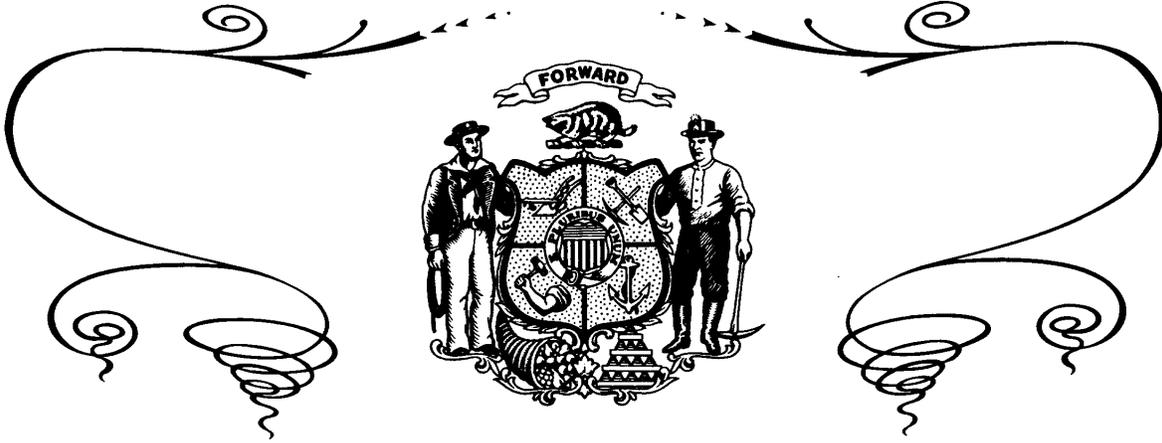


State of Wisconsin



2005 Senate Joint Resolution 7

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2005.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, many important individuals in the history of Wisconsin were of Irish descent, including Wisconsin Secretary of State Peter Doyle, Wisconsin Attorney General James O'Connor, United States Senator F. Ryan Duffy, United States Representatives Michael Burke, Gerald Flynn, James Hughes, Howard McMurray, James Murphy, Reid Murray, Thomas O'Malley, and Michael Reilly, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices Edward Ryan (C.J.) and Henry Hughes, Wisconsin State Senate Majority Leader Tim Cullen, Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker David Kelly, Green Bay Mayor Henry S. Baird, government innovator and author of the Wisconsin Idea Charles McCarthy, labor organizer and suffragist Maude McCreery, artist Georgia O'Keefe, businessman Patrick Cudahy, and professors James Donnelly and John Gregory, as well as countless others; and

Whereas, 11 percent of Wisconsin residents claimed to be of Irish descent for the U.S. Census in 2000, making Irish ancestry in Wisconsin 2nd only to those claiming German heritage; and

Whereas, though originally a solemn Catholic holy day, Saint Patrick's Day has evolved into a much more secular holiday celebrating Irish music, culture, and heritage; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature salute all of the persons of Irish descent for their significant contributions to this state, express appreciation for those persons who have kept alive Irish culture and traditions, and join with all Wisconsinites who revere their Irish heritage in celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2005.

Representative John G. Gard
Speaker of the Assembly

Senator Alan J. Lasee
President of the Senate

Date

Robert J. Marchant
Senate Chief Clerk