

changed. Currently, a typical tenant must rely on public housing as permanent housing, and receives public assistance. Public housing projects in recent years have been plagued by a downward spiral of public assistance, lack of job training, and high crime rates.

The Providence Housing Authority decided to face the problem head on. Existing units within the system have been modernized. Repairs have been undertaken ranging from complete rehabilitation to emergency repairs of rotting roofs. Maintenance repair orders are completed swiftly rather than languishing unfinished for months. Security in the Providence properties has improved, allowing residents to build a community. The agency has built up its cash reserves, improving the financial management of the housing authority. Perhaps most important, the Providence Housing Authority has introduced high caliber non-housing services for residents, such as job training, life skills, and youth recreation programs. They have developed after-school programs for children, and self-sufficiency programs for adults.

In recent years, the Housing Authority, which is monitored by HUD, has consistently received higher grades in its annual report-card-type ratings. Since 1991, when HUD started their rating system, the Providence Housing Authority has improved its scores every year. And recently the Housing Authority has achieved "high performer" status, by scoring 97 out of a possible 100 points.

This turn around would not have been possible without the leadership and support of the eleven member Board of Directors of the Providence Housing Authority. These men and women, led by Stephen O'Rourke, have worked hard and persevered in turning around a crumbling system. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Providence Housing Authority of a truly remarkable turnaround.

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IN MEMORY OF GABE PAUL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable man in Cleveland Indians baseball history, Gabe Paul.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., Mr. Paul had a penchant for baseball as a young boy. He was a bat boy for the minor league Rochester Red Wings in 1920 and witnessed the early days of baseball history. His love for the sport grew and he decided to devote his life to it. He joined the Cincinnati Reds as publicity director in 1937 and advanced his way through the Reds' management until he became General Manager in 1949, the youngest GM in baseball history at the time. Paul showed his true passion for the sport when he married his wife Mary on Opening Day, 1939.

Mr. Paul arrived in Cleveland to the posts of general manager, president, and treasurer in 1961. Through 1972 and from 1978 to 1984, he led the Indians through good times and bad times. He maintained until the end of his term that the Cleveland Indians were a "sleeping giant" and would one day emerge from their losing streak as a contender in baseball. Mr. Paul was right and with the construction of Jacobs Field, the team began its current success.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the life of a giant in the baseball industry and a true fan of the game, Gabe Paul.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 1998*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, last night, during the Rollcall vote on Mr. MCGOVERN's amendment to H.R. 6 (No. 124), the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, I inadvertently voted "no" when I wished to vote "aye."

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VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE IRISH DAIL TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, last night at the Library of the Congress both you and I were honored to welcome members of the Irish Dail here to the Congress, as we opened the second session of the Irish American Inter-parliamentary exchange, you so wisely reinitiated two years ago.

The relations between Ireland and its warm and generous people and our great nation are long, historic and very close. The remarks of the Speaker of the Dail, the Ceann Comhairle Seamus Pattison of Kilkenny which were delivered at the Library were particularly important, and best summarize this long and very important relationship between Ireland and the United States.

At this important moment in Irish history, I believe my colleagues would be particularly interested in the Speaker of the Dail's comments on the U.S./Ireland relationship, and I insert his full and important remarks for the RECORD.

REMARKS BY MR. SEAMUS PATTISON, T.D., CEANN COMHAIRLE AT DINNER HOSTED BY MR. NEWT GINGRICH, SPEAKER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador ÓhUiginn, parliamentary colleagues both Irish and American, friends.

I am delighted to respond to your kind remarks and would wish, at the outset, to thank you most sincerely for hosting this dinner in honour of the visit by Irish Parliamentarians. It is a great honour to have dinner here at the Library of Congress and I would like if I may introduce the other members of the delegation: Mr. Desmond J. O'Malley, T.D., Chairman, Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael P. Kitt, T.D., Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., Mr. Matt Brennan, T.D., Mr. Dinny McGinley, T.D., Dr. Pat Upton, T.D., Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., and Mr. Thomas Gildea, T.D.

As you know Mr. Speaker, official contacts between the Oireachtas and the U.S. Congress were put on a more formal footing in the early 1980s. The Friends of Ireland group was established in Congress in 1981 and the Ireland/United States Parliamentary Group in the Houses of the Oireachtas in 1983. Under the auspices of those groups a number of exchange visits took place with delegations from the Friends of Ireland visiting

Dublin in 1982 and 1985, with Irish delegations visiting here in 1983 and 1985. Official links between the two groups lapsed, however, by the mid 1980s but contacts did continue on a more informal basis. The question of re-establishing these links were raised on a number of occasions in the early 1990s. My predecessor Seán Treacy raised the issue with you Mr. Speaker leading to a congressional delegation visiting Ireland in February 1997 to confirm our Parliament's interest in reviving formal links.

The formal announcement of the re-launch of the Ireland-U.S. Inter Parliamentary Group was made by you at the St. Patrick's Day lunch in honour of the then Taoiseach John Bruton. We in Ireland were delighted to hear that you had asked two very distinguished Congressmen Ben Gilman and Jim Walsh to co-chair the U.S. side. I want to pay a very special tribute to both of them whom I got to know during the very successful visit to Ireland in November last year for the work they have put into the work of the group since its re-launch last year. I look forward to co-chairing the first session of our meetings tomorrow when we discuss the Irish peace process.

The people of Ireland deeply appreciate the tireless efforts of both the Friends of Ireland and the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs to bring about a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. As Speaker of the Irish House of Representatives and on behalf of the delegation I too wish to express my appreciation for those efforts which has led to the Good Friday peace agreement. The agreement offers a truly historic opportunity for a new beginning within Northern Ireland. It is balanced fair and comprehensive. All parties will find aspects to their liking but will have difficulties with others. However, the reality is that people on the island of Ireland want peace. It is my belief that the requirements of the people have been met and it is my expressed hope that confirmation of this will be a resounding yes vote in the referendum being held on 22 May.

During the current peace process we have had enormous encouragement and goodwill not only from the international community but especially so from the United States. President Clinton and his administration has taken a deep personal interest in the search for a lasting and just peace in Northern Ireland. That commitment was demonstrated through his visit to Belfast in November 1995. He was the first sitting U.S. President to undertake such a visit.

Congress too has played a very important part. A number of those leading Congressmen I have referred to earlier but I also want to include the other co-chairmen of the Ad Hoc, Peter King, Richard Neal and Tom Manton and many others who have been good friends to Ireland and have been active on a range of political and economic issues over the years. Senator Ted Kennedy too has been a true friend of Ireland and I look forward to meeting with him on Thursday morning. I cannot emphasize enough the key role played by Senator George Mitchell, the independent chairman of the talks whose patience and dedication helped to bring the talks to their successful conclusion.

I also want to mention, Mr. Speaker, how much we value your own personal interest and support. I know that your concern is year round, but your generous hospitality in hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day Speaker's lunch on Capitol Hill has been especially welcome. The event in recent years has brought together the main political leaders from north and south. There is no doubt that the opportunity for dialogue which this year's Washington programme afforded the political leaders greatly helped in laying the ground work for their eventual historic agreement on Good Friday.