

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 6, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 21, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 50

Introduced by Assembly Member Garrick

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(Principal coauthor: Senator Corbett)

April 7, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 50, as amended, Garrick. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2012 as Irish American Heritage Month in California, and call upon the people of the state to observe

Irish American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship
2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United
3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising
4 future for themselves and their families; and

5 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and
6 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years
7 went on, Irish Americans became very involved in the community
8 and made numerous contributions in all aspects of American
9 society and culture, especially in California; and

10 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the
11 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were
12 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 20 Presidents of
13 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.
14 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have played critical roles
16 in federal politics, including George Murphy, United States
17 Senator, and John Tunney, United States Senator; and

18 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to
19 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
20 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy
21 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and United States
22 Senator George Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have played a major role in
25 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city
26 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the
27 development of California over the years have been of Irish
28 descent; and

29 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were very involved in the
30 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
31 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
32 bridges that connected the west to the east. The Irish were also
33 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
34 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

1 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark in
2 the pursuit of public safety and have risked or lost their lives
3 carrying out their duties; and

4 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have served with distinction in
5 every war that this nation has fought. Many of the outstanding
6 soldiers who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary
7 War were of Irish descent. Since then, Irish Americans have
8 sacrificed their lives in every war that the United States has fought;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
11 the United States economy in business, including Henry Ford,
12 founder of the Ford Motor Company; Alexander Stewart, the
13 inventor of the American department store; Cathleen Black,
14 president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president and
15 chief executive officer of General Electric; and Herb Kelleher,
16 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; and

17 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
18 science, including: Michael Collins, astronaut; Eileen Collins, first
19 female commander of a space shuttle; Charles Townes, physicist
20 and Nobel Laureate; and James Collins, bioengineer and
21 MacArthur Fellow; and

22 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American
23 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery
24 O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,
25 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

26 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American
27 entertainment through such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John
28 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;
29 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell; actor
30 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;
31 and actor and director Edward Burns; and

32 WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish
33 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and
34 California political, economic, and cultural landscapes; now,
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
38 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a
39 better country and state for all people, designates March 2012 to
40 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon

- 1 the people of the state to observe Irish American Heritage Month
- 2 with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially
- 3 on March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be
- 4 it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 6 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.