

HR 8031

2023

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 2023 as "Irish Heritage
3 Month" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, during March, particularly on March 17, an
6 estimated 1.7 million Floridians who are Irish immigrants or of
7 Irish descent join with friends and neighbors who share an
8 affinity and love for Ireland to celebrate the island's cultural
9 traditions and the impact of its global diaspora during the
10 annual celebration of the Feast of St. Patrick, in honor of the
11 patron saint of Ireland, and

12 WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is publicly celebrated with
13 festivals and parades throughout this state including in Fort
14 Lauderdale, Miami, Tampa, Naples, Delray Beach, Hollywood,
15 Winter Park, and St. Augustine, which claims to have hosted the
16 first St. Patrick's Day parade in the world in 1601 AD, and

17 WHEREAS, Irish immigrants and those of Irish descent have
18 served and continue to serve this state in many notable
19 educational, religious, and political roles as exemplified by
20 Bishop Patrick Barry, Monsignor William Barry, and Mother Mary
21 Gerald Barry founding Barry University in Miami Shores in 1940;
22 Monsignor Bryan Walsh directing the Cuban Children's
23 Program/Operation Pedro Pan, which brought 14,000 Cuban children
24 to this state from 1960-1962 to escape communism; Arturo O'Neill
25 serving as the Governor of West Florida for more than a decade

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26 | in the late 1700s; President Andrew Jackson serving as the first
27 | Military Governor of Florida in 1821; and current members of the
28 | American Irish State Legislators Caucus fostering and
29 | strengthening the longstanding relationship between the United
30 | States and Ireland, and

31 | WHEREAS, Ireland is a significant economic partner of, and
32 | the eighth largest foreign direct investor in, this state,
33 | accounting for more than 14,000 jobs in 2022, and

34 | WHEREAS, in October 2022, the Government of Ireland opened
35 | a Consulate General in this state to strengthen and deepen
36 | economic, cultural, and community connections between Ireland
37 | and the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

38 |

39 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
40 | Florida:

41 |

42 | That March 2023 is designated as "Irish Heritage Month" in
43 | Florida.