

# Proclamation

## Irish American Heritage Month

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

**WHEREAS,** five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and

**WHEREAS,** Irish Americans helped to fashion a system of government for our young Nation; and

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

**WHEREAS,** Irish born Commodore John Barry was recognized by the United States Congress in September of 2002 as the "First Flag Officer of the United States Navy"; and

**WHEREAS,** Commodore John Barry fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1813, Captain Oliver Perry, An Irish American, achieved a major naval victory in the Battle of Lake Erie; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1942, the 5 Sullivan brothers made the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and freedom during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal and later had the Destroyer USS Sullivan commissioned in their memory; and

**WHEREAS,** the Irish first came to Spanish "La Florida" in the 1500s - first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

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

**WHEREAS,** Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest for St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "La Florida," established the first public school in America and opened it to both boys and girls of all races; 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,** Irish Americans, since America's inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation's political, business and religious establishments; and

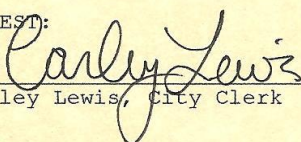
**WHEREAS,** it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

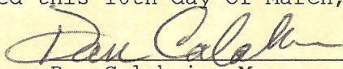
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Dan Calabria, Mayor of the City of South Pasadena do hereby proclaim the month of March 2014 as

### Irish American Heritage Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of South Pasadena to be affixed this 10th day of March, 2014.

ATTEST:

  
Carley Lewis, City Clerk

  
Dan Calabria, Mayor

