

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 23**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Blumenfeld, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)*

February 21, 2013

---

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 23, as amended, Mullin. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2013 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 hardship
- 2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United

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

3 WHEREAS, The journey to America from the Emerald Isle was  
4 not paved with gold. The Irish spirit of determination, perseverance,  
5 and grit prevailed against dangerous seas and deadly conditions  
6 with their hearts set on the horizon; and

7 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and  
8 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years  
9 went on, Irish Americans became deeply integrated in their  
10 communities and made numerous contributions in all aspects of  
11 American society and culture; and

12 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the  
13 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were  
14 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 22 Presidents of  
15 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.  
16 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

17 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to  
18 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its  
19 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy  
20 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and Senator George  
21 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

22 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in  
23 California politics as governors, legislative leaders, city mayors,  
24 and other public officials who have worked tirelessly to build  
25 California to the state that it is today; and

26 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were significantly involved in the  
27 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,  
28 especially in California. This included work on railroads and  
29 bridges that connected the west to the east. The Irish were also  
30 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings  
31 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

32 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark as  
33 peace officers and firefighters, and have risked or lost their lives  
34 on countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

35 WHEREAS, Many outstanding soldiers, never to be forgotten,  
36 who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War were  
37 of Irish descent. Irish Americans have proudly served with  
38 distinction in every war that this nation has fought and continue  
39 to do so today; and

1 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to  
2 the United States economy in business, including: Henry Ford,  
3 founder of the Ford Motor Company; Alexander Stewart, the  
4 inventor of the American department store; Cathleen Black,  
5 president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president and  
6 chief executive officer of General Electric; Herb Kelleher,  
7 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; Paul Adams of Facebook; John  
8 Donahoe, chief executive officer of eBay, Inc.; Conrad Burke,  
9 founder of Innovalight; and Maggie Sullivan Wilderotter, chief  
10 executive officer of Frontier Communications; and

11 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of  
12 science, including astronaut Michael Collins, first female  
13 commander of a space shuttle, Eileen Collins, physicist and Nobel  
14 Laureate Charles Townes, and bioengineer and MacArthur “Genius  
15 grant” recipient James Collins; and

16 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American  
17 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery  
18 O’Connor, Eugene O’Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,  
19 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

20 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American  
21 entertainment with such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John  
22 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;  
23 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O’Donnell; actor  
24 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;  
25 actress and singer Judy Garland; comedian Conan O’Brien; and  
26 actor and director Edward Burns, all being of Irish heritage; and

27 WHEREAS, Today, over 34 million Americans claim Irish  
28 heritage, and they continue to contribute to American and  
29 California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude  
32 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a  
33 better country and state for all people, designates March 2013 to  
34 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon  
35 the people of the state to observe the month of March with  
36 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on  
37 March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day; and be it  
38 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O