



Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, the Irish first came to Spanish "*La Florida*" in the 1500s - first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest for St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "*La Florida*," established the first public school in America and opened it to both boys and girls of all races; and

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

WHEREAS, Irish Americans since Americas' inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation's political, business and religious establishments; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Ross, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March, 2023 as

"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 14th day of March, 2023.

Greg Ross, Mayor