

By: Murphy

H.R. No. 65

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable James Collins, Mayor of the City and  
2 County of Limerick, is visiting the Texas Capitol on January 16,  
3 2019, and this occasion provides a welcome opportunity to pay  
4 tribute to this distinguished guest and to celebrate the many  
5 contributions that the people of Ireland have made to Texas over the  
6 centuries; and

7           WHEREAS, Mayor Collins is visiting Texas to establish a  
8 formal relationship between the City of Austin and Limerick City  
9 and County Council, and he is accompanied by representatives from  
10 the University of Limerick, the Limerick Institute of Technology,  
11 the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership, the Limerick  
12 Chamber of Commerce, the Limerick Gaelic Athletic Association, and  
13 other senior business and community leaders from Ireland; and

14           WHEREAS, Among the earliest Irish settlers to Texas was Hugo  
15 Oconór, who served as governor of Coahuila and Texas from 1767 to  
16 1770; in the early 19th century, Irish-born impresarios James  
17 McGloin, John McMullen, and James Power settled Irish families in  
18 South Texas and along the Gulf Coast, and a number of Irish took up  
19 homesteads in Stephen F. Austin's first colony; at least 15  
20 Irish-born soldiers fought at the Alamo, four Irishmen signed the  
21 Texas Declaration of Independence, and a hundred fought with Sam  
22 Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto; and

23           WHEREAS, In the mid-19th century, new arrivals from Ireland  
24 helped to build the physical infrastructure and develop the economy

1 and social fabric of the young state; prominent Irish Texans  
2 included Samuel McKinney, an early president of Austin College, and  
3 Father Michael Sheehan, who established the first Catholic church  
4 in Austin; later in the century, John William Mallet served as the  
5 first faculty chair at The University of Texas, and the artist Henry  
6 Arthur McArdle specialized in paintings based on Texas history,  
7 several of which hang in the State Capitol; today, some two million  
8 Texans, representing eight percent of the state's population, claim  
9 Irish ancestry and are making their mark in both the private and the  
10 public sphere; and

11 WHEREAS, Ireland continues to be a key friend of Texas and a  
12 strong economic partner, with trade between the two at record  
13 levels; Ireland is among the top 10 foreign investors in the United  
14 States, and Irish and Irish-Americans play leading roles in  
15 community investment and job creation across the Lone Star State;  
16 in recognition of these economic, social, and cultural links, the  
17 Irish Government opened a consulate general in Texas in 2015, and it  
18 remains the only European Union member with a diplomatic mission  
19 located in the state capital; and

20 WHEREAS, The people of Texas share deep, historical bonds  
21 with the people of Ireland, and it is a privilege to recognize those  
22 ties and the immeasurable contributions of Irish Texans to the  
23 growth and vitality of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
25 Legislature hereby welcome Mayor James Collins of the City and  
26 County of Limerick and the delegation from Ireland to the Texas  
27 Capitol and join with them in celebrating the long-standing

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1 friendship that exists between Ireland and this State; and, be it  
2 further

3           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for Mayor Collins as an expression of high regard by the  
5 Texas House of Representatives.