

DRAFT – 7 SIGNATURES IN 2025

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS,** by 1776 nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had emigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America's War for Independence; and
- WHEREAS,** five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and
- WHEREAS,** twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1792 Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and
- WHEREAS,** Commodore John Barry fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida; and
- WHEREAS,** the Irish first came to Spanish "*La Florida*" in the 1500s - first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and
- WHEREAS,** three of the Spanish Governors of "*La Florida*., were actually Irish military officers; and
- WHEREAS,** Father Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest for St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "*La Florida*, " established the first public school in America and opened it to both boys and girls of all races; and
- WHEREAS,** Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim, served as Florida's military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that the month of March 2026, be recognized as

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed hereto on this 1st day of March 2026.