

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 792

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day provides a fitting opportunity to
2 honor the many contributions that individuals of Irish descent have
3 made to the Lone Star State; and

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

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

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

1 Henry Arthur McArdle produced many famous paintings inspired by
2 Texas history, some of which now hang in the State Capitol; and

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

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize St. Patrick's Day 2009 and honor the
15 contributions of Texans of Irish descent.