



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2055/1  
CMH:klm

## 2017 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 5

February 24, 2017 - Introduced by Representative MURPHY. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2017.

2             Whereas, March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day, a day honoring the patron saint of  
3     Ireland; and

4             Whereas, Saint Patrick was born in Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, Scotland, in  
5     AD 387; captured and enslaved by Irish marauders at the age of 16; converted to  
6     Christianity; escaped slavery; entered the clergy; was named bishop of Ireland;  
7     returned to Ireland; converted Irish pagans to Christianity; established many  
8     monasteries, churches, and schools all over Ireland; and died on March 17 in AD 461;  
9     and

10            Whereas, Irish monks and scholars at the monasteries and schools founded by  
11     Saint Patrick preserved much of the learning that was lost throughout the rest of  
12     Europe during the collapse of the Western Roman Empire; and

13            Whereas, natives of Ireland began moving to Wisconsin during the 1840s,  
14     driven in part by the wake of the Great Famine; and

1           Whereas, Irish immigrants in Wisconsin principally settled in Brown,  
2 Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green  
3 Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc,  
4 Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Sauk,  
5 Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties; and

6           Whereas, on September 8, 1860, the steamer *Lady Elgin* sank off the bluffs near  
7 Winnetka, Illinois, taking the lives of 297 people, including many of the  
8 Irish-American political leaders from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and marking the end  
9 of the Irish domination of Milwaukee politics; and

10           Whereas, Irish immigrants constituted the majority of the 17th Wisconsin  
11 Infantry, which fought in many of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War,  
12 including the Battles of Vicksburg, Shiloh, and Corinth; and

13           Whereas, the 17th Wisconsin Infantry contained company names such as the  
14 Mulligan Guards of Kenosha, the Peep O'Day Boys of Racine, and the Emmett  
15 Guards of Dodge; and

16           Whereas, the 17th Wisconsin Infantry led a fearless bayonet charge at the  
17 Battle of Corinth with the Irish Gaelic battle cry, "Faugh a ballagh!" which translates  
18 as "Clear the way!"; and

19           Whereas, the Smithsonian Institution's National Folk Life program named  
20 Milwaukee's Irish Fest the "largest and best Irish cultural event in North America";  
21 and

22           Whereas, 11 percent of Wisconsin residents claimed to be of Irish descent for the  
23 U.S. Census in 2000, making Irish ancestry in Wisconsin second only to those  
24 claiming German heritage; and

