

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 2024 as Irish American Heritage Month for
2 the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, from our country's earliest days, Irish immigrants and their
4 descendants have contributed leadership, wisdom, and vitality to not only Kentucky but
5 America as a whole. Through nine signers of the Declaration of Independence and 23
6 Presidents with Irish roots, Irish Americans have made an indelible mark in the shaping
7 of the great city 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 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 against Tripoli. On April 27, 1805,
19 Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon of Kentucky led a charge passing 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 Capitol 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 the 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 to 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
12 by 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, a 501(c)(3) charity event hosted by the Ancient Order
16 of Hibernians, the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day on March 17, thereby renewing their
17 connections to the land of their ancestry as they pass along the traditions of the Irish
18 people to the next generation and celebrating their pride, heritage, and charitable giving
19 with the community irrespective of ethnicity; and

20 WHEREAS, a new Hibernian division was established in 2018 in Lexington and
21 named for Dr. Pearse Lyons, Irish founder of Alltech in Nicholasville, a large employer
22 in the Commonwealth and the first naming sponsor of the World Equestrian Games when
23 it came to the United States and to Kentucky for the first time in 2010 and whereas the St.
24 Patrick's Day parade in Lexington, begun in 1980 and produced by the city's Department
25 of Parks and Recreation with support of local business and cultural organizations, is the
26 longest-running citywide civic event in the city; and

27 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich culture, heritage, and

1 valuable contributions of the Irish people during the month of March, when people of
2 Irish descent celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, on March 17;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
5 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

6 ➔Section 1. Due to the overwhelming number of citizens within the
7 Commonwealth of Kentucky who are Irish or are descendants of Irish immigrants and the
8 tremendous contributions of Irish Americans to our nation, our Commonwealth, and our
9 communities, the House of Representatives hereby recognizes March as Irish American
10 Heritage Month for Kentucky.

11 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
12 copy of this Resolution to Representative Kimberly Poore Moser; John O'Dwyer,
13 Ancient Order of Hibernians, Commonwealth of Kentucky President, 915 Lone Tree
14 Court, Louisville, KY 40223; John Favier, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians
15 in Louisville, 5321 Foxwood Drive, Crestwood, Kentucky 40014; Molly Dobson, Ladies
16 Ancient Order of Hibernians, Commonwealth of Kentucky President, 3813 Brody Lane,
17 Louisville, KY 40299; Megan Dunlevy Bennett, President of the Ladies Ancient Order of
18 Hibernians in Louisville, 6308 Milo Court, Louisville, KY 40218; Bradley Miller,
19 President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Lexington, 1320 Gray Hawk Road, Unit
20 E, Lexington, KY 40502; and Natalie Peterinelli, President of the Ladies Ancient Order
21 of Hibernians in Covington, 5941 Boulder View Court, Cold Spring, KY 41076.