

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 6, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 18

**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Wildman~~—Members
Wildman, Ackerman, Alby, Baca, Baldwin, Bowen, Brown,
Bustamante, Caldera, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cunneen, Davis,
Ducheny, Escutia, Figueroa, Firestone, Gallegos, Havice,
Hertzberg, Honda, House, Keeley, Knox, Lempert,
Machado, Martinez, Mazzone, Murray, Napolitano, Ortiz,
Papan, Perata, Runner, Scott, Shelley, Strom-Martin,
Sweeney, Thomson, Torlakson, Villaraigosa, Vincent,
Washington, Wayne, and Wright**

February 27, 1997

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to Irish
American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 18, as amended, Wildman. Irish American Heritage
Month.

This measure would designate the month of March as Irish
American Heritage Month, in honor of the outstanding
contributions of Irish Americans throughout the history of the
United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, There are now 44 million Irish Americans
2 in the United States, representing one in every six persons
3 in our country, and four million California Irish; and

1 WHEREAS, At least eight signers of the Declaration of
2 Independence were of Irish origin, including John
3 Hancock, who was descended from an Ulster family, and
4 Matthew Thornton, James Smith, and George Taylor,
5 who were Irish-born; and

6 WHEREAS, The Irish love of freedom played so
7 integral a role in the fight for American independence
8 that County Derry-born Charles Thompson made the
9 first finished copy of the Declaration of Independence,
10 John Nixon, whose father was born in County Wexford,
11 was the first to read the document publicly, and John
12 Dunlop, born in County Tyrone, printed the first copy.
13 Edward Fox, a Dublin native, contributed almost a
14 million dollars--a staggering sum in those days--thus
15 playing a major role in the financing of the Continental
16 Army, and died penniless because of his commitment;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Irish-born James Hoban and other Irish
19 immigrants assisted in the construction of the United
20 States Capitol; and

21 WHEREAS, Irish-born John Barry was the first naval
22 hero of the American Revolution, and has been called the
23 Father of the United States Navy; and

24 WHEREAS, Eighteen United States presidents have
25 proudly proclaimed their Irish heritage; and

26 WHEREAS, Many Irish immigrants arrived in this
27 country as slaves and indentured servants, and were
28 driven from their own country by starvation, exile, and
29 oppression, all of which they overcame; and

30 WHEREAS, Since the formation of this country, Irish
31 immigrants were willing to take on the lowliest and most
32 dangerous and back-breaking jobs, including building the
33 eastern portion of the transcontinental railroad, digging
34 the Chesapeake Bay, and working in the nation's coal
35 mines, and Irish Americans continue to work toward the
36 betterment of our country; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
38 *Senate thereof concurring,* That March is hereby
39 designated Irish American Heritage Month; and be it
40 further



1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the author for
3 appropriate distribution.

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