

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 45 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, O'NEAL, HARKINS, McNEILL, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, McANDREW, VITALI, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, VENKAT, OTTEN, HOWARD, JAMES, HADDOCK, MERSKI, GUENST, BRENNAN, GIRAL, CERRATO, PIELLI, SAMUELSON, KHAN, SANCHEZ, DONAHUE, CONKLIN, HOHENSTEIN, SCHLOSSBERG, MALAGARI, NEILSON, REICHARD, O'MARA AND GREEN, JANUARY 29, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY 29, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 17, 2025, as "St. Patrick's Day" in
 2 Pennsylvania and celebrating the involvement of Irish
 3 Americans in the American War of Independence.

4 WHEREAS, A native of Roman Britain, Patrick was the son of a
 5 civil servant and deacon; and

6 WHEREAS, Tradition has it that at 16 years of age, Patrick
 7 was captured along with all the servants of his father's estate
 8 by Irish marauders, then sold to a Druid chief and taken to what
 9 is now known as County Antrim, in the Province of Ulster,

10 Ireland; and

11 WHEREAS, During his six years of captivity, Patrick's
 12 occupation as a slave was the tending to flocks of swine and
 13 sheep; and

14 WHEREAS, While in captivity, Patrick learned the Irish
 15 language and customs; and

16 WHEREAS, During this period, Patrick experienced a religious

1 awakening with the Christian teachings of his family and pastors
2 taking hold; and

3 WHEREAS, Driven by visions urging him to return to his native
4 land, Patrick escaped his captors, undertaking a perilous
5 journey in the process; and

6 WHEREAS, Upon his return home, Patrick dedicated his life to
7 religion, studying in France where he was ordained as a priest
8 and later consecrated as a bishop; and

9 WHEREAS, It was the example and fervor of Patrick's faith
10 that inspired him to continue learning and to pass along his
11 teachings to those in the British Isles and the rest of Europe;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Patrick's uplifting messages helped to sustain the
14 people of Ireland through famine, oppression and exile; and

15 WHEREAS, It was his faith that earned Patrick not only
16 sainthood, but the everlasting love and respect of the Irish
17 people and many others throughout the world; and

18 WHEREAS, March 17, 461, is generally recognized as the date
19 of St. Patrick's death; and

20 WHEREAS, Each March, during annual parades and celebrations
21 honoring St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, Irish
22 Americans join with people of other ethnic origins in honoring
23 St. Patrick and demonstrating a mutual love for Ireland; and

24 WHEREAS, As we honor St. Patrick, whose life mirrored a deep
25 and abiding example of the challenges of sainthood, we are
26 mindful of the history of the Irish people and their struggle
27 against oppression, religious intolerance and political, social
28 and economic barriers; and

29 WHEREAS, Irish immigrants helped to form the cultural
30 foundation of the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 2 million Pennsylvanians, more than 15% of
2 this Commonwealth's population, are of Irish descent; and

3 WHEREAS, People of Irish descent played a key role in
4 America's success in the Revolutionary War; and

5 WHEREAS, Scholarly research has shown that soldiers of Irish
6 descent constituted 40% to 50% of the Continental Army by the
7 time the Army reached Valley Forge in 1778; and

8 WHEREAS, George Washington's step-grandson, George Washington
9 Parke Custis, wrote: "Ireland furnished one hundred men to any
10 single man furnished by any other foreign nation"; and

11 WHEREAS, Commodore John Barry and other Irish immigrants held
12 high-ranking military positions during the Revolutionary War;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
15 17, 2025, as "St. Patrick's Day" in Pennsylvania and celebrate
16 the involvement of Irish Americans in the American War of
17 Independence.