



## 2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

March 13, 2009 – Introduced by Senators PLALE, S. FITZGERALD, LASSA, SULLIVAN, MILLER, VINEHOUT, ERPENBACH, LEHMAN, SCHULTZ, DARLING, TAYLOR and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives SHERIDAN, J. FITZGERALD, KERKMAN, STASKUNAS, KESTELL, TAUCHEN, VOS, BARCA, MURTHA, BIES, TURNER, NERISON, TOWNSEND, KLEEFISCH, PETROWSKI, DANOU, BROOKS, SPANBAUER, KNODL, MOLEPSKE JR., A. OTT, STEINBRINK and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming March of every year as Irish–American Heritage Month.

2             Whereas, America has been shaped by the principles of liberty and freedom,  
3     guided by the pursuit of justice, and enriched by the diversity of its people, and Irish  
4     Americans have been an essential part of this development, greatly contributing to  
5     our nation’s and state’s progress and prosperity; and

6             Whereas, since the founding of our nation, millions of Irish have emigrated to  
7     this country, and to Wisconsin, to embrace the vibrant promise of new opportunity  
8     that America offers; and

9             Whereas, some came seeking the freedom to worship as they pleased, while  
10     others came in the wake of the devastating Irish potato famine of 1845–1849, which  
11     caused 1 million deaths in Ireland and led to the emigration of nearly 1.5 million  
12     Irish; and

13             Whereas, this convergence of cultures contributed to the rich fabric of our great  
14     state and nation, uniquely threading together many divergent ideas, tastes, and  
15     traditions; and

1           Whereas, the many successes of the Irish immigrants in America proved to be  
2 a continuing draw to their friends and family who remained in Ireland; and

3           Whereas, the Irish brought with them a spirit of life and a work ethic that  
4 helped to enliven our culture and enabled them to prosper in their new land; and

5           Whereas, Irish Americans helped settle the American frontier, build our cities,  
6 and defend our homeland; and, through their service in government and the military,  
7 they helped to uphold our democracy and advance liberty and peace around the  
8 world; and, through their dedication to faith and family, they have strengthened our  
9 communities and enriched our state and nation’s character; and

10           Whereas, many Irish Americans have made Wisconsin and America better and  
11 stronger, and, throughout our history, America has been greatly blessed by the  
12 innumerable contributions of Irish Americans; and

13           Whereas, in March, we shall celebrate these great people and the heritage of  
14 their beautiful ancestral homeland, Ireland; now, therefore, be it

15           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the  
16 Wisconsin legislature do hereby proclaim March of every year as Irish-American  
17 Heritage Month.

18

(END)