



NEWSLETTER

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In Retrospect 2024



The Odyssey Trust, Belfast, Northern Ireland, November 13th, 2024

On 13th of November 2024, Senator Craughwell is welcomed by Chief Executive, Robert Fitzpatrick of **The Odyssey Trust**, part of the Landmark Project for Northern Ireland which has been entertaining and educating for over two decades. **The Odyssey Trust** main charitable goals are to advance public education by maintaining W5, Northern Ireland's science and discovery centre; contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge and education of the general public, and to provide facilities for leisure and recreation at the Odyssey Site, including The SSE Arena, Belfast, in the interests of social welfare and improved conditions of life.



That same day offers meeting **Stephen Rice**, a pioneer and innovator of unique and modern workforce solutions. Passionate about the power of people and common sense. President & CEO, Inventor of **talentsensus.com**. They believe in people power! Every person – regardless of age, gender, race, or sexual orientation – has a set of skills that extend far beyond their previous job titles. **TalentSensus** helps people get recognition for those talents and slams the door on unconscious bias. The world is changing – can you afford not to?

Senator Craughwell and **Colm Hyland**, managing partner & owner of **CJHNetwork** bring together this network of professionals where they have a fundamental belief in the capability of People, the importance of Change and Quality in Enterprise. **CJHNetwork** of experienced consultants is highly dynamic, with years of expertise in a range of fields such as management, psychology, operations, research, and development, along with marketing and IT. Their team can provide a collaborative solution to any individual, organisation, or project.



The Review of the 125 Infantry Battalion for duty with UNIFIL, In Custume Barracks, Athlone, on Thursday 31 October 2024

The Tánaiste and Minister for Defence Mr Micheál Martin, T.D. requested the pleasure of Senator Gerard Craughwell company at the Review of **the 125 Infantry Battalion for duty with UNIFIL, In Custume Barracks, Athlone, on Thursday 31 October 2024.**

The families of the 381 Irish soldiers heading to take up their post in South Lebanon next month and there is a mix of pride and nerves. The soldiers will replace the men and women of the 124th Infantry Battalion who have been performing their peacekeeping role amid heavy fighting by Israeli and Hezbollah forces.

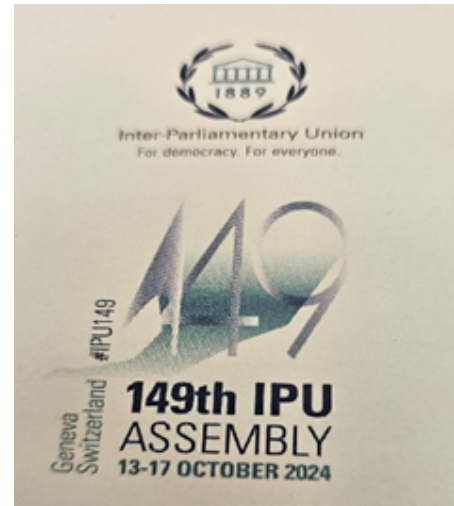
Kinsale Community School - Student Endeavour Awards, Ballinacubby, Kinsale, Co. Cork, 24th of October 2024

Senator Craughwell takes stand next to the students & parents from [@KinsaleComSch](#) gathered for the annual awards. This school epitomises excellence. Incredibly 19 of the class of '24 achieving over 600 points in the Leaving Cert is testament to the leadership of [@FergalMcCarthy3](#) and his team. Incredible commitment from all staff & buy-in from the students is evident everywhere. Congratulations to all involved!



**ISA/Collaboratory/Space Industry Skillnet
Strengthening Cyber Resilience in Ireland's Space
Industry, Cluster Meeting and Workshop, venue:
Collaboratory, TU Dublin, Blanchardstown Campus,
Date: 22nd October 2024.**

The spotlight on Cyber Security in Europe was led by Senator Gerard Craughwell, Independent Senator Seanad Eireann. David McNamara, CEO/Founder, Commsec gave a regulatory overview on the introduction to NIS2. Paul Browne, AI and Digital Product Portfolio Manager, Enterprise Ireland focused on business support – cyber review and remediation grants. Spotlight on space has been led by the invited speakers on Case Study: Critical Incident in Blanchardstown, John O'Leary, CEO, InnaLabs, Opportunities: Building the Internet in Space, Andrew Lambert, Director of System Engineering, Mbryonics, NIS2 Compliance: Cybersecurity for Space, Laxmikant Yadav, Director Operations, TisaLabs, Embedding Trust into Connected Devices: Securing Unmanned Systems, Steve Berry, Executive Chairman, Angoka, Space Industry Skillnet – Quick update, Catherine Lenehan, Network Manager, Space Industry Skillnet.



**149th IPU Assembly and related meetings
Sunday, 13 October 2024 - Thursday, 17
October 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

All IPU statutory bodies, including the Governing Council, Standing Committees, Committees on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and on Middle East Questions, as well as the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs, have met at this time.

The General Debate was focused on the overall theme ***Harnessing science, technology, and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*** and provide a platform for delegates to deliberate, exchange views and galvanize parliamentary action. The Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject item taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled “the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.” The Assembly is expected to conclude with the adoption of an outcome document on the overall theme of the General Debate.

**Representative Association of
Commissioned Officers (RACO), 1st October
to 3rd October 2024**

Senator Craughwell is attending the **Representative Association of Commissioned Officers (RACO)** a two-days Annual Delegate Conference from 1st October to 3rd October 2024. A number of motions are debated on matters such as pensions, working conditions, allowances, training, and concerns around overseas deployments. The annual Conference kicked off in Carlow, where issues were raised such as the urgent implementation of the Working Time Directive, better support for overseas personnel and their families, and the ongoing staffing crisis in units.



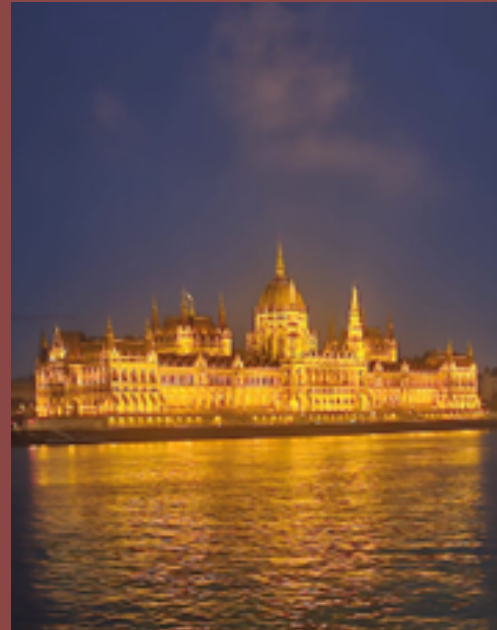
Tuesday 17th of September 2024, Senator Craughwell meets **ETBI** members Paddy Lavelle- General Secretary of ETBI, David Leahy – Chief Executive of Galway and Roscommon **ETBI**, and Gwen Moore – Communication Manager in **ETBI**. Educational and Training Boards Ireland (**ETBI**) is the national representative association for Ireland’s 16 Education and Training Boards (**ETBs**) and negotiates on behalf of the ETB sector at various forums within the education sector and at national, European, and overseas levels. **ETBI** is guided by the core values of excellence, care, equality, community, and respect.



AILG Autumn Training Seminar took place on Weds 11th and Thurs 12th September 2024 @ Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan.

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell honours Local Authority Members of June 2024 with a unique lapel pin symbolizing their County.

While being elected as a local Councillor is a tremendous honour and privilege, it also brings with it a great responsibility. As a local Councillor, they must provide the vision and leadership that will enable their community to enjoy the quality of life that it aspires to and deserves. Their goal as local Councillors should be to ensure that our community and country is a better place in which to live, work and visit.



The Oireachtas House Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence attend the **Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** Hungary, Budapest, 9-10 September 2024.

Bringing diverse perspectives to the table, *Senator Gerard Craughwell* along with Charles Flanagan TD and Matt Carthy TD have been actively involved in various debates and discussions on matters such as the future Europe and the countries wishing to join the EU, Priorities and current issues of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, Protection of the external borders and illegal migration and the Geopolitical strategic shifts in the world. Hungary takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union at a time of extraordinary circumstances and challenges. Our continent is facing common challenges due to the war in our neighbourhood, the EU lagging more and more behind its global competitors, a fragile security situation, illegal migration, the vulnerability of international supply chains, natural disasters, the effects of climate change, and the impact of demographic trends. The Hungarian presidency and Europe must be prepared for the fact that wars, armed conflicts, humanitarian crises in the world, and their aftermath will continue to challenge the continent in the second half of 2024.



Independent Senator Gerard Craughwell attends the Naval Service Commissioning of the New Inshore Patrol Vessels, L.E Aoibhinn & L.E Gobnait, September 4th, 2024.

The 'Lake' class inshore patrol vessels (IPVs), originally part of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), are smaller than the P60-class Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) similar to the LÉ James Joyce. These Lake-class vessels, also known as the Rotoiti class, were designed for inshore tasks and have a displacement of around 340 tonnes. They are equipped with modern navigation and communication systems, making them highly manoeuvrable and capable of speeds up to 25 knots.

The versatility and flexibility of the Lake-class IPVs come from their ability to perform a variety of roles on the vital platforms for search and rescue, counter – smuggling operations, maritime surveillance, boarding operations, support for civilian agencies and the protection of critical offshore infrastructure. This makes them valuable assets despite their smaller size compared to the OPVs. Currently there is only one OPV P60-class vessel operating on patrol at any time at present due to a combination of lack of crew and mechanical issues.



On 28th of August 2024, Senator Craughwell and TD Cathal Berry welcome **Prof. Dakota S. Rudesill @ the Leinster House**, renowned Associate Professor of Law at the Moritz College of Law, and Simulation Director for the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at The Ohio State University. Prof. Rudesill's scholarship and teaching focus on three overlapping areas: U.S. national security law and policy (especially use of force domestically and internationally, secrecy, intelligence, and nuclear weapons); legislative bodies and the legislation they produce; and the ethical responsibilities of professionals.



Kennedy Summer School Festival, A Festival of Irish & American History, Culture & Politics, 29th-31th August, 2024.

In a special session at the Kennedy Summer School in New Ross last August, a spotlight was shone on the topic of 'The NATO Divide: Perspectives on Ireland's Neutrality and National Security'. On Saturday, August 31, 2024. Senator Gerard Craughwell took stage among some of the leading political expert speakers from both sides of the Atlantic, authors, ambassadors, Politicians, news correspondents and leading global academics. The panel included retired US Air Force Major General Timothy Zadalis, PRO of the Irish Anti-War Movement Jim Roche, and former Chief Strategic Communication Advisor in Kabul, Afghanistan at the end of Operation Enduring Freedom, Dr Kim Osborne, and all joined moderator, Director of the Purdue Policy Research Institute at Purdue University Dr Stacey L Connaughton for the talk.



Auslandsfachtagung Alumni- Vereinigung, Irland Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, August 16th, 2024.

A heartfelt thank you was done to Senator Craughwell by the **German-Irish Chamber of Industry & Commerce**, for being such a gracious host and for fostering a strong spirit of collaboration between our two nations. The future of German Irish cooperation looks bright, and I'm excited to be part of it!"Senator Craughwell and the **German Irish Chamber of Industry & Commerce** are forever more excited to welcome **Stefanie Ziska** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)! With an impressive global background, Stefanie joined after leading the German-Croatian Chamber of Industry and Commerce and serving as Director of the Delegation of German Industry for Bosnia and Herzegovina. She sees Ireland as a dynamic hub for investment, innovation, and collaboration, particularly in the wake of Brexit. With its skilled workforce, cutting-edge research, and vast wind resources, Ireland is poised to be a key player in Europe's decarbonisation efforts, and German companies have a vital role to play.

Gerard Craughwell