



**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AND OBSERVING  
March 2013 as Irish American Heritage Month**

**WHEREAS**, by 1776 nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had immigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America's War for Independence; and

**WHEREAS**, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and

**WHEREAS**, Commodore John Barry fought the last battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, following the victory at Yorktown, a French Major General reported that Congress owed its existence and America its preservation to the fidelity of the Irish serving the Continental Army; and

**WHEREAS**, 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**, in 1813, Captain Oliver Perry, an Irish American, achieved a major naval victory in the Battle of Lake Erie; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim, served as Florida's military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, 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**, Irish Americans, since America's inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation's political, business and religious establishments to include eighteen presidents having proudly proclaim their Irish American heritage, and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY PROCLAIMS THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2013 AS**

**"Irish American Heritage Month"**

**DONE AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of January 2013, Sumter County Florida**

**Attest:**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SUMTER COUNTY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Webb  
Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Gilpin  
Chairman