

1 Short Title: Resolution; observing the long friendship between
Oklahoma and Ireland.

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3 Subject(s): State Government

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION 1029

By: Bennett and McBride

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution observing the long friendship between Oklahoma and Ireland; commemorating the celebration of St. Patrick's Day; commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and the United States; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma and Ireland have enjoyed a long friendship that predates Oklahoma's statehood and Ireland's independence. In 1846, just a few years after the Trail of Tears, the Choctaw people, learning of the Irish famine, donated \$170, a fortune at the time, especially after enduring their own hardships, in order to help the Irish people; and

WHEREAS, Ireland commemorated that gift with the dedication of the Kindred Spirits sculpture, featuring a circle of eagle feathers, in County Cork in 2017. The Choctaw Nation announced plans in 2023 to erect a tribute to their connection with Ireland, the Eternal Heart sculpture, depicting a Celtic Trinity knot intertwined with a heart; and

1 WHEREAS, many Oklahomans have Irish ancestry and continue to
2 celebrate that culture through traditional music, dance, and food,
3 and through festivals and celebrations, particularly in March,
4 including the Tulsa Irish Fest, ShamROCK the Gardens in Oklahoma
5 City, and the Stockyards' St. Patrick's Parade, as well as other
6 celebrations throughout the state; and,

7 WHEREAS, all Oklahomans are Irish on March 17, St. Patrick's
8 Day, honoring the Patron Saint of Ireland and celebrating Irish
9 heritage; and

10 WHEREAS, Oklahoma joins other states throughout the country in
11 celebrating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between
12 Ireland and the United States, which officially began on October 7,
13 1924.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
15 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

16 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the
17 state's long history and friendship with Ireland.

18 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commemorates March 17
19 as St. Patrick's Day.

20 THAT Oklahoma commemorates the 100th anniversary of diplomatic
21 relations between Ireland and the United States.
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THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Mark
Daly, Chair of the Senate of Ireland.

59-2-10712 LRB 03/07/24