

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
IRELAND**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the gentlelady's motion.

Last year Mrs. LOWEY and I, working with Chairman CALLAHAN, Mr. WALSH and Speaker HASTERT were successful in obtaining an appropriation of \$25 million for the International Fund for Ireland. Funding for this project has never been as integral to the viability of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, as it is right now.

Since the creation of the Northern Ireland Assembly, the practice of crisis politics has been the norm, more often than the exception. In recent days, however, the Nationalists and the Unionists have finally arrived at a point that will allow them to move forward.

I commend the IRA for their historic announcement of disarmament.

I would also like to express my support for the election of Mark Durkan as Deputy First Minister, and the reelection of David Trimble as First Minister.

After several difficult days, I am pleased to see that the parties have resolved the latest impasse and returned to the bargaining table.

Despite the tremendous strides that have been made by both sides in Northern Ireland, it is difficult to celebrate these achievements while people are still being murdered in the streets of Belfast. When Ulster political leaders disagree, they debate, vote, and sometimes walk away from the bargaining table. When Unionists and Nationalists on the ground disagree, people die.

The International Fund for Ireland promotes contact, cooperation and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists in Northern Ireland.

By working together on issues of mutual concern such as building a strong economy, and maintaining safe neighborhoods, the fund helps secure peace where it must begin. Through person to person contact.

IFI is a crucial instrument in ending the cycle of hate and violence that has consumed Northern Ireland for far too long. Therefore, it is essential that the Committee continue to fund IFI in the amount of \$25 million, and support the stronger language passed in the House version of this bill. The future of the children of Northern Ireland hangs in the balance. We cannot let them down.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID R. HOLMES

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David R. Holmes, an outstanding civic leader in Dayton, Ohio, within my district. David's vision, energy, and commitment have been a driving force for development in Dayton during

the last decade, especially in the downtown area.

David was a founder and co-chairman of the Downtown Dayton Partnership. This nonprofit organization was established in 1991 to expand business in downtown Dayton and to make the city center a more pleasant place to live, work, and shop. The Partnership has also supported expanding cultural and entertainment opportunities in downtown.

David also served as chairman of the RiverScape Development Team and helped raise \$28 million to revitalize the downtown river front area. The result is a beautiful scenic and recreational area along the Great Miami River that offers a variety of activities, programming, and sites, including a fountain that shoots streams of water 200 feet in the air as a backdrop for laser shows.

Under his direction, Reynolds and Reynolds spent millions of dollars restoring historic buildings in downtown Dayton near the company headquarters.

Several years ago, David asked to meet with me to generate support for the RiverScape project. I was deeply impressed with his plans and I immediately agreed to help. Looking back now, it is easy to forget that in those days it took a lot of courage to put so much energy into downtown Dayton development when so many people thought it was a lost cause.

David's other civic contributions include chairing Dayton's 1992 United Way campaign, one of the most successful United Way drives in Dayton history. He served on numerous boards of directors of local charitable and educational organizations.

David is currently chairman of the board for The Reynolds and Reynolds Company. He served as president and chief executive officer from 1989 until May 1999. At the same time he donated his time to Dayton, he was an outstanding businessman, leading Reynolds and Reynolds through explosive growth.

Next week on November 15, 2001, the Downtown Dayton Partnership will honor David during a ceremony at Dayton's RiverScape. I offer him my congratulations and thanks for the work he has done on behalf of our community. However, the real monument to his achievement is not our words, but the landscape of Dayton that will be forever changed because of his efforts.

VETERANS DAY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln once said "let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." President Lincoln was no stranger to the price of liberty. The largest war on American soil was fought before his eyes.

During this time when Americans are again answering the call to protect our beloved nation, it is imperative the House appropriately recognize and thank those who so valiantly and selflessly served this great nation.

The comforts and prosperity enjoyed today have been dearly purchased with American blood. Freedom, justice, and liberty are more than mere slogans. They are principles that have drawn the ire of America's enemies beginning with King George and the British Army.

On November 11th, Veterans' Day, Americans pay solemn respects to the men and women in uniform who have served faithfully through peace, war, and now terror. Even though many have defined the present war on terrorism as uncharacteristic, the enemies are substantially the same. They are evil people who would attempt to change America's policies through fear and intimidation. History is replete with such tyrants.

Even after years of relative peace, the American military is the envy of the world. It is the best trained, the most technologically advanced, and the best equipped. Their cause has always been just. Without America's veterans, we would not have a nation worth defending today.

Yes, the challenge posed by the barbarians of terror is no match for the strength of our military, but it is also inferior to the spirit of the American people. This nation has not forgotten the heroism of its veterans. It cannot and will not ignore their contributions. This is what Veterans' Day is all about.

While we live in the most prosperous and blessed nation on earth, the events of September 11th are a solemn reminder that our struggle is not yet over. On November 11th, just one year ago, most Americans gathered and thanked God for giving our nation peace. From Him, America's veterans drew the full measure of courage during times of greatest peril.

Thanks to America's veterans, the children of tomorrow will give thanks again for living in a great nation at peace. The next generation will be part of a country that will not be intimidated by terrorism. They will inherit an America which refused to look the other way when confronted by evil.

On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, of 1918 the soldiers of "The Great War" said goodbye to battlefields with names like Flanders, Verdun, and Ardennes. Many believed WWI would be the "war to end all wars." Unfortunately, they were perhaps, too optimistic, for aggression has been displaced.

At this time in our history, Americans no longer have the luxury of ignoring the price of liberty. The men and women at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and those who fight on land, sea, and air throughout the world have reminded all of us that we have all inherited a sacred privilege.

In a letter to the mother of fallen soldiers, Lincoln prayed comfort for the families of those who laid "so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." As much as our thoughts and prayers are with those who have already been lost and the legions more who are entering this fight, each and every American should also turn their thoughts to those families who remain behind.

This year especially, as the nation celebrates Veterans' Day, it is important to give thanks and to take inspiration from the great sacrifices of the brave men and women who