

Pooser for his achievements and commitments to the hotel industry in the southeastern States. I sincerely thank Mr. Pooser for his outstanding contributions, and congratulate him on becoming a recipient of the 2002 South Carolina Hospitality Leader of the Year Award, and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
CENTURY THEATER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the American Century Theater, which is located in northern Virginia. Since 1995, this Arlington-based theater has been overwhelmingly successful in bringing different genres of theater to the stage, and in turn has greatly enhanced the quality of life for northern Virginians.

When the American Century Theater realized the lack of visibility American playwrights have in the Washington DC area, it strove to encourage Americans to rediscover the extraordinary vision and wisdom of our past American playwrights. Regardless of the countless masterpieces created by our country's great writers, only a handful of classics could be found in local theaters. The American Century theater recognized the lack of family-orientated shows available, and subsequently set the theater's mission to become an experience for the whole family to enjoy.

The American Century Theater focuses on plays that are at least 25 years old, under produced, and contain a variety of form and content. The plays do not contain offensive language or graphic sexual behavior, and they frequently deal with current social issues—making them suitable for the entire family. The Theater has also shown itself to be non-partisan and apolitical.

In addition to providing northern Virginia with extraordinary plays, the Theater also maintains a strong dedication to serving our community in many other ways. StageThought is a special educational program for high school students and other youth groups that provide study guides, pre- and post-show discussions, and drastically reduced group rates that enable these students to attend plays that might otherwise be outside their means.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the American Century Theater for its continued efforts to preserve American Culture. The American Century Theater is a local treasure and should be recognized for its integrity and laudable mission. I hope all my colleagues will join me in applauding them for their hard work in bringing American heritage to the theater.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, since the first celebration of International Women's

Day on March 19, 1911, women have come to realize opportunities about which they then could only dream. And they have taken advantage of those opportunities, excelling in every field and task put before them. As the world has become more aware of the abilities and talents of women throughout the globe, we also have become more aware of the very real issue of violence against women and its devastating effects.

While our consciousness of violence against women has risen, the problem has not evaporated. There is still much work to do. Cases of violence against women continue to persist in our own nation and throughout the world. These vicious crimes often happen within the home and have devastating consequences for the victims personally, as well as for their families and for society as a whole.

We must continue to work together to empower women from an early age by teaching them that any form of abuse is unacceptable and encouraging them to speak out. We must also ensure that those who commit these heinous acts are appropriately punished for the crimes they commit.

I serve on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations where I am proud to support many foreign assistance programs that benefit women, including the microcredit program for the very poor. These program empower women by giving them the capacity to provide for themselves and become self-reliant. Economically empowering women not only reduces poverty, it also creates a sense of self-worth and importance with which women can address the many challenges they face.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to build upon the achievements that have been made in reducing violence against women and I look forward to working with my colleagues to accomplish this goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained earlier today while attending a closed hearing for Schism v. the United States in the U.S. Court of Appeals, here in Washington, DC. Being a closed hearing, I was unable to leave when this afternoon's vote was called and further, had the understanding that the vote would not occur until a time certain. I respectfully request the RECORD to reflect that, had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on S.J. Res. 32.

GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES BY
FORGIVING EDUCATIONAL DEBT
FOR SERVICE (GOFEDS)

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, listening to the inspiring thoughts of Darin Johnson, I can't help but reflect on the words uttered over 40 years ago by President John F. Kennedy:

"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country, and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

There was perhaps no more eloquent a call to government service than this speech by President Kennedy. Even though our enemies may be different than they were in 1961, we are still charged with "defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger."

In the aftermath of 9-11, many Americans, like Darin Johnson, are looking for ways to serve and "make a difference" for their country. In fact, according to data collected by the Partnership for Public Service, in the three months after September 11th, the number of applications for federal jobs received by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's service centers increased by 14 percent. We need to seize this opportunity to hire a diverse group of the best and brightest women and men this country has to offer. However, we can't do this using outdated recruitment methods and incentives that penalize those who choose Federal service.

That's why we are here today. With college tuition costs spiraling, many college graduates are left with huge loans to repay following graduation. Even those who are attracted to government employment, out of necessity, gravitate toward the higher salaries of the private sector in order to repay their personal debt.

Although we are standing here on Capitol Hill, this is not just an "inside the Beltway issue." The reach of our Federal government is evident across our great nation. In Cook County, Illinois, for example, my home state, there are over 20,000 Federal employees. I am, therefore, pleased to be a cosponsor of Generating Opportunities by Forgiving Educational Debt for service (GOFEDS). Currently, when Federal agencies repay student loans for employees, these payments are taxable to the employees. However, many educational institutions have instituted similar loan repayment benefits to encourage graduates to go into government service or to work for non-profit organizations—and these payments are not taxable. This bill will erase this disparity.

However, let us not see this bill as an ending, but rather, a beginning—one in a series of initiatives we need to take to ensure that our Federal government is a model employer—we own the American people no less.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY 2002 DEMONSTRATES REAL PROGRESS IN NORTH OF IRELAND

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, yet another glorious Saint Patrick's Day will soon be upon us, and all of the good, warm Irish people here,

and all around the globe, will be celebrating the patron saint of the Emerald Isle on this the day when the wearing of the green means something special.

Today, in the long, difficult struggle for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland there is also much to celebrate. The assembly and local governing bodies are up and running. All of the people of Northern Ireland are making their own judgments on many of the contentious issues of the past, and deciding their own future through new and democratically accountable institutions as established under the Good Friday accord.

One of the most important and difficult issues for many in the nationalist community is a new beginning for policing, and in particular the issue of the new police service and the new policing board, as well as a new ombudsman along with the democratic accountability of these new institutions over the police service, once viewed by many as just a unionist dominated force.

Recently, the Irish News in Belfast published my opinion piece on the need for all those in the nationalist community to join and support the new police service and support the policing board in order that they help select a new chief constable, and further make these institutions even more democratically accountable. We must continue to struggle for protection of human rights and the redress of past injustices in the new north of Ireland as we make these changes and bring about long overdue reforms.

For your consideration, I ask that my Irish News piece, be reprinted below for the benefit of my colleagues, and all those who are concerned the progress in Northern Ireland which we are witnessing, to continue to move forward:

[From the Irish News Limited, Feb. 25, 2002]

WE MUST ALL JOIN THE SOLUTION FOR
POLICING

(By Ben Gilman)

"It's time for the nationalist community to seize the moment on policing reform and fully participate in the new Northern Ireland Police institutions," says Congressman Ben Gilman.

The newly constituted Policing Board established under the Pattern reforms, which is now overseeing the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), will soon have a historic opportunity to help select the new chief constable to replace the long serving Sir Ronnie Flanagan.

The often tragic and troubling history of many in the nationalist community with policing in the north is hopefully coming to an end.

Our International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives held hearings and investigated this past and troubling record.

We know well the problems and anxieties in the nationalist community on the difficult policing issue, and we will continue to push for even more democratically accountable policing in the north.

The chief constable appointment, however, can become a historic crossroads on the nationalist community's relationship with the police service—once viewed by many as merely an arm of unionist domination in the north.

The selection of a new chief constable, with whom the nationalist community, its leadership, and its citizens will have to communicate and interact for years to come on organized crime, parades, protests, illicit

drugs, and all of the fundamental rule of law problems in a democratic society, will help define the new policing relationship well into the 21st century.

All of the leaders in the nationalist community must raise their voices and be heard on the vital selection of the new police chief, as surely and rightfully the unionist community will, and should do, as well. This is the very essence of democratic accountability for policing. The key selection decision will be made by the policing board, and Sinn Fein should be part of it.

Not only should the nationalist leadership help choose a qualified, understanding and sensitive chief constable, the time has also come for all of the young people in the nationalist community to consider a rewarding police career in the new PSNI. There they can help serve all of the citizens in the north of Ireland, irrespective of tradition, location, or station in life.

Policing is very often the average citizen's only interaction with his or her government on a daily basis. It is vital that both communities be adequately represented in the police service and that the face of citizen contact should truly represent the entire community.

The "new beginning" for policing that the Good Friday agreement wisely envisioned is now becoming a reality in Northern Ireland. We have seen a new name, new badge, new flag, and new police recruits from both traditions. The GAA's island-wide vote to drop its longstanding rule excluding Northern Ireland police officers from playing Gaelic athletic games was a reflection of that new reality.

Change has occurred in policing, and it is broadly welcomed.

Along with the new police leadership in Northern Ireland, at of these new policing efforts will help better serve both communities under the new democratically accountable community policing, especially through the new policing board and district boards, for decades to come.

We in the Congress, and President George Bush in the White House, acknowledged and recognized this new beginning when the administration, at the request of myself and others finally restored our world-renowned FBI police training for the new PSNI in Northern Ireland.

In doing so, President Bush made it clear the US government officially and formally concurs with the British and Irish governments and groups like SDLP and the Roman Catholic Church in the north, that the new PSNI meets the spirit and intent of the recommendations of the Patten commission police reforms. It was a major vote of confidence for the future.

In our nation, earlier Irish emigrants to America often faced isolation, mistreatment and hostile bigotry in many of our major US cities where they embarked or journeyed in an unknown and sometimes hostile land. They did not remain isolated and withdrawn from politics and the police functioning in their newly adopted land, but rather they worked for and brought about change and reform from within these vital institutions.

These courageous and hardworking Irish emigrants to America used our political process and policing to play a key role in improving their lives and bringing themselves, their children, and future generations into the mainstream.

As a result, they have prospered and grown apart of the American melting pot, and today they staff, and in many cases lead, major police departments in several American big cities.

The lessons of Irish emigrants in the US can serve as an example to the nationalist community in the new north of Ireland in

dealing with their difficult and challenging police question. The time to sit on the side lines is over.

I strongly urge young people in the north to join the new police service, without fear or favor, and become part of the solution. I also urge, as the Bush administration has urged, that Sinn Fein now in the assembly, also join the new policing board, join in picking the new chief constable, and thereafter hold him or her, and the PSNI fully and democratically accountable to all of the citizens of Northern Ireland.

We in the Congress will continue our efforts to improve and increase police accountability to the new board in areas like the ongoing loyalist attacks on the nationalist community, the Patrick Finucane murder, and the Omagh bombing investigate shortcomings, among other legitimate areas of rightful concern to the nationalist community.

All of the friends of the good, hardworking people of Northern Ireland of both traditions see the future for their children and communities as unlimited. We note that they can help ensure that continuing success by becoming part of the peace process and the new, shared governing institutions, such as the police board. The solutions now lie from within.

We here on our side of the Atlantic will continue to cheer the progress we see daily in Northern Ireland and will work to see it continue. We have helped and encouraged on that front but it is now up to all of the good people of Northern Ireland to fulfill this promise.

OVERCOMING PHYSICAL HURDLES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to Taina Rodriguez, a Chicago resident and member of my staff who was recently featured in "Latina" magazine. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm make Taina a star. Taina has Marfan's syndrome and has overcome a tremendous number of physical obstacles. This has made her a powerful advocate. Taina was an intern at Access Living, a Chicago group fighting for people with disabilities, and now I am proud to have her as a member of my staff. I am proud that Taina will be able to use her fighting spirit to benefit the residents of the 9th district. I urge all of my colleagues to read the inspirational article about Taina in the January/February issue of "Latina" magazine.

REAL LOVE STARTS WITH YOU

(By Anamary Pelayo)

Some people have a knack for blaming everyone but themselves when things go wrong. Others have a flair for always finding fault in something that they think they did wrong, then feel burdened by guilt. What would it take to release all of that guilt? The answer may lie in learning to love yourself, experts say. "You have to be ready to look in the mirror and see all the positives and the negatives," says Araceli Perea-Salas, a domestic-violence counselor in southern California. But that's not always easy. Once self-love disappears, it takes a lot of reflection and determination to get it back, says psychologist and author Ana Nogales, Ph.D. "The key is took within yourself to find your good qualities and build from there. If