



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Georgia is home to a vibrant and thriving Irish American community, whose members have made significant contributions to the cultural, social, and economic life of our state; and
- WHEREAS:** The month of March has been recognized as Irish American Heritage Month since 1991, providing an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2026, the United States of America celebrates 250 years of Independence and the accomplishments of her citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** Many men and women of Irish Heritage were proud to play pivotal roles in the birth and development of this Great Nation, including: Commodore John Barry, 'The Father of the American Navy', Mary Harris Jones 'Mother Jones' who fought against child labor and for miners rights, and Irish American Stephen Moylan who is credited as the first person to pen the phrase 'The United States of America'; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2026, those of Irish descent in Georgia are celebrating 'Irish America 250' in conjunction with 'America 250'; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia has a rich history of Irish American immigration, with many Irish Americans settling in the state during the 19th and 20th centuries, and continuing to make their mark in various fields such as agriculture, mining, education, and politics; and
- WHEREAS:** Fr. Thomas O'Reilly, of Cavan, Ireland is credited as 'The Priest that saved Atlanta' for his efforts to prevent the burning of five churches, 400 homes, and surrounding infrastructure during the Siege of Atlanta; and
- WHEREAS:** The Irish American community in Georgia has preserved and shared its unique cultural heritage through various activities and events, including music, dance, language, and food; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March as IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B:lh

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF