

Senate Resolution No. 1753

BY: Senator KAVANAGH

HONORING Saint Patrick and all persons of Irish descent upon the occasion of the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, and memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026, as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, From America's earliest days, Irish immigrants and their descendants have contributed exemplary public service and political leadership, with nine signers of the Declaration of Independence and twenty-three Presidents of the United States having Irish roots and countless Irish Americans having made an indelible mark on the great State of New York through service as public officials, civil servants, legislators, mayors, and Governors, including Governor Kathy Hochul, the 57th Governor of the State New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout their long history, the Irish have been ardent in their passion for liberty and their hatred of oppression, and have, from the beginning, been prominent in the defense of American ideals and the American nation, with twenty of George Washington's generals and an estimated quarter of the Continental Army being composed of Irish Americans, among them Timothy Murphy, a hero of the pivotal battle of Saratoga, New York; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans have distinguished themselves in military service ever since, as typified in the storied Fighting 69th, headquartered at the 69th Regiment Armory in Manhattan, who fought with courage and distinction on the battlefields of the American Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Iraq War, and the conflict in Afghanistan, in which the first Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to Navy Seal Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy of Smithtown, New York, who lost his life serving his country; and

WHEREAS, In the mid-19th Century, millions of Irish immigrants arrived in New York, seeking refuge from famine and injustice in their homeland, and as a longstanding gateway for immigrants, New York has served as a beacon of hope and opportunity, symbolized by the Statue of Liberty and the "Golden Door" of Ellis Island, where the very first immigrant to arrive in pursuit of a new life in America was 15-year-old Annie Moore of Cork, Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Irish immigrants and their descendants have played a vital role in shaping this great State, through the construction of the Erie Canal, railroads, buildings, and physical bridges - and also by forging bridges of knowledge and understanding among all people, through the establishment of numerous schools, colleges, and universities that have enriched every facet of the life of our State, making a lasting impact on generations of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Irish American women have a long and proud tradition of

being visionaries and trailblazers, whether it be Annie Sullivan, the teacher of Helen Keller, crusading journalist Nelly Bly, or New York's own Colonel Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a Space Shuttle; and

WHEREAS, Since 1762, Irish New Yorkers have celebrated the feast of Saint Patrick every March 17th, when they renew their connections to the land of their ancestry, pass on their traditions to the next generation, and share their pride through joyous festivities welcoming all New Yorkers irrespective of ethnicity or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Such celebration includes numerous parades and other events throughout the month of March in localities all over the State of New York - and most significantly the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the oldest and largest Saint Patrick's Day parade in the world with some 2 million people cheering on about 150,000 marchers, which will take place for the 265th year on March 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Tradition has it that at age sixteen, Patrick, native of Roman Britain, was captured by Irish marauders, sold to a Druid chief, and taken to what is now known as County Antrim, in the Province of Ulster, in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Patrick wrote in his Confessions of learning the language and customs of the Irish and experiencing a Christian religious awakening, before he escaped his captors and embarked on a perilous journey to return home, where he dedicated his life to religion, was ordained a priest, and was later consecrated a Bishop; and

WHEREAS, Pope Celestine I sent Patrick back to Ireland where Patrick converted Irish people to the Catholic faith and built many churches and monasteries, which served as centers of intellectual activity and repositories for the great works of literature in the Greco-Roman canon and have been credited with helping to rekindle the lamp of learning in Ireland and across Europe as the continent emerged from the Dark Ages; and

WHEREAS, As we honor Saint Patrick, who stood against intolerance and discrimination suffered by the Irish people, we are mindful of the continuing need to stand for justice, inclusion, and mutual understanding, and against intolerance, bigotry, and political, social, and economic barriers that diminish the wellbeing of people in the United States, in Ireland, and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The 1998 Belfast Agreement, known as the Good Friday Agreement, has provided an historic opportunity for lasting peace and reconciliation among the residents of the North of Ireland and for enhancing the wellbeing of all Irish citizens, and Irish Americans continue to play an important role in supporting the terms and aspirations enshrined in the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans have made an enduring impression upon every sphere of human endeavor in New York - in art, music, literature, science, film, dance, theater, sports, labor, construction,

transportation, public safety, education, law, finance, politics, and government - with all the strength, resilience, humor, and hospitality of the Irish character, and it is most fitting to set aside the month of March to highlight and honor the history and heritage of Irish Americans and to remember and pay tribute to the contributions they have made to our State and our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pauses in its deliberations to most joyously commemorate and honor the life and good works of Saint Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Archdiocese of New York, and to honor all persons of Irish descent on the occasion of the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body memorializes Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026 as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; The Most Reverend Ronald Hicks, Archbishop of New York; Robert J. McCann, 265th Grand Marshal of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade; and Sean Lane, Chairman of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade Board of Directors.