



2005 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

March 3, 2005 – Introduced by Senators PLALE, S. FITZGERALD, ERPENBACH, HANSEN, KANAVAS, LAZICH, RISSER, ROESSLER and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives SHERIDAN, J. FITZGERALD, ALBERS, BOYLE, GRONEMUS, HAHN, HINES, HUNDERTMARK, JESKEWITZ, KERKMAN, KESTELL, LEHMAN, MCCORMICK, MOLEPSKE, MUSSER, PETROWSKI, POCAN, PRIDEMORE, SEIDEL, TOWNSEND, VAN AKKEREN and VOS. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** celebrating Saint Patrick’s Day on March 17, 2005.

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
7 near 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, many important individuals in the history of Wisconsin were of Irish
23 descent, including Wisconsin Secretary of State Peter Doyle, Wisconsin Attorney
24 General James O'Connor, United States Senator F. Ryan Duffy, United States
25 Representatives Michael Burke, Gerald Flynn, James Hughes, Howard McMurray,

1 James Murphy, Reid Murray, Thomas O'Malley, and Michael Reilly, Wisconsin
2 Supreme Court Justices Edward Ryan (C.J.) and Henry Hughes, Wisconsin State
3 Senate Majority Leader Tim Cullen, Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker David Kelly,
4 Green Bay Mayor Henry S. Baird, government innovator and author of the
5 Wisconsin Idea Charles McCarthy, labor organizer and suffragist Maude McCreery,
6 artist Georgia O'Keefe, businessman Patrick Cudahy, and professors James
7 Donnelly and John Gregory, as well as countless others; and

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

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

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

19 (END)