

Honorable Mayor Thompson,  
Honorable Mr. Powell,  
Honorable Mr. Bethel,  
Honorable Members of the New Lexington Village Council,  
Honorable Mrs. Mooney,  
Honorable Representatives of the MacGahan Foundation,  
Dear Guests of the MacGahan Festival,

It is a distinct pleasure to address you and congratulate you on the official unveiling of "Januarius A. MacGahan Ave." here, in New Lexington – the birth place of one of Bulgaria's greatest friends and heroes, Januarius MacGahan.

"The Liberator of Bulgaria" MacGahan is a truly remarkable figure not just in Bulgarian and American history, but in world history as well. His person embodies in a unique fashion both the spirit of his times and the same eternal values and ideals that now form the bedrock of our Western civilization. With his immeasurable compassion, irreconcilable opposition to cruelty and hate, faith and love for his fellow men and women and fervent devotion to the Truth, today Januarius MacGahan is a symbol, respected and admired on both sides of the Atlantic, and his name is an inseparable part of the map of the world.

Honorable Organizers,  
Dear Countrymen and Guests,

Allow me to express my most heartfelt gratitude and most sincere admiration for this wonderful initiative. Januarius MacGahan, his life's work and his memory, are part of the inseparable bond between our two peoples, between the Republic of Bulgaria and the United States of America – allies, partners and friends in an uncertain and rapidly changing world. Here today, at the official unveiling of "Januarius A. MacGahan Ave." during the 41-st MacGahan Festival in New Lexington, our bond is stronger than ever.

Allow me to also use this opportunity in order to express my endless gratitude to a very special person for us all – Mrs. Carma Jean Raush, who worked tirelessly for many years alongside Mrs. Barbara Mooney to keep alive the memory of the life and work of the great journalist and who has played a vital part in making today's event a reality. Mrs. Raush may no longer be with us, but I am certain that her memory will live forever in our hearts.

Dear friends of MacGahan,

Let us never forget his life's work and the lessons that it teaches. Januarius MacGahan is so much more than a brilliant memory from bygone days. His legacy and his spirit live on in

each of us, in our love for our fellow men and women, our love for the Truth, our faith in Goodness and the drive of our demiurgic aspiration. The MacGahan Festival that for the 41-st time gathers Bulgarians and Americans here, in New Lexington, is a proof of that. And so is the name of "Januarius A. MacGahan Ave."

The great journalist taught us to never turn our back to human suffering and to always fight for the Truth, no matter what that may cost. A chronicler and maker of history, he showed us that human kindness and good will and one brave quill are stronger than any weapon.

And today all of you who made this initiative possible and chose to be a part of this momentous occasion have in turn reminded us that the genius of creation and the ability to make the world a little kinder and more beautiful shines brightly in us all.

Thank you for choosing to share this solemn moment. Let the present day leave an unforgettable memory in your hearts!

Sofia, 6 June 2019 r.

**EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA**