

2013 -- H 5422

=====
LC01201
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MARCH ANNUALLY AS "IRISH-AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Martin, Abney, O'Neill, O'Brien, and Edwards

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, Irish-American Heritage Month was first established by a Congressional
2 Proclamation in 1995 to celebrate and honor the glorious contributions that Irish-Americans have
3 made to the growth and development of the United States of America; and

4 WHEREAS, In the 1840's, Irish immigrants flocked to this country's shores, emigrating
5 from Ireland in search of the great American dream. Today, more than thirty-four million
6 Americans proudly claim an Irish ancestry, and twenty-one percent of Rhode Island's population
7 is of Irish descent; and

8 WHEREAS, Irish immigrants came to this country and our beautiful state with the desire
9 to build a better life for themselves and for their families. Over the years they have shaped and
10 influenced virtually every area of life in our state, and have had a bright and profound influence
11 on our country's great history; and

12 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans helped to settle the American frontier and build our cities.
13 They have strengthened our economy, contributed to the arts, and shown their devotion to this
14 country by serving in government and the Armed Forces. Their sacrifices, talents, and
15 imagination have fortified and upheld our democracy and enriched our culture; and

16 WHEREAS, Notable Irishmen such as Commodore John Barry fought for America's
17 independence and later helped to found the United States Navy. Charles Thomson served as the
18 Secretary of the Continental Congress and helped design the Great Seal of the United States.
19 Davy Crockett and Sam Houston helped settle the West. President John F. Kennedy, one of our

1 country's most beloved Presidents, was of Irish descent, and President Ronald Reagan's great
2 grandfather hailed from County Tipperary in Ireland; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout the decades, Irish-Americans' dedication to faith and family has
4 formed the bedrock of many American communities, and has enriched our nation's character and
5 spirit; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
7 Providence Plantations hereby designates the month of March annually to be "Irish-American
8 Heritage Month" in the State of Rhode Island. We furthermore urge all the citizens of the state to
9 remember and celebrate our state's rich diversity and the historic contributions of our Irish-
10 American brothers and sisters; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Newport Irish Heritage Association, the
13 Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

=====
LC01201
=====