

I want to congratulate him on this well-deserved accomplishment and express my personal gratitude for his tireless commitment to the people of Huntington Beach and Southern California. I wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new undertaking.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX PETS ON WHEELS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th Anniversary of the Fairfax Pets on Wheels program. This program aims to bring joy to our long term assisted living residents through therapy pet visits.

Since 1987, all-volunteer Fairfax Pets on Wheels (FPOW) has been licking loneliness by carrying out their mission to provide companionship and improved quality of life to residents of Fairfax area nursing homes and assisted living facilities through regular pet visitation by trained volunteers and their approved pets.

Sponsored by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and approved by the American Kennel Club as a therapy dog group, FPOW's trained people and pet teams share the power of the human-animal bond through thousands of hours of pet therapy visits every year. They have facilitated pet visitations through a network of more than 300 volunteers, and currently provide visitation to residents in ten facilities. Their dedicated volunteers donated over 8,000 hours of pet visitation just last year.

Pet visitation is proven to have a calming effect. Regular visits by volunteer and pet teams help reduce anxiety, relieve depression, lower blood pressure, encourage communication, and increase socialization. Touching animals helps chase away loneliness and withdrawal and encourages a meaningful connection to happier times.

Throughout the pandemic, many of us have had to isolate to keep our communities safe, and this left many older adults without social interaction or company. We were seeing this take a toll on the mental and physical health of our senior population as they were forced to quarantine for weeks on end. As we are starting to return to normalcy, the visits from furry friends are a great way for our elderly community to lift their spirits.

FPOW volunteers and their pet partners make a difference every day by sharing the unconditional love of a pet to help improve someone's life. In return, human volunteers get to spend more time with their pets and make new friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Fairfax Pets on Wheels program. Volunteers of this organization dedicate themselves to the senior residents of Fairfax County make sure that all residents, including some of the most vulnerable in our society, are being looked out for. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to this organization for their work to support our aging adults in this community.

HONORING MICHELE GARGIULO'S CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my key staff members, Michele Gargiulo. In 2011, I hired Michele to assist in opening my district office in Gulfport, Mississippi. As a military veteran, she performed constituent services specializing in military and veterans' issues. Because of her strong work ethic and dedication to serving the constituents of Mississippi's 4th Congressional District, she was entrusted with the role of Director of Constituent Services in 2012 and was promoted to District Director in 2017, serving as such for five years.

Michele grew up in Huntington Beach, California, and graduated from San Diego State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Commission as an Active-Duty U.S. Army Transportation Officer. While stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, she met her husband, Frederick Gargiulo. They married in 1988, and in 1992, Michele left the military as a Captain in the Louisiana National Guard. For the next 25 years, she focused on supporting military families and raising her three children—Danielle, Blaise, and Sydney. During this time, she ran a transition center for underserved teenagers in a local high school and oversaw family support groups for military families with service members that were forward deployed.

Michele's accomplishments as a congressional staffer are both numerous and outstanding. Of note, she ensured several Vietnam War veterans received the Purple Heart medals they had earned in combat, she worked with key stakeholders throughout the district to ensure their concerns were heard and their needs were met, and she oversaw the successful resolution of over 60,000 constituent service requests. Beyond her work, Michele is a beloved mother, wife, sister, and grandmother—and in all of those roles, she truly excels. Additionally, she served as the President of the Board of Directors for CASA of Harrison County, was awarded the Yellow Rose of Texas by President George W. Bush and is an avid long-distance runner and tennis player.

The signature block on Michele's email includes a phrase in Latin that means "getting better, faster," and that epitomizes Michele's impact as a District Director. She led, mentored, and managed the district staff through multiple sessions of Congress, always intending to improve the team so that we could better serve the people of Mississippi's 4th Congressional District. She is relentless in her work ethic, dedicated to her cause, and positively impacts everyone she meets. For over a decade, Michele's organizational skills and tireless effort have enabled our staff to achieve real and lasting results for the people of Mississippi.

I thank Michele.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR DANIEL MULHALL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of Daniel Mulhall during his 5 year tenure (2017–2022) as Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America. Ambassador Mulhall enhanced the already positive relationship between our two nations. He was a respected voice on important policy issues but also wove in the cultural aspects often referencing art, poetry and music in discussions and writings.

Ambassador Mulhall served during a critical time for both our nations. In the United States, he witnessed 2 impactful elections, experienced a global pandemic, met with elected officials on both sides of the aisle about cultural and policy issues and welcomed us into his home for celebrations and remembrances. He amplified our economic ties with Ireland citing our investment and trade relationship.

He framed the impact of Brexit on Ireland and the need for the Northern Ireland Protocol to navigate it. And he emphasized the importance to protect and celebrate the Good Friday Agreement as its 25th anniversary approaches.

I enjoyed our work together in my capacity as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Co-Chair of the Congressional Friends of Ireland and as Congressman representing the First Congressional District of Massachusetts that is home to one of the largest Irish American communities in the nation.

Not a meeting or conversation would go by without some relevant insight about how politics or policies of the day had an impact on culture in both our nations.

As he begins the next chapter of his career, I know he will continue to expand his quest for knowledge and share his keen interest and wisdom with those forging a path to foreign service. He also will provide the space for students to deepen their knowledge about Ireland.

Diplomacy is the balance of creativity and storytelling. Ireland has a story to tell, and Ambassador Mulhall did it with grace and precision. That is best described in the book *All Strangers Here: 100 Years of Personal Writing from the Irish Foreign Service*. It was co-edited by Angela Byrne, Ragnar Deeney Almquist and Helena Nolan. I encourage my colleagues to read the following excerpts. The first is an essay by Dan Mulhall entitled, "A New Day Dawning" about a visit from Queen Victoria to Dublin. The second is a poem by Eavan Boland (commissioned by current Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America, Geraldine Byrne Nason), "Our Future Will Become the Past of Other Women."

A NEW DAY DAWNING (extract)

Daniel Mulhall

Perched on top of Killiney Hill overlooking Dublin Bay, there is an eighteenth-century obelisk that is visible from many of the southern suburbs of Dublin. This stark monument, erected in 1742 as part of a famine relief scheme, stands at the highest point of a public park that carries in its name a reminder of Ireland as it was the last time a century came to a close. In 1900 this amenity was known as Victoria Park, and

this was the year when Queen Victoria made only the third visit to Ireland of her very long reign. Victoria Park had been acquired in 1887 by the Queen's Jubilee Memorials Association to commemorate the 50th year of her reign. In April 1900, as the recently commissioned royal yacht, Victoria and Albert, sailed into Dublin Bay for the start of the Queen's three-week stay in Ireland, the obelisk in Victoria Park could be seen from the deck of the monarch's vessel. Someone in her party may well have pointed the monument out to the ageing monarch, and recalled its connection with her. There was a fireworks display on Killiney Hill on the evening of her arrival while the Queen was still on board the vessel docked at Kingstown.

For many in turn-of-the-century Ireland, this rare Royal visit was a huge highlight, the years undoubted centrepiece. For others, the aged Queen's presence in Dublin served as an uncomfortable reminder of the painful calamities that had befallen the Irish people during her reign. It was essential for the British establishment to tread warily between the competing forces of nationalism and unionism. In a burst of doggerel, the popular poet, Percy French, imagines the Queen's after-dinner speech as overheard by Jamesy Murphy, the fictional Deputy Assistant-Waiter at the Vice-Regal Lodge. The Queen recalls advice she received not to travel to Ireland:

'They was greatly in dread,' sez she,
'I'd be murthered or shot,' sez she,
'As like as not,' sez she.

French's lines manage to conjure up the atmosphere of the period and the political squabbles generated by the Queen's Irish sojourn. He visualises the advice she might have given Lord Zetland before they set out for Ireland:

'Remember and steer,' sez she,
'Uncommonly clear,' sez she,
'I know what you mean,' sez he,
'Up wid the green,' sez he,
'And 'God Save the Queen,' sez he. [. . .]

The Royal visit's immediate political purpose was to stem the tide of anti-British feeling generated by the outbreak of the Boer War. As the Marquis of Salisbury remarked, 'no one can suppose that she goes to Ireland for pleasure.' Cadogan, the Lord Lieutenant, assured the Queen, who was known to have had no great warmth of feeling for Ireland, that she would be greeted 'with unbounded loyalty and pleasure,' but this reassuring simplification was not the full story.

In nationalist circles, Dublin Corporation's decision, taken by 30 votes to 22 despite the body's nationalist majority, to deliver a 'loyal address' to the visiting sovereign, caused a considerable stir. The prime mover behind the decision was the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Sir Thomas Devereux Pile. Elected as a home ruler, and having been a member of the Wolfe Tone one and '98 Martyrs Memorial Committee, Mayor Pile, an English-born fish merchant about whose political views Dublin Castle initially had strong misgivings on account of his association with Fred Allen, a Lancashire man with a Fenian background, had already broken the conventions of nationalist politics by making an official call on the Lord Lieutenant and by failing to keep himself sufficiently aloof from the British administration.

Pile's unpopularity marred Dublin's first ever St Patrick's Day Parade which was 'favoured with charming weather'. The Mayor was hissed by sections of the crowd and had stones thrown at his carriage. There were pro-Boer cheers from sections of the crowd and when a Boer flag was flown it was seized by a mounted policeman and the crowd was baton charged. On the eve of the Queen's arrival, dissenting members of the Corporation provoked renewed political debate, this time about the Act of Union, whose centenary was the ostensible rationale for the visit. They declared that the Union had been 'obtained by fraud and shameful corruption', and that there would be 'neither contentment nor loyalty in this country until our national parliament is restored.' The public gallery was crowded for the debate and those who condemned the Act of Union were loudly cheered. After heated exchanges, the nationalist motion was carried by 42 votes to nine. Taunts of 'flunkeyism' were levelled at the motion's opponents who complained of its extreme language. As a result, the Royal visit, though meant as an opportunity to acknowledge Ireland's English connection, was turned into an occasion for underlining nationalist Ireland's undying opposition to the Union between the two islands. Local authorities had become an important new arena within which nationalists could air their political grievances and vaunt their identity. Later in the year, Dublin Corporation moved to confer the freedom of the City on the Boer leader, President Kruger, who was then in exile in Paris. While this bid was ruled out of order on procedural grounds, it further highlighted the Corporation's antiestablishment credentials. Other local authorities did succeed in honouring Kruger. There were frequent disputes because of decisions by local authorities to fly nationalist flags on public buildings in defiance of local unionist opinion.

The Royal visit posed a dilemma for nationalist parliamentarians who could hardly warm to it. At the same time, they had no desire to give offence to the aged monarch. To mark the visit, there were a number of Royal pronouncements designed to please Irish opinion, including the creation of a new regiment, the Irish Guards, to be based at Buckingham Palace. After consulting with Tim Healy, John Redmond decided to adopt a conciliatory line. Alluding to another recently-announced Royal gesture, he predicted that the Irish people:

would receive with gratification the announcement that Her Majesty has directed that for the future the shamrock shall be worn by Irish regiments on March 17th to commemorate the gallantry of Irish soldiers in South Africa.

Parnell's sister, Anna, was decidedly unimpressed by the Queen's 'cruel little insult' to the shamrock, and wrote that:

those who cannot refrain from wearing the shamrock should dip it in ink until its dishonour has been wiped out either by the final triumph of the Boers or in some other way.

The issue divided the Parnell family. Her brother, John, distanced himself from his sister's defence of the shamrock's honour and took part in the ceremonies marking the Queen's arrival in Dublin. On St Patrick's Day 1900, many

English people took their cue from the Queen and decided to wear the shamrock. On arrival at Kingstown, the Queen was careful to display the emblem prominently on her lapel.

OUR FUTURE WILL BECOME THE PAST OF OTHER WOMEN (extract)

Eavan Boland

Show me your hand. I see our past,
Your palm roughened by heat, by frost.
By pulling a crop out of the earth
By lifting a cauldron off the hearth.
By stripping rushes dipped in fat
To make a wick make a rush light.
That was your world: your entry to
Our ancestry in our darkest century.
Ghost-sufferer, our ghost-sister
Remind us now again that history
changes in one moment with one mind.
That it belongs to us, to all of us.
As we mark these hundred years
We will not leave you behind.
[. . .]

If we could only summon
Or see them these women,
Foremothers of the nurture
And dignity that will come
To all of us from this day
We could say across the century
To each one—give me your hand:
It has written our future.
Our future will become
The past of other women.
Our island that was once
Settled and removed on the edge
Of Europe is now a bridge
To the world. And so we share
This day with women everywhere.
For those who find the rights they need
To be hard won, not guaranteed,
Not easily given, for each one
We have a gift, a talisman:
The memory of these Irish women
Who struggled and prevailed.
For whose sake we choose
These things from their date
To honour, to remember and to celebrate:
All those who called for it,
The vote for women.
All those who had the faith
That voices can be raised. Can be heard.
All those who saw their hopes
Become the law. All those who woke
In a new state flowering
From an old nation and found
Justice no longer blind.
Inequity set aside.
And freedom re-defined.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DULLES CHAPTER 1241

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Dulles Chapter 1241 on its 50th anniversary. The Northern Virginia region is home to tens of thousands of federal employees and many retirees who have chosen to stay in the region. Throughout their careers, these dedicated civil servants have given their time and effort to serve their fellow Americans, and NARFE has consistently provided them with coordinated support.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and