

**WHEREAS**, by 1776, nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had emigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America's independence; and

**WHEREAS**, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born, helping fashion a system of government for our young nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1792, Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, Irish born Commodore John Barry fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida and was recognized by the United States Congress as the "First Flag Officer of the United States Navy;" and

**WHEREAS**, three of the Spanish Governors of "La Florida" were Irish military officers; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest in St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "La Florida," established the first public school in America; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim, served as Florida's military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, Irish Americans, since America's inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to our nation's government, business, and cultural establishments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, hereby proclaims the month of March 2026 as

***"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"***

in celebration of the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans to our state and nation.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF, we have hereunto  
set our hands and caused the seal of  
the City of Coconut Creek to be affixed  
this 26th day of February 2026.**