

House Resolution

No. 9

Introduced by Assembly Member Garrick

March 3, 2011

House Resolution No. 9—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

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 19 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 Senator George
22 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

23 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in
24 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city

1 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the
2 development of California over the years have been of Irish
3 descent; and

4 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were very involved in the
5 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
6 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
7 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also
8 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
9 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

10 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark in
11 pursuit of public safety and have risked or lost their lives carrying
12 out their duties; and

13 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have served with distinction in
14 every war that this nation has fought. Many of the outstanding
15 soldiers who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary
16 War were of Irish descent. Since then, Irish Americans have
17 sacrificed their lives in every war that the United States has fought;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
20 the United States economy in business, including: Henry Ford,
21 founder of the Ford Motor Company; Alexander Stewart, the
22 inventor of the American department store; Cathleen Black,
23 president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president and
24 chief executive officer of General Electric; and Herb Kelleher,
25 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; and

26 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
27 science, including: Michael Collins, astronaut; Eileen Collins, first
28 female commander of a Space Shuttle; Charles Townes, physicist
29 and Nobel Laureate; and James Collins, bioengineer and
30 MacArthur Fellow; and

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

35 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American
36 entertainment through such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John
37 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;
38 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell; actor
39 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;
40 and actor and director Edward Burns; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish
2 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and
3 Californian political, economic, and cultural landscapes; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
6 Assembly, in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish
7 Americans have made to make this a better country and state for
8 all people, designates March 2011 to be Irish American Heritage
9 Month in California, and calls upon the people of the state to
10 observe the month of March with appropriate ceremonies,
11 programs, and activities, especially on March 17, since everyone
12 is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
14 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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