



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Brendan F. Boyle

DATE: February 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution: Irish American Heritage Month

With St. Patrick's Day soon approaching, I plan to introduce the annual resolution designating March as "Irish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania. This is similar to the resolution I introduced last year, and similar to the resolution Rep. McGeehan has introduced in previous years.

From our nation's very beginning, Americans of Irish descent have made an invaluable contribution to our Commonwealth and our nation. Historians estimate that one half of those who fought in General George Washington's continental army were either Irish-born or of Irish descent. These contributions to our society continue today in all fields, including but not limited to: academia, business, literature, science, and even politics.

Pennsylvania is home to some of the oldest and largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the United States, from Philadelphia, where colonial Americans began showing their pride in their Irish heritage in 1771, five years before the Declaration of Independence, to Scranton, which boasts the second-largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in United States. Many Pennsylvanians, regardless of their ethnic background, proudly celebrate on March 17.

Please join me in recognizing the contributions of Irish Americans by co-sponsoring this resolution. Go raibh maith agaibh! (Thank you!). If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Kristen Womelsdorf in my Harrisburg office at (717) 787-3055 or via email at kwomelsd@pahouse.net.