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# The Great Irish Famine Event

## PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SPEECH RE: THE CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

I am pleased to join this commemoration of the great Irish famine. An event that transformed both Ireland and America and linked our two nations forever.

1 million of Ireland's sons and daughters died in the course of the terrible blight that ravaged the crops 150 years ago. But 2 million more fled their native land in a desperate quest to survive. The famine was the greatest disaster in the history of Ireland.

Yet out of that horrible tragedy there emerged a blessing for our nation. The men, women and children who crossed the ocean to build new lives in America. Today our cities, our society, our culture reflect the skill and determination of these immigrants and their descendants. Irish-Americans have excelled in every profession. From industry and government to the arts. They have enriched America's way of life with the values of their heritage, their love of family, faith and hard work, devotion to community and compassion for those in need.

Perhaps the haunting memory of the famine helps to explain their remarkable generosity of the Irish, at home and all around the world. Irish troops have stood watch for peace from Lebanon to Cyprus to Haiti. Renewing hope in the future and helping others to help themselves. As America joins in the remembrance of the famine we share your commitment to fight poverty and hunger everywhere and we draw inspiration from Ireland's example in making this world a much better place.

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Beneficiaries:

THE BIG  
ISSUES



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Patrons: Donor: Gabriel Byrne, Jerry Calz, Brian Hawry, Seamus Lissand Houghy, Cyril Maybarn, Kevin Moran, Denis O'Riordan, Noel O'Donnell, Don Reilly, Ger Egan, Niall Shelly, Ramon Shelly

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