

1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 23

February 22, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives FREESE, SYKORA, MILLER, OWENS and RYBA, cosponsored by Senator SCHULTZ, by request of Marion Paynter Howard from Mineral Point and Dorothy Beckwith from Belmont. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** celebrating March 5, 1999, as St. Piran’s Day.

2 Whereas, March 5 is St. Piran’s Day, a day honoring the patron saint of tin
3 miners; and

4 Whereas, many of the tin miners who came to the Wisconsin Territory, starting
5 in 1827, came from Cornwall, England; and

6 Whereas, the Cornish were the first major foreign immigrant group to come to
7 Wisconsin; and

8 Whereas, the Cornish settled largely in the southwestern part of the state, in
9 what is now Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties, to mine lead, using generations of
10 experience in deep, hard–rock mining to bring prosperity to the new territory; and

11 Whereas, a sizeable number of Cornish also settled in and around Palmyra, in
12 southeastern Wisconsin, to farm; and

13 Whereas, the Cornish, who were strongly opposed to slavery, played an
14 important role in the Civil War by constituting a significant part of 2 companies that

1 were formed in Mineral Point, Co. I, known as the Miner’s Guard, and Co. E, known
2 as the Farmer’s Guard; and

3 Whereas, the traditional Cornish miners’ way of life can be experienced today
4 at the Pendarvis historic site in Mineral Point; and

5 Whereas, the considerable skill of Cornish stone masons is still in abundant
6 evidence to all who stroll through the lovely streets of Mineral Point, Linden,
7 Shullsburg or Platteville to admire the many homes and buildings built by the
8 Cornish; and

9 Whereas, a Midwest Cornish Festival is held in Mineral Point each year, during
10 the last weekend in September, featuring Cornish food, music, dance and guests from
11 Cornwall; and

12 Whereas, of approximately 14 American Bards of the Cornish Gordsedd, 3 live
13 in Mineral Point, one in Milwaukee and one, now living in Massachusetts, is a native
14 of Racine; now, therefore, be it

15 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
16 Wisconsin legislature salute all of the persons of Cornish descent for their
17 tremendous contributions to this state, express appreciation for those persons who
18 have kept alive Cornish culture, tradition, history and food and join all Wisconsinites
19 who cherish their Cornish heritage in celebrating St. Piran’s Day on March 5, 1999.

20 (END)