

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 164**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Corbett**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Bates, Bogh, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dickerson, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frommer, Goldberg, Harman, Havice, Hertzberg, Hollingsworth, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kehoe, Kelley, Koretz, La Suer, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Pavley, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Runner, Salinas, Simitian, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thomson, Vargas, Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wyland, Wyman, and Zettel)*

March 4, 2002

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 164—Relative to Irish-American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 164, as amended, Corbett. Irish-American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2002 as Irish-American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish-Americans have made to the country and state.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe
- 2 hardship due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to

1 the United States over the last several centuries in search of a more  
2 promising future for themselves and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans initially suffered prejudice and  
4 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years  
5 went on, Irish-Americans became very involved in the community  
6 and have made numerous contributions in all aspects of American  
7 society and culture, especially in California; and

8 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans played vital roles in the  
9 development of the United States. Nine Irish-Americans were  
10 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 19 Presidents of  
11 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.  
12 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton; and

13 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have also played a major role in  
14 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city  
15 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the  
16 development of California over the years have been of Irish  
17 descent; and

18 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have been very influential in the  
19 building and architecture of historic buildings, such as James  
20 Hoban, the architect who designed the White House and was  
21 involved in the design and building of the United States Capitol;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans were very involved in the  
24 development of infrastructure throughout the United States and  
25 especially in California. This included work on railroads and  
26 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also  
27 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings  
28 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

29 WHEREAS, Many Irish-Americans have made their mark in  
30 pursuit of public safety and have risked or lost their lives on  
31 countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

32 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have served with distinction in  
33 every war that this nation has fought. Many of the outstanding  
34 soldiers who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary  
35 War were of Irish descent. Since then, Irish-Americans have  
36 sacrificed their lives in every other war in which the United States  
37 has fought; and

38 WHEREAS, Many Irish-American entrepreneurs have  
39 contributed greatly to the United States economy including Henry



1 Ford, William Randolph Hearst, and Alexander Stewart, the  
2 inventor of the American department store; and

3 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have contributed to the American  
4 literary tradition through great authors including Flannery  
5 O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,  
6 and Frank McCourt; and

7 WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have been instrumental in the  
8 development of American entertainment with such stars as actor  
9 and dancer Gene Kelly, actress Grace Kelly, actor and singer Bing  
10 Crosby, and director John Ford being of Irish heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish  
12 heritage, and they continue to contribute to American and  
13 California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude  
16 of contributions that Irish-Americans have made to make this a  
17 better country and state for all people, designates March 2002 to  
18 be Irish-American Heritage Month in California and calls upon the  
19 people of the state to observe this month with appropriate  
20 ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on March 17,  
21 since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and  
23 transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate  
24 distribution.

