

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 America as a  
5 whole. Through nine signers of the Declaration of Independence and 22 Presidents with  
6 Irish roots, Irish Americans 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 and hatred of oppression and renowned for their loyalty. The Irish have  
10 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 attacked the United States Navy, and civilian ships  
16 were kidnapped and imprisoned in Derne and Tripoli. When negotiations to pay a ransom  
17 of \$100,000 failed to gain their release and the American flag staff was cut down in front  
18 of the United States Consulate, war was declared on Tripoli. On April 27, 1805,  
19 Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon of Kentucky led a charge pressing through a shower of  
20 enemy gunfire and took possession of enemy batteries, posting an American flag on its  
21 ramparts and turning the guns on the enemy. Victory was won in the ensuing two-hour  
22 battle, and for the first time in United States history, an American flag flew over a fortress  
23 of the Old World. O'Bannon's deeds are remembered in the Marine Corps Hymn and the  
24 flag of the Corps, and the sword used in the dress uniform of the Corps is a copy of the  
25 one presented to O'Bannon by Hamet, a chieftain and ally of the United States in the  
26 Mediterranean. The final resting place of Lieutenant O'Bannon is the cemetery on the hill  
27 overlooking our state capital in 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 United States flag in the opening  
6 ceremonies in the Summer Olympics in London. When passing King Edward the  
7 Seventh, Rose broke tradition and refused to dip the flag of the British King. No United  
8 States flag has ever been dipped to any monarch since; and

9           WHEREAS, on election day August 6, 1855, in Louisville, Kentucky, numerous  
10 Irish were among the immigrants who were brutally murdered. The crimes occurred as  
11 the immigrants were trying to go to the polls to cast their ballots in attacks orchestrated by  
12 a 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 of  
16 each year, thereby renewing their connections to the land of their ancestry as they pass  
17 along the traditions of the Irish people to the next generation, and celebrating their pride  
18 and 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 descent 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, Kentucky 40223; and to Julia Garrison O'Dwyer,  
6 President of the Ladies Ancient Order of the Hibernians in Louisville, 915 Lone Tree  
7 Court, Louisville, Kentucky 40223.