

## 2013-K125

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2013 as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, From the earliest days of our great nation, America has inspired the hopes and dreams of countless individuals from around the world in search of a better life for themselves and their children; and

WHEREAS, They have come to share in our gifts of freedom, justice, and opportunity and, in turn, our democracy and great diversity owe their success in large part to these countless immigrants who made their way to our shores; and

WHEREAS, Coming to this land even before our nation was founded, sons and daughters of Erin undertook the perilous journey to make their home in this place of hope and promise; they made inestimable contributions to their new country, both during the struggle for independence and in the founding of the republic; and

WHEREAS, Nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin and 19 Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage, including our first President, George Washington; and

WHEREAS, Later, those who came during the Great Famine of the 1840s transformed our largest cities, helping to build them into dynamic centers of commerce and industry; their cultural, economic, and spiritual contributions continue to be evident today as well, all across the land; and

WHEREAS, With strength, courage, wit, and creativity, Irish Americans have flourished, making significant contributions in all areas of American life; writers such as Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and George Bernard Shaw have transformed our literature; entrepreneurs like Henry Ford helped revolutionize American transportation and industry; performers such as Gregory Peck, John Wayne and Helen Hayes have enriched the arts; and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenney O'Sullivan fought for the rights of others; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also served ably in their communities as police and firefighters, and in numerous other capacities; in government, including four-term New York State Governor Alfred E. Smith; and in the Armed Services in every war in which this nation has ever fought, including patriots such as Audie Murphy, our most decorated soldier of World War II, who redefined the meaning of courage; and

WHEREAS, Today, approximately one in four Americans, and nearly 13 percent of all New Yorkers, trace their ancestry in part to Ireland's green shores, generations of Irish Americans have worked alongside their fellow Americans to build a more perfect Union, and America is a stronger nation because of them; and

WHEREAS, In March, when our nation proudly celebrates Irish American Heritage Month and communities all across New York State and the country celebrate St. Patrick's Day, it is fitting that we honor the rich heritage, enduring contributions, and firm values of the Irish Americans of our State and nation who continue to enrich and strengthen our families, our communities, our ideals and our character; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body, with great and just pride, pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2013 as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of New York that present and future generations may appreciate the unique significance of Irish Americans in the history and progress of our State and nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and to distinguished members of the Irish American Community.