

By: Senator Rapert

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND TO HONOR THE IRISH CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ARKANSAS FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATING ARKANSANS ABOUT THEIR RICH IRISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE.

Subtitle

TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND TO HONOR THE IRISH CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ARKANSAS FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATING ARKANSANS ABOUT THEIR RICH IRISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE.

WHEREAS, the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas is a nonprofit, public service organization founded in 1996 to educate Arkansans in aspects of the culture and history of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, the society provides Irish food and objects of Irish art for folk festivals and fairs, provides concerts of Irish music and dance, and participates in community service programs and event, all in an effort to reconnect Arkansans with their Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, the society was originally founded by a group of Irish nationals, many of whom had immigrated to Arkansas during the nursing shortage of the 1980s. Recruited by area hospitals, nurses from Ireland and Great Britain came to Arkansas originally intending to work for a few years and return to their homeland. Instead they married and settled in Little Rock and began to raise families. As their children grew, they realized the importance of passing on their Irish culture and heritage to their American-



born children; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas are to develop and further enhance local interest in the culture of Ireland and its people, to publicize the presence of an active Irish community in the Little Rock area, to reacquaint Arkansans of Irish descent with their culture and ethnic history, and to familiarize the general public with the culture of the Irish people and the richness of their contributions to the United States and the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the society has about eighty (80) members who share a love for and interest in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, the society presents an annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock. Before the parade, the society holds an annual festival on or near St. Patrick's Day. As the success of the annual festival has grown, so has the interest in the community-wide parade; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will occur on Saturday, March 16, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., and the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas wishes all Arkansans a very safe and happy St. Patrick's Day,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognizes and commends the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas for its contributions to educating Arkansans about their Irish culture and heritage and encourages Arkansans to celebrate St. Patrick's Day not only for its fun and traditional joviality but also for its rich cultural heritage.