

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 2026 as:

"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

PROCLAIMED this 12th day of February, 2026

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor
City of LaBelle