

HR 8033

2025

House Resolution

A resolution designating March 2025 as "Irish Heritage Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, during March, particularly on March 17, an estimated 1.78 million Floridians who are Irish immigrants or of Irish descent join with friends and neighbors who share an affinity and love for Ireland to celebrate the island's cultural traditions and the impact of its global diaspora during the annual celebration of the Feast of St. Patrick, in honor of the patron saint of Ireland, and

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is publicly celebrated with festivals and parades throughout this state, including in Delray Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Miami, Naples, St. Augustine, Tampa, and Winter Park, and it was in St. Augustine in 1601 that the first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade in the world was held, and

WHEREAS, Irish immigrants and those of Irish descent have served and continue to serve this state in many notable educational, religious, and political roles as exemplified by Bishop Patrick Barry, Monsignor William Barry, and Mother Mary Gerald Barry, who founded Barry University in Miami Shores in 1940; Monsignor Bryan Walsh, who directed the Cuban Children's Program and Operation Pedro Pan, which brought 14,000 Cuban children to this state from 1960 to 1962 to escape communism;

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Arturo O'Neill, who served as the Governor of West Florida for more than a decade in the late 1700s; President Andrew Jackson, who served as the first Military Governor of Florida in 1821; and current members of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus, which fosters and strengthens the longstanding relationship between the United States and Ireland, and

WHEREAS, Ireland is a significant economic partner of, and the seventh largest foreign direct investor in, this state, accounting for more than 15,000 jobs, and

WHEREAS, in October 2022, the Government of Ireland opened a Consulate General in this state to deepen economic, cultural, and community connections between Ireland and the State of Florida and, in 2025, appointed a new Honorary Consul, Patrick Delaney, in Orlando, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That March 2025 is designated as "Irish Heritage Month" in Florida.