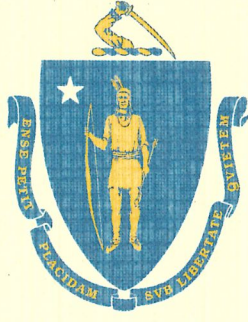


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Since 1991, Irish-American Heritage Month has been annually celebrated across the United States each March to coincide with St. Patrick's Day and to highlight the rich cultural heritage and valuable contributions of Irish-Americans; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has the unique distinction of being among the most Irish-American states in the nation, according to the US Census, with nearly 20% of residents proudly claiming Irish ancestry; and

Whereas, Irish-Americans in Massachusetts helped to win the American Revolution, thanks to brave patriots such as privateer Nathaniel Tracy of Newburyport, Boston Massacre victim Patrick Carr, Colonel Henry Knox and General John Sullivan, who ended the British Siege of Boston on Evacuation Day, March 17, 1776; and

Whereas, In the 19th century, thousands of Irish immigrants settled in Massachusetts after fleeing Ireland's famine, economic uncertainty and political unrest, contributing to our Commonwealth and nation as skilled laborers and union organizers, soldiers and sailors, police officers and firefighters, teachers and public servants, religious leaders and business owners; and

Whereas, Numerous Irish-American women have made important contributions to our Commonwealth and nation, such as Anne Sullivan, famed teacher of the deaf and blind, labor leader Mary Kenney O'Sullivan, suffragist Margaret Foley, political matriarch Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, astronaut and educator Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Olympian and marathon runner Shalane Flanagan and Lt. Governor Evelyn Murphy, the first woman elected to statewide office in Massachusetts; and

Whereas, Irish-Americans have made outstanding contributions to our Commonwealth and nation in arts, sports and politics, including artists John Singleton Copley, George P.A. Healy and sculptor Martin Milmore, boxing champion John L. Sullivan, Olympians Harold Connolly and James Brendan Connolly, and political leaders such as Massachusetts Governor James Sullivan, US President John F. Kennedy and US Congressman and House Speaker Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill; and

Whereas, Massachusetts prides itself on having a Boston Irish Heritage Trail (1994) and a South Shore Irish Heritage Trail (2022), which chronicle 300+ years of the Irish-American experience in the Commonwealth through landmarks, monuments, public buildings, museums, parks, libraries and cultural venues; and

Whereas, Throughout the month of March, Irish cultural organizations and individuals across the Commonwealth are organizing concerts, dances, parades, exhibits and special events that are open to all residents and visitors,

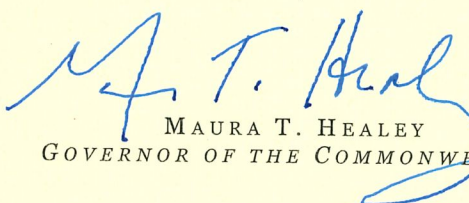
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March, 2023 to be,

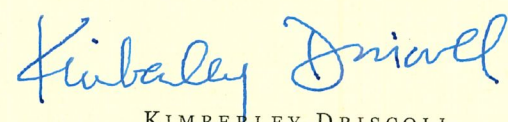
IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH


And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of March, in the year two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts