

By: Murphy

H.R. No. 770

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of Irish  
2 heritage, and this occasion provides an opportunity to honor the  
3 many contributions that individuals of Irish descent have made to  
4 the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, One of the earliest Irish residents of Texas was  
6 Hugh O'Connor, who served as governor of the Spanish territory from  
7 1767 to 1770; natives of Ireland also played a central role in the  
8 settlement of Texas in the early 1800s, including empresarios James  
9 McGloin, John McMullen, and James Power, who brought dozens of  
10 Irish families to South Texas and the Gulf Coast; and

11           WHEREAS, All three of these men participated in the Texas  
12 Revolution, as did Irishmen such as John Joseph Linn, Francis  
13 Moore, Jr., and Thomas William Ward; a dozen individuals from the  
14 Emerald Isle died defending the Alamo, and 100 Irish-born troops  
15 helped win the independence of Texas in the decisive Battle of San  
16 Jacinto; and

17           WHEREAS, The number of immigrants from Ireland grew  
18 dramatically in the mid-1800s, and several prominent Irish natives  
19 made their mark during that period; Samuel McKinney was an early  
20 president of Austin College, Father Michael Sheehan established the  
21 first Catholic church in Austin and became one of the first  
22 full-time Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Army, and Peter Gallagher  
23 served as a Texas Ranger and helped organize Pecos County; later in  
24 the 19th century, Irishman John William Mallet served as the first

1 faculty chairman at The University of Texas at Austin, and artist  
2 Henry Arthur McArdle produced many famous paintings inspired by  
3 Texas history, some of which now hang in the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, With the passing decades, additional people from  
5 Ireland found a new home in Texas, and they and the descendents of  
6 previous immigrants have had an enduring influence on the state's  
7 lifestyle and development; today, Irish culture is celebrated in  
8 formal programs such as the Center for Irish Studies at the  
9 University of St. Thomas in Houston, as well as in statewide St.  
10 Patrick's Day celebrations, and it is appropriate to join with  
11 thousands of other residents in recognizing the significant role  
12 that Irish Americans have played in the story of the Lone Star  
13 State; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the state's vital Irish heritage  
16 and extend Happy St. Patrick's Day wishes to all Irish Americans.