



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 18, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to those gathered for the 2001 American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) dinner. This year's theme, "A Salute to Irish Americans," celebrates the achievements and contributions that Irish Americans have made to this great Nation. Special congratulations to this year's honorees: Maureen O'Hara, David Feherty, Dr. Thomas Durant, Sister Lena Deevy, and John Cullinane.

One of America's greatest strengths is its diverse population, and immigrants have drawn on their rich traditions and cultures to help mold our society. The Irish immigrants who have come to these shores have enriched our Nation immeasurably. Today, more than 44 million Americans who claim Irish heritage look back with pride on the achievements and contributions of their forebears. We are grateful not only for those whose ancestors came here generations ago but also for those who have found a new home in our country. In building a better future for themselves and their children, they also help to build a better America.

I commend the members of the AILF for promoting a greater understanding of immigration laws and policy. Your efforts help remind us of America's legacy as the land of freedom and equal opportunity for all.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.