

CITY OF CLEARWATER



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Irish first came to Spanish “La Florida” in the 1500’s – first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

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, Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick established the first public school in America and opened it to both the boys and girls of all races; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; 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, Irish Americans, since America’s inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to the nation’s political, business and religious establishments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE N. CRETEKOS, Mayor of the City of Clearwater, Florida, on behalf of the Clearwater City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2015 to be

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in Clearwater.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have set my hand hereto on
this 19th day of February 2015, the
99th year of the incorporation
of the City of Clearwater.

-georgencretkos
Mayor

