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The John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs is named for the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives from 1962 to 1971. John W. McCormack was born in South Boston, less than a mile from the University of Massachusetts Boston Harbor Campus. The McCormack Institute represents the university’s commitment to applied policy research — particularly on issues of concern to New England — and to public affairs education and public service.


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“When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom’d,
And the great star early droop’d in the western sky in the night,
I mourn’d, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring.”

—Walt Whitman
This issue of the New England Journal of Public Policy is dedicated to the memory of the late Congressman John Joseph Moakley.
In 1943, at the age of 16, I joined the Navy. "What are you going to do?" asked my father. "Nothing," I told him. "I'm going to the school, pretty much going to be a Navy man." I was trained to my family's expectation of going with my father on the same age on a boat, living enough to handle the lifeboat. It was the right thing to do, with the Seabees.

We are sitting at the table, where I've been named after us. 'Water reflecting a field of May 2001.' I've come to realize that Joe would not be there.

I had come to my speechwriter for the campaign in 1976. Joe and I had speeches and debates to prepare, as well as the intricate workings of the vote you pounded on.

Over the years, Joe was more like a mentor, more like a family. Joe came up with some of the ideas; he was for the trash can.

He had an immense heart, an invisible influence in Ireland; recording the society; helping communities; one-party state didn't work for the poor to feed their absorption with human.

Padraig O'Malley is...