



CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA
Proclamation
in recognition of

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. Five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born. Irish Americans helped to fashion a system of government for our young Nation; and

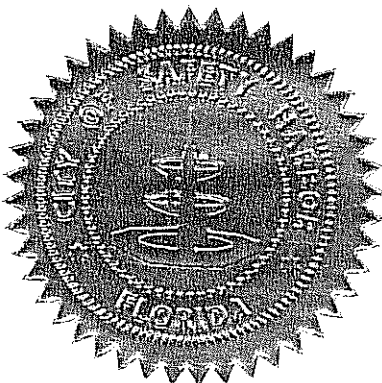
WHEREAS, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage. In 1792 Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Irish born Commodore John Barry was recognized by the United States Congress in September of 2002 as the "First Flag Officer of the United States Navy." Commodore John Barry fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida. In 1813 Captain Oliver Perry, an Irish American, achieved a major naval victory in the Battle of Lake Erie. In 1942, the five 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. Three of the Spanish Governors of "*La Florida*" were actually Irish military officers. Father 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. 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. It is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Steingold, Mayor of the City of Safety Harbor, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2015 as **IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** in the City of Safety Harbor.



In witness whereof, I have here-
unto set my hand and caused
the seal of the City of
Safety Harbor to be affixed
at Safety Harbor this date

March 1, 2015



MAYOR-COMMISSIONER