



2025 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 5

February 24, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives MURPHY, DOYLE, DITTRICH, CALLAHAN, O'CONNOR, MCGUIRE, ARMSTRONG, BARE, DESMIDT, DONOVAN, FITZGERALD, GUNDRUM, J. JACOBSON, JOERS, JOHNSON, KITCHENS, KNODL, KREIBICH, MELOTIK, NEDWESKI, ORTIZ-VELEZ, PALMERI, PENTERMAN, PIWOWARCZYK, ROE, SHEEHAN, SINICKI, SNYDER, SUBECK, TENORIO, TITTL, UDELL and TUSLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2025.

2 Whereas, March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day, a day honoring the patron saint of
3 Ireland; and

4 Whereas, Saint Patrick was born in Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, Scotland, in
5 AD 387; was captured and enslaved by Irish marauders at the age of 16; converted
6 to Christianity; escaped slavery; entered the clergy; was named bishop of Ireland;
7 returned to Ireland; converted Irish pagans to Christianity; established many
8 monasteries, churches, and schools all over Ireland; and died on March 17 in AD
9 461; and

10 Whereas, Irish monks and scholars at the monasteries and schools founded by
11 Saint Patrick preserved much of the learning that was lost throughout the rest of
12 Europe during the collapse of the Western Roman Empire; and

13 Whereas, natives of Ireland began moving to Wisconsin during the 1840s,
14 driven in part by the wake of the Great Famine; and

1 Whereas, Irish immigrants in Wisconsin principally settled in Brown,
2 Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green
3 Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc,
4 Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Sauk,
5 Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties; and

6 Whereas, on September 8, 1860, the steamer *Lady Elgin* sank off the bluffs
7 near Winnetka, Illinois, taking the lives of 297 people, including many of the Irish-
8 American political leaders from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and marking the end of the
9 Irish domination of Milwaukee politics; and

10 Whereas, Irish immigrants constituted a majority of the 17th Wisconsin
11 Infantry, which fought in many of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War,
12 including the Battles of Vicksburg, Shiloh, and Corinth; and

13 Whereas, the 17th Wisconsin Infantry contained company names such as the
14 Mulligan Guards of Kenosha, the Peep O'Day Boys of Racine, and the Emmett
15 Guards of Dodge; and

16 Whereas, the 17th Wisconsin Infantry led a fearless bayonet charge at the
17 Battle of Corinth with the Irish Gaelic battle cry, "Faugh a ballagh!" which
18 translates as "Clear the way!"; and

19 Whereas, the Smithsonian Institution named Milwaukee's Irish Fest the
20 "largest and best Irish cultural event in North America"; and

21 Whereas, in 2023, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that over 10 percent of
22 Wisconsin residents claim to be of Irish decent, making Irish ancestry in Wisconsin
23 second only to those claiming German heritage; and

Whereas, though originally a solemn Catholic holy day, Saint Patrick's Day
has evolved into a much more secular holiday celebrating Irish music, culture, and
heritage; now, therefore, be it

4 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Wisconsin Assembly
5 salute all of the persons of Irish descent for their significant contributions to this
6 state, express appreciation for those persons who have kept alive Irish culture and
7 traditions, and join with all Wisconsinites who revere their Irish heritage in
8 celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2025.

9 (END)