

SNAPSHOT 2009 Washington DC Event at the Hay Adams



Jim Boland, President Boland, Chairman Flax Trust/America welcomes guests, musicians, introduces speakers

Dr George Moore, Chairman and CEO Targus Information Corporation, Director Flax Trust/America addresses guests

Tom Donahue, former President AFL-CIO, Director Flax Trust/America addresses guests

SNAPSHOT 2009 Washington DC Event at the Hay Adams



John Flynn, President, International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Workers, introduces Terence O'Sullivan, General President, Laborers' International Union of North America

Jim Griffin, CEcD Executive Director City of Hornell IDA, Director of Flax Trust/America, introduces Honoree Jeff Finkle, President & CEO International Economic Development Council, Director Flax Trust/America

Mike McCurry, Public Strategies LLC, Director Flax Trust/America, introduces Honoree George Stephanopoulos, ABC News' Chief Washington Correspondent, Host of "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"

Honorees Terence O'Sullivan, Jeff Finkle, George Stephanopoulos receive the Flax Trust Award from Sr. Mary Turley

FLAX TRUST



Mission

The Flax Trust as a registered charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its Mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes, personal development and dedicated communication projects

Background: Belfast City Hall

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Charitable Organisation

We are very grateful to Mutual of America for this invaluable facility.

Welcome to the Twentieth Annual

FLAX TRUST WASHINGTON DC EVENT

GUESTS OF HONOR

Hon. Richard Neal (D)

U.S. Congressman for the 2nd District of Massachusetts
Chair The Friends of Ireland

Hon. Tim F. Murphy (R)

U.S. Congressman for the 18th District of Pennsylvania
Vice Chair The Friends of Ireland

John P. Cosgrove

Former President of the National Press Club

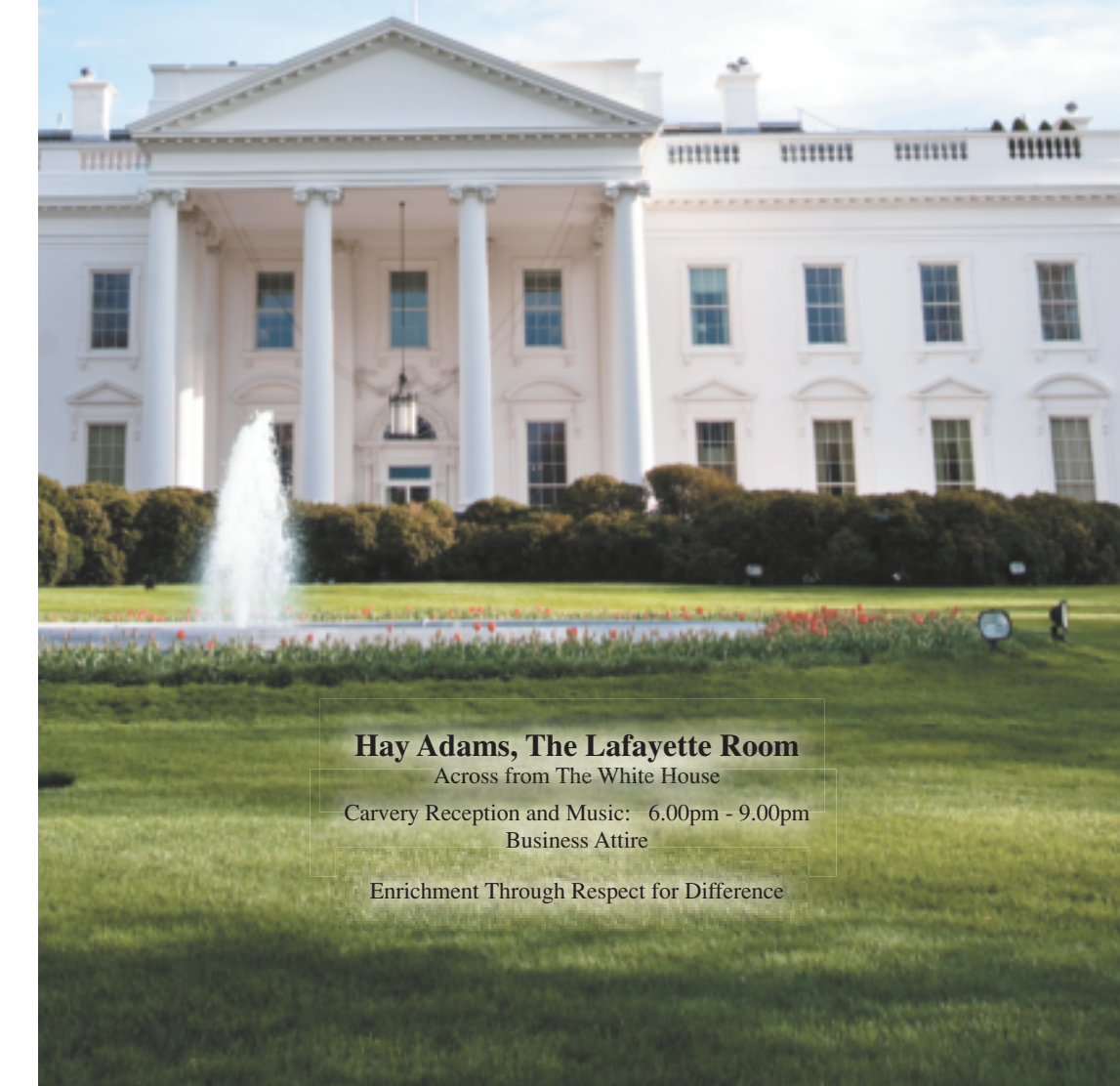
CHAIRPERSONS

James M Boland
President, Boland
Chair Flax Trust/America

Dr. George Moore
Chairman & CEO
Targus Information Corporation
Director Flax Trust/America

Mike McCurry
Public Strategies LLC
Director Flax Trust/America

Wednesday, November 17th, 2010



Hay Adams, The Lafayette Room
Across from The White House

Carvery Reception and Music: 6.00pm - 9.00pm
Business Attire

Enrichment Through Respect for Difference



Message from Fr Myles

Dear Friends

In North Belfast, the intersection of the Woodvale Road and the Crumlin Road at Ardoyne is known as ‘the Ardoyne shops’. Every year for the last 30 years this intersection has been the focal point for major rioting at the time of the ‘twelfth’ marches. Each year coming up to the ‘twelfth’ there are major discussions between Police, Parades’ Commission, Orange Order and local residents to negotiate a resolution, so far without success.

The Flax Trust proposes to build at this intersection the **George Mitchell Centre** for reconciliation, personal development and community care. The outreach of this centre will be year round and into both communities, developing leadership, dialogue and positive cross-community activity. The project will house an **‘all kids crèche’** which will bring together preschool children from both communities as well as their parents who will engage in personal development programmes, anger management, home economics, mutual understanding, inter-cultural appreciation with a view to developing an inter-cultural programme which will be mutually enriching.

The centre will have an auditorium and catering facility as well as administrative offices and workshops. A significant part of the exercise will be the Ardoyne/Shankill Healthy Living Partnership which focuses on inter-community concerns for health improvement in both Ardoyne and the Shankill neighbourhoods. The centre will have a main entrance on the Woodvale Road and a main entrance on the Crumlin road to facilitate both communities.

It is hoped that when this project is completed that Senator George Mitchell will return to Belfast and the scene of his Good Friday Agreement to open the new Centre.

Thank you for all your continuing generous support of the Flax Trust.

**Fr Myles Kavanagh CP
Chairman
Flax Trust/Belfast**

TIM MURPHY

U. S. Congressman for the 18th District of Pennsylvania

In January 2009 Congressman Tim Murphy began serving his fourth term in Congress representing the 18th District of Pennsylvania, encompassing the South Hills of Pittsburgh and portions of Washington and Westmoreland counties.



Congressman Murphy relies on his three decades as a child psychologist to advocate for meaningful reforms in the U.S. healthcare system. As one of only a handful of members of Congress with a background in healthcare, Tim quickly established himself as a leader on the issue. He is Co-chair of the 21st Century Healthcare Caucus, Mental Health Caucus, GOP Doctor’s Caucus, and Men’s Health Caucus, giving him a platform to educate other members of Congress and the public on ways to make healthcare more affordable and accessible for all families.

Representing Southwestern Pennsylvania, a world leader in the research, development, and transmission of energy, Congressman Murphy serves on the House

Energy and Commerce Committee. He sits on two subcommittees: Health and Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection. Recognizing the need for clean and independent energy future, Congressman Murphy founded the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus to educate and formulate policies focused on the environmentally-friendly, responsible production of natural gas. Representative Murphy also serves as Vice-Chair of the Congressional Steel Caucus.

Through his role as Co-Chair of the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, Congressman Tim Murphy leads initiatives of mutual interest to Ireland and the United States, supports the peace and reconciliation process in Northern Ireland, and honors the heritage of the nearly 40 million Irish-Americans in the U.S. This includes participation in four official Congressional Delegation visits to Great Britain, Ireland, and Northern Ireland, where Representative Murphy met with leaders of the British and Irish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, ambassadors, foreign ministers, party leaders, and other officials involved in the peace process.

Congressman Murphy is actively involved in the local Irish-American community in Pittsburgh, home of Dan Rooney, the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. He has hosted roundtable forums on U.S.-Ireland relations with the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and other local organizations promoting Irish-American relations. He is also a member of Division 32 of Ancient Order of Hibernians, where he was recognized as the 2010 Hibernian of the Year. The award is presented to a person who has “demonstrated through personal service and sacrifice, the Division’s motto of Friendship, Unity and true Christian Charity.”

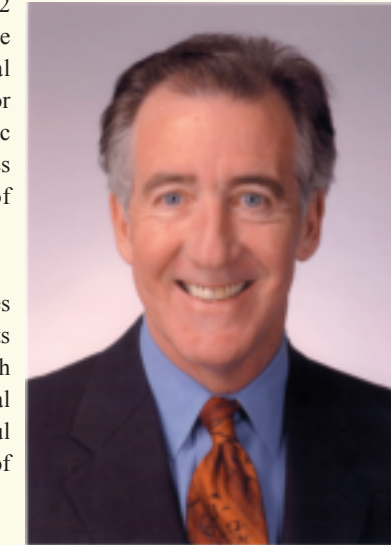
In 2008, Congressman Murphy was named *Irish America* magazine’s list of Top 100 Irish-Americans for his work in facilitating the Irish peace process and building the relationship between the U.S. and Ireland. The annual list includes people in politics, entertainment, philanthropy, education, and other areas. Congressman Murphy also serves as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve Medical Service Corps, working with wounded warriors with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Before coming to Congress, in addition to his work as a psychologist, Congressman Murphy served in the Pennsylvania State Senate from 1997-2002.

He and his wife Nan reside in Upper St. Clair with their daughter, Bevin. They attend St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Bethel Park. He earned a bachelors degree from Wheeling Jesuit University, a master’s degree from Cleveland State University, and his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh.

RICHARD E. NEAL

U. S. Congressman for the 2nd District of Massachusetts

Richard E. Neal was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on February 14, 1949 and was raised and educated in the City of Springfield. He is a 1972 graduate of American International College, where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and was a member of the National Honor Society. He received his Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Barney School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Hartford in 1976.



Richard E. Neal was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1988. He represents the Second District of Massachusetts, which includes cities and towns in western and central Massachusetts. He is a member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures.

Congressman Neal is the lead sponsor of legislation to prevent American companies from moving offshore to avoid paying U.S. taxes. He continues to lead the effort to repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), a tax that penalizes many middle class Americans. He has sponsored legislation that would increase the national savings rate by encouraging the use of individual retirement accounts, and has worked to make health care and tuition expenses tax deductible for middle class people. He is also a member of the Trade Subcommittee.

Congressman Neal is an At-Large Whip for the House Democrats. He is a co-chairman of the New England Congressional Caucus, where he continues to advocate for the unique regional interests of the six New England States.

Congressman Neal serves as the Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and has been recognized repeatedly by *Irish America* magazine as one of the Top 100 Irish Americans. He has been honored by the Holyoke, Massachusetts Saint Patrick’s Day Committee with both the John F. Kennedy Award and the Ambassador’s Award, the Committee’s two highest honors. In 2002, Congressman Neal received the International Leadership Award by the American Ireland Fund for his work over two decades to bring peace and reconciliation to the island of Ireland.

Congressman Neal has been honored by the governments of Ireland, Israel and Italy. He has been recognized for his leadership and innovation by many civic, charitable, educational and labor organizations. He is a Trustee of Mount Holyoke College and has received honorary degrees from Springfield College, Western New England College, Elms College and Suffolk University.

Mr. Neal began his public service career in 1973 as an Assistant to Springfield Mayor William C. Sullivan. In 1978, he was elected to the Springfield City Council and served as President of the Council in 1979. As Mayor of the City of Springfield from 1984 until 1989, Richard Neal was a dynamic and determined leader who combined creativity and pragmatism in developing economic, cultural and public works projects across the community. During his tenure as Mayor, new economic development and private investment exceeded \$400 million, including the \$110 million 28-story Monarch Place complex and a host of other downtown rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization projects. Recognized nationally for his accomplishments as Mayor, Boston Magazine called him a “Face to Watch” in 1986. Newsweek magazine highlighted his many accomplishments as Mayor in a 1987 feature.

JOHN P. COSGROVE

Former President National Press Club

Born and raised in the anthracite coal region of Northeastern Pennsylvania, John P. Cosgrove really *grew up* in Washington, DC. He arrived there in 1937 in his late teens at the beginning of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s second term. He was immediately stricken with Potomac Fever and has been thriving on it ever since.



For more than 70 years he has lived and worked in this national capital except for four years in Uncle Sam’s WWII Navy. He served first in the Office of Censorship (which administered the voluntary code for the Press and Radio) and then in the Pacific Theatre of Operations aboard the U.S.S. Gendreau, a destroyer-escort, surviving kamikazes and typhoons. He returned to Washington and journalism with Broadcasting Publications, then located in the National Press building.

One of the highlights of his exciting life was being President of the National Press Club in 1961. He attended President John F. Kennedy’s inauguration. A week later, President Kennedy came to John’s swearing in by Chief Justice Earl Warren. It was a vintage year full of spectacular news-making speakers from around the world. Anyone in Washington’s Irish-American community or, for that matter, the community at large who is considering organising a special activity usually hears someone say, “Look, why don’t you just call John Cosgrove.” Many organizers of major events in Washington have been given a helping hand by John somewhere along the line.

Among the many on the receiving side of John’s helping hand was the American Irish Foundation, which was founded by Presidents Eamon DeValera and John Kennedy, during Kennedy’s visit to Ireland. Unfortunately, President Kennedy was the victim of an assassination by the time the foundation was forming. John was asked by Irish Ambassador Tom Kiernan to sit on the board and eventually became president during the difficult years. In 1987 it merged with the Ireland Fund. John still serves as a trustee.

During the Vietnam War John was appointed executive director of an organization set up to celebrate the divided country on the Fourth of July. For 17 years he headed that “Honor America” program Flag Day through Independence Day. Among John’s other contributions to his City and Nation, included his role in the planning and dedicating the U.S. Navy Memorial. John served as chairman of the Dedication Committee and as a member of the Board on which he still serves.

Another organization on which John has served is the National Press Club American Legion Post 20, including post commander for almost a decade. He is one of the organizers of the National Press Club Silver/Golden Owls, a group of long-time members. Another project of Irish pride is serving on the Ellis Island Restoration Commission.

John has been a popular and ever-present figure at Washington St. Patrick’s Day parades. He served on the advisory committee of the first parade in 1974 which then marched on Massachusetts Avenue to the Statue of Robert Emmet. He is also a life member of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St Patrick. One of the founding members of the American Foundation for Irish Heritage, John still serves with this Washington-based group, helping to point with pride to the Irish immigrants who contributed much to the success of life in the U.S. John is a Director of Flax Trust/America.

The most significant day in the life of John Cosgrove occurred in 1951, when he married Patricia O’Hara, a Washington native. They shared a lifetime of love and intense pride in their Irish heritage, with years of unselfish service to their community. Patricia died in January 2002.

“A helping hand is something one cannot always get but can always give.” John P. Cosgrove