

# City of LaBelle 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, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and*

*WHEREAS, Irish Americans helped to fashion a system of government for our young Nation; and*

*WHEREAS, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1792 Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and*

*WHEREAS, Irish born Commodore John Barry was recognized by the United States Congress in September of 2002 as the "First Flag Officer of the United States Navy"; and*

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

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

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

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City of LaBelle's City Commission, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2025 as:*

***"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"***

***PROCLAIMED this 13th day of March, 2025***

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Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor  
City of LaBelle