

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 28**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Daly, Gallagher, and O'Donnell)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator McGuire)**

February 23, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 28, as introduced, Mullin. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2015 as Irish American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to the country and state.

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, The journey to America from the Emerald Isle was  
6 not paved with gold. The Irish spirit of determination, perseverance,  
7 and grit prevailed against dangerous seas and deadly conditions  
8 with their hearts set on the horizon; and  
9 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and  
10 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years  
11 went on, Irish Americans became deeply integrated in their  
12 communities and made numerous contributions in all aspects of  
13 American society and culture; and

1 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the  
2 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were  
3 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 22 Presidents of  
4 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.  
5 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

6 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to  
7 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its  
8 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy  
9 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and Senator George  
10 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

11 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in  
12 California politics as governors, legislative leaders, city mayors,  
13 and other public officials, who have worked tirelessly to build  
14 California to the state that it is today; and

15 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were significantly involved in the  
16 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,  
17 especially in California. This included work on railroads and  
18 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also  
19 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings  
20 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

21 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark as  
22 peace officers and firefighters, and have risked or lost their lives  
23 on countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

24 WHEREAS, Many outstanding soldiers, never to be forgotten,  
25 who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War were  
26 of Irish descent. Irish Americans have proudly served with  
27 distinction in every war that this nation has fought and continue  
28 to do so today; and

29 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to  
30 the United States economy in business, including: Alexander  
31 Stewart, the inventor of the American department store; Cathleen  
32 Black, president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president  
33 and chief executive officer of General Electric; Herb Kelleher,  
34 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; Paul Adams of Facebook; John  
35 Donahoe, chief executive officer of eBay, Inc.; Conrad Burke,  
36 founder of Innovalight; and Maggie Sullivan Wilderotter, chief  
37 executive officer of Frontier Communications; and

38 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of  
39 science, including: astronaut, Michael Collins; first female  
40 commander of a space shuttle, Eileen Collins; physicist and Nobel

1 Laureate, Charles Townes; and bioengineer and MacArthur  
2 “Genius grant” recipient, James Collins; and

3 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American  
4 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery  
5 O’Connor, Eugene O’Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,  
6 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

7 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American  
8 entertainment with such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John  
9 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;  
10 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O’Donnell; actor  
11 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;  
12 actress and singer Judy Garland; comedian Conan O’Brien; and  
13 actor and director Edward Burns, all being of Irish heritage; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, over 34 million Americans claim Irish  
15 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and  
16 California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude  
19 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a  
20 better country and state for all people, designates March 2015 to  
21 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon  
22 the people of the state to observe the month of March with  
23 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on  
24 March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day; and be it  
25 further

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