

# Proclamation

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

**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,** 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 Capitol; 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, businessman, doctors and administrators; 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK KRISEMAN,** Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2014 as

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in St. Petersburg and I urge residents to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of St. Petersburg, County of Pinellas and State of Florida to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2014.

**Rick Kriseman**  
Mayor