

Official  
**Proclamation**

Town of Malabar,  
Florida

WHEREAS, in March, when communities all across the country celebrate St. Patrick's Day, our Nation honors the rich heritage of the millions of Americans who trace their lineage to Ireland; and

WHEREAS, even before our Nation was founded, sons and daughters of Erin undertook the perilous journey to make their home in a place of hope and promise; and

WHEREAS, they made inestimable contributions to their new country, both during the struggle for independence and in the founding of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, Nine of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin; and nineteen Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage, including our first President, George Washington; and

WHEREAS, the largest wave of Irish immigrants came in the late 1840's as a result of the Great Famine and these immigrants transformed our largest cities and helped to build them into dynamic centers of commerce and industry; and

WHEREAS, throughout the country they faced callous discrimination: "No Irish need Apply" signs were ugly reminders of the prejudice that disfigured our society; and

WHEREAS, with indomitable spirit and unshakable determination, they persevered and took jobs as laborers, built railroads, canals, and schools and committed themselves to creating a brighter future for their families and their new country; and

WHEREAS, their contributions to our smaller cities and towns are evident today in the cultural, economic, and spiritual makeup of the communities; and

WHEREAS, in tribute to all Irish Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 103-379 formally designated March 1995 as "Irish-American Heritage Month" and authorized and directed the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month; and

WHEREAS, Governors and Mayors throughout the country have designated March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month"; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans of Irish ancestry continue to enrich all aspects of life in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a National, State and County organization was established to enhance Irish American heritage and is comprised of over 200 members throughout Florida communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Town Council of the Town of Malabar, that the month of March is proclaimed as "IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH".

Seal of the  
Town of Malabar

\_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2009

Attest:

Town Clerk

Mayor