

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March as Irish American Heritage Month for
2 Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, from our country's earliest day, Irish immigrants and their descendants
4 have contributed leadership, wisdom, and vitality to not only Kentucky but American as a
5 whole. Through nine signers of the Declaration of Independence and 22 presidents with
6 Irish roots, Irish American have made an incredible mark in the shaping of the great city
7 of Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

8 WHEREAS, throughout their long history, the Irish have been ardent in their
9 passion for liberty, their hatred of oppression, and renowned for their loyalty. The Irish
10 have from the beginning been prominent in the defense of this nation. Twenty of George
11 Washington's generals and an estimated quarter of his Continental Army were composed
12 of Irish Americans. The first officer commissioned by Washington in the newly formed
13 Navy was an Irishman named John Barry, who became Commodore of the Continental
14 Navy; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1804, pirates had attacked the U.S. Navy and civilian ships were
16 kidnapped and imprisoned in Derne and Tripoli. When negotiations to pay a ransom of
17 \$100,000 failed to gain their release and the American flag staff was cut down in front of
18 the U.S. Consulate, war was declared on Tripoli. On April 27, 1805, Lieutenant Presley
19 O'Bannon of Kentucky led a charge pressing through a shower of enemy gunfire and took
20 possession of enemy batteries, posting an American flag on its ramparts and turning the
21 guns on the enemy. Victory was won in the ensuing two-hour battle and for the first time
22 in U.S. history, an American flag flew over a fortress of the Old World. O'Bannon's deeds
23 are remember in the Marine Corps Hymn and the flag of the Corps, and the sword used in
24 the dress uniform of the Corps is a copy of the one presented to O'Bannon by Hamet, a
25 chieftain and ally of the United States in the Mediterranean. The final resting place of
26 Lieutenant O'Bannon is the cemetery on the hill overlooking our state capital in
27 Frankfort; and

1 WHEREAS, Ralph Waldo Rose, born in Louisville in 1885 of Irish parents,
2 attended the University of Michigan on scholarship to compete on their track team in the
3 shotput, discus, and hammer throw. In 1904, Rose competed in the Olympics in St. Louis
4 winning a gold, silver, and bronze medal in these events respectively. Rose was selected
5 by the 1908 Olympic Committee to carry the U.S. flag in the opening ceremonies in the
6 Summer Olympics in London. When passing King Edward the Seventh, Rose broke
7 tradition and refused to dip the flag of the British King. No U.S. flag has ever been
8 dipped to any monarch since; and

9 WHEREAS, on election day August 6, 1855, in Louisville, Kentucky, numerous
10 Irish were among the immigrants that were brutally murdered. The crimes occurred as the
11 immigrants were trying to go to the polls to cast their ballots in attacks orchestrated by a
12 local political group known as the "Know Nothings," because they felt that the large
13 influx of immigrants would "undermine the American way of life"; and

14 WHEREAS, the Irish community of Louisville has a distinguished tradition of
15 putting on the St. Patrick's Parade the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day on March 17,
16 thereby renewing their connections to the land of their ancestry as they pass along the
17 traditions of the Irish people to the next generation and celebrating their pride and
18 heritage with the community irrespective of ethnicity; and

19 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich culture, heritage, and
20 valuable contributions of the Irish people during the month of March, when people of
21 Irish decent celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, on March 17;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
24 ***Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. Due to the overwhelming number of citizens within the
26 Commonwealth of Kentucky who are Irish or are descendants of Irish immigrants and the
27 tremendous contributions of Irish Americans to our nation, our Commonwealth, and our

1 communities, the Senate hereby recognizes March as Irish American Heritage Month for
2 Kentucky.

3 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
4 Resolution to John O'Dwyer, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Louisville,
5 915 Lone Tree Court, Louisville, KY 40223 and to Julia Garrison O'Dwyer, President of
6 the Ladies Ancient Order of the Hibernians in Louisville, 915 Lone Tree Court,
7 Louisville, KY 40223.