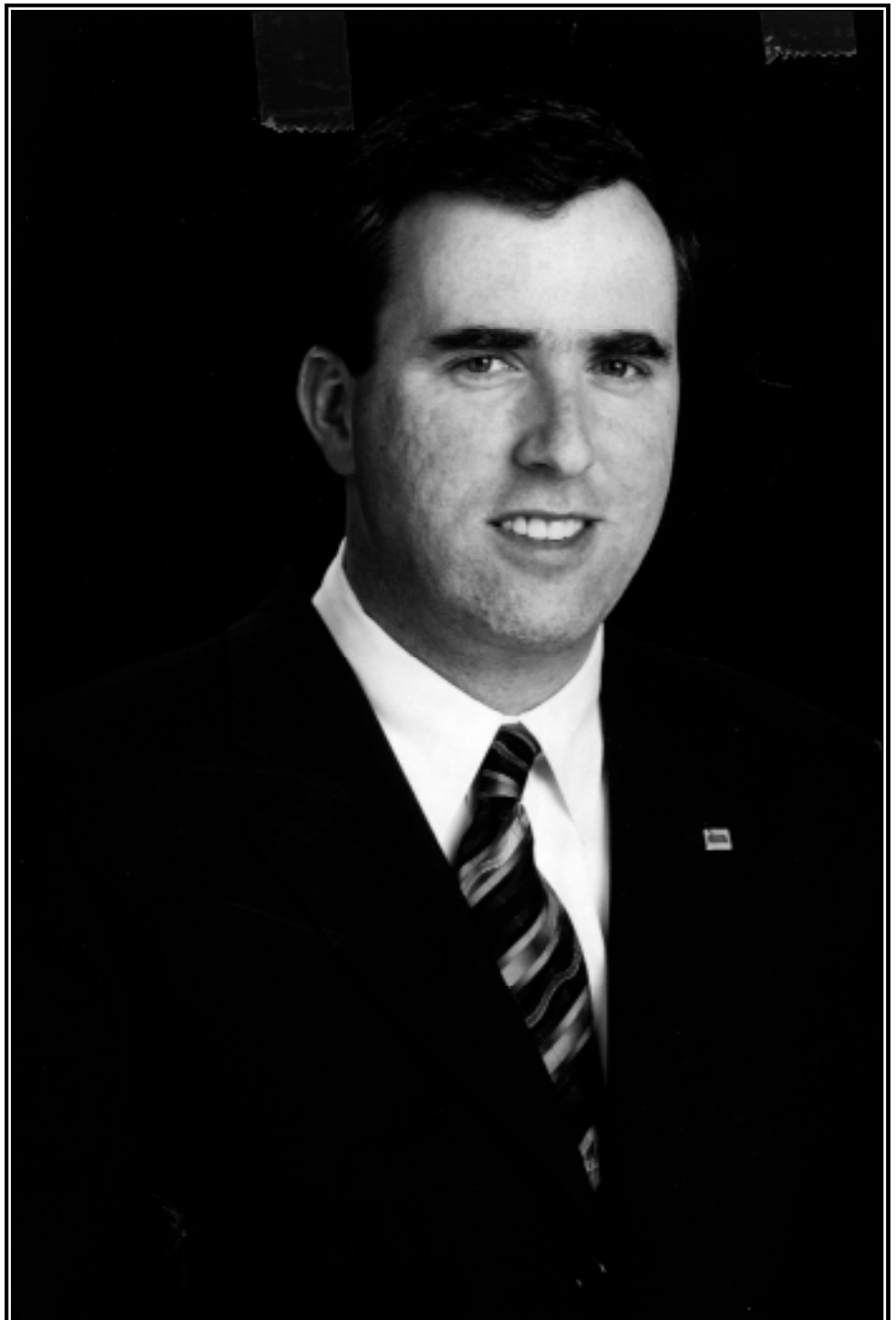
Vice Chairman MBNA

*“The economic vitality of Leitrim today is a source of satisfaction to everyone and the county has the important assets necessary to attract new industry—the quality of its people and their work ethic”.*

So states Shane Grahame Flynn, the unanimous choice as The Leitrim Guardian Person of the Year for 2000.

Born and reared in Carrick-on-Shannon, Shane has very positive recollections of his early life in the town with his father, the late Shane P. Flynn, the former Leitrim County Registrar, his mother Mrs. Yvonne Flynn (nee Toolan) and his brothers Peter, Morgan and Marcus. With both parents being natives of Carrick, Shane grew up in an atmosphere of great love of and pride in the town and the county - qualities that are very evident in each member of the Flynn family.

Shane received his primary education in the local Marist Sisters Convent School and in the Presentation Brothers School before embarking on his secondary education at Maynooth Secondary School in Carrick. He then attended Clongowes Wood College, Naas, Co. Kildare and after the Leaving Certificate Examination took a BBS (Bachelor of Business Studies) Degree at Trinity College Dublin.



Further studies included the European Orientation Programme in Paris. Shane then went to the United States, he joined MBNA and he quickly rose to his present position

as Vice-Chairman, MBNA America/CEO MBNA Marketing Systems, with chief responsibility for MBNA's regional business. The wide network of regional and district MBNA offices throughout the U.S. in

Maine, California, Illinois, New York, Georgia, Texas, Maryland, Ohio, Florida and New Jersey means that Shane G. Flynn is responsible for just over 7,000 employees in total.

A demanding schedule of travel throughout the United States MBNA network does not mean that Shane loses contact with home. With his wife Susan - formerly Susan North of Hartford, Connecticut - and their children, five year old Jack and two year old Grace, Shane returns to Carrick-on-Shannon as often as possible to visit his mother and other family relatives. Each week he keeps up to date on events in Leitrim and the North West by logging into "The Leitrim Observer" on the internet and he is as familiar with activity in the county as anyone living at home in Leitrim.

Shane is happy that there has been such a turnaround in the fortunes of the county, a far cry from the depressive times of the past and he feels that Leitrim can now attract major industries due to the improved roads, communications and general infrastructure. He himself, while playing down his own involvement, was active in the MBNA decision to locate in Carrick-on-Shannon - a decision that has and will continue to have major economical benefits for all of Leitrim. How encouraging it is to have someone in Shane's position in an international company make such an act of faith in our county.

In Camden, Maine, USA, Shane and Susan Flynn are very much part of the vibrant community, playing key roles in numerous voluntary organisations. As well as being a board

Member of Maine Chamber of Commerce and of Tanglewood 4H Camp and Learning Centre, Shane is a trustee of Maine Public Broadcasting and is on the President's Advisory Council of the University of Maine. He attributes this community spirit to his upbringing in Carrick-on-Shannon, where involvement in local organisations was a practical way of being a true citizen of any town or village.

The people of Leitrim look forward to MBNA in Carrick-on-Shannon and join with The Leitrim Guardian in saluting Shane G Flynn, a most deserving Leitrim Guardian Person of the Year 2000.

### ***MBNA in Ireland***

MBNA Ireland Limited is opening a new call centre in Carrick-on-Shannon that expects to employ up to 300 people within the first two years of operation. Construction is well under way and the centre should be up and running by the middle of 2001.

MBNA's Irish headquarters are located at 46 St. Stephen's Green in Dublin where it began operating in 1997. The building has already reached its capacity of 250 people reflecting the success of MBNA in Ireland.

In just over three years, MBNA Ireland has grown to be one of the largest gold card issuers in the country. It was the first

bank in Ireland to take credit card applications over the telephone, to offer promotional balance transfer rates to customers and to provide a credit card chequebook facility. MBNA's products are promoted through direct channels such as personalised mail and direct response advertising. MBNA Ireland has over 70 affinity relationships such as the The Law Society of Ireland, the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland, One Direct (a subsidiary of An Post) and many of the GAA County Boards, including Leitrim whose credit card programme is due to launch at the end of February.

In February 1998, MBNA established a Call Centre in Dublin. This has become one of MBNA's top performing centres. Telemarketing representatives call into three different countries selling MBNA products and services, in addition to taking Irish calls and applications.

MBNA Corporation, a bank holding company and parent of MBNA America Bank, N.A. and MBNA Europe, has \$85 billion in U.S. managed loans. MBNA, the largest independent credit card lender in the world, also provides retail deposit, consumer loan, and insurance products.

A full range of MBNA products and services can be accessed through [www.MBNA.com](http://www.MBNA.com).