

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 murdered 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

health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Dulles Chapter 1241 is one of more than 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 1241 was issued June 21, 1972. At that time, there were 9 members. Today, the Chapter membership has grown to approximately 350 members with another 400 national members in the Dulles jurisdiction. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large. In 2015, following the dissolution of the Leesburg Chapter, the Dulles Chapter welcomed many of these federal employees and retirees into their ranks with open arms. Chapter 1241 has worked from their founding to represent federal employees, but also to better their community.

This chapter has supported Alzheimer's research for many years through regular drawings, the "Red Pot" for monthly donations, and the Alzheimer's Christmas Challenge. Additionally, the Dulles chapter has sponsored several food drives for Fairfax County food pantries, collecting resources for those who have been hit the hardest by misfortune. Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Dulles Chapter has seen its share of hardship, but these federal employees have still banded together to ensure that everyone's needs are met.

Over the years, members have also participated in health and community fairs, auto shows, and other outreach activities. Additionally, many members have been active leaders in the Virginia Federation of NARFE. These accomplished federal employees have earned the attention and praise of numerous bodies, from Virginia state legislators to NARFE national leaders, as well as travel, medical, insurance, tax, and law enforcement experts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Dulles Chapter 1241 for 50 years of dedicated service to Northern Virginia's federal employees. These individuals are the lifeblood of our federal government, and I am grateful for their service and proud to represent such outstanding individuals. I wish them the best for their anniversary, and continued success in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY HUGH ASHFORD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Jeffrey "Jeff" Ashford as he retires following nearly 4 decades of government service, including over 25 years with the House Appropriations Committee.

Jeff began his career in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and later joined the International Security Affairs Branch of the International Affairs Division within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where he developed and oversaw security assistance and arms control budgets and programs.

Later, after serving the HM Treasury in London for 2 years, Jeff returned to OMB, this time within the State-USIA Branch where he developed and oversaw the budget for several State Department programs.

Jeff came home to the House Appropriations Committee in 1997, first serving on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee. He led the Committee's work on Treasury's law enforcement efforts, drug programs, and personnel agencies. In 2003, Jeff took on the difficult task of working for the newly established Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Jeff's work was particularly important in ensuring that the new programs, tasked with protecting the American people, were properly funded and that the Committee's priorities were considered. He also helped ensure that the Committee exercised strong and responsible oversight over the Department of Homeland Security, especially during a complicated period of transition.

Since 2013, Jeff has served on the staff of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies subcommittee. Jeff has helped the Committee and its Members effectively navigate, negotiate, and resolve politically-sensitive issues. His profound technical knowledge of the Justice Department, including its law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and prisons and the Civil Rights and National Security divisions, has benefited the Committee greatly and ensured the Department works most effectively for the American people.

Jeff's tenacious work ethic and his expert knowledge of the issues under our Committee's jurisdiction have made him an unparalleled asset to the committee. Even during trying circumstances, Jeff always brings with him unfailing good humor and even keel. His hard work has made our government work better and our Congress and this Committee stronger. His dedication to this body and to the American people have made him a truly unique and irreplaceable asset.

I speak for myself and all Members of the Committee in saying we will miss Jeff's incredible understanding of the federal budget and his hard work and dedication greatly.

I am excited for what the future holds for Jeff and wish him, his wife Lori, and his children Chloe and Sylvia the very best. Congratulations on a wonderful career. Our Nation and this body will miss Jeff and are deeply thankful to him for his leadership.

ELMER BEACH: LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a longtime constituent, Elmer Beach.

Elmer passed away on December 3, 2022, and he left behind a legacy of service to our Nation. At 100 years of age, Elmer had lived a full life as a member of the "Greatest Generation." He served during World War II as a proud U.S. Marine. He saw action in Guam, Bougainville, and Guadalcanal. And bore a scar on his leg from a Japanese dagger on Iwo Jima. He didn't talk about his service. But Elmer was more than a warrior. He was a father of 7 and a loving husband.

He was kind, humble, and never complained—and he never stopped loving his country.

ADDRESSING THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE ONE FINAL TIME

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the People's House for one final time.

While it's hard to sum up all the lessons that I've learned over the past 10 years as a Member of Congress and 16 years as a district staffer, I'd like to take the opportunity to say thanks.

I thank the people of the 13th District of Illinois for allowing me the honor to represent them. Over the years we've been able to achieve some big wins for hardworking families throughout our district, including successfully updating the tax code by passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, making regulatory reforms to speed up federal highway projects and save taxpayer dollars through my One Federal Decision Act, and the passage of the Small Community Transit Improvement Act to help secure additional federal transit dollars for downstate Illinois communities that rely on transit systems.

It's also been a pleasure to fight on behalf of our farmers by helping to write two farm bills that included provisions to strengthen critical farm programs and increase federal support for agricultural research.

We also helped secure wins for our military over the years in the annual National Defense Authorization Act, and for our veterans through the passage of important bills like the Hire More Heroes Act—my bill to help small businesses hire veterans by amending Obamacare.

I'm also proud of the work we've done to address the student loan crisis, including the passage of the Employer Participation in Repayment Act, legislation I wrote to create a unique public-private partnership.

We've fought for families, who like my own, have fought cancer. Drawing inspiration from my wife Shannon, we advocated for increased federal funding into cancer research and access to cancer treatment and prevention. We passed my bipartisan Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, which was signed into law in 2020, to decrease colorectal cancer deaths by increasing cancer screenings.

These wins were made possible thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who were willing to work together to help make life better for our constituents back home. I also thank my district and D.C. staff who served in the trenches alongside me during some of these tough legislative fights.

I also want to thank my incredible team at the Committee on House Administration, where I've had the honor to serve as the Ranking Member. We've been able to navigate unprecedented times together, including the House's continuity of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 shutdown of D.C. as the House shifted to full telework. We understood that no matter the circumstances,