

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 26

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 16, 1996

By Senators CODEY and BUBBA

- 1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the week including March 17 of  
2       every year as Irish-American History and Heritage Week.  
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- 4   **WHEREAS**, The history of the United States and the State of New  
5       Jersey has been significantly influenced by the rich heritage of  
6       Ireland and her people; and
- 7   **WHEREAS**, Irish men and women first came to this State while it was  
8       still a British colony and they sought political and religious freedom  
9       and economic opportunity to escape the grinding poverty, political  
10      oppression and religious persecution of their homeland; and
- 11   **WHEREAS**, With tremendous determination, strength and risk to their  
12      lives, Irish immigrants helped build the canals, railroads and bridges  
13      of this country and State and toiled as servants and in the  
14      sweatshops of our cities; and
- 15   **WHEREAS**, Despite these bitter obstacles, many nameless Irish  
16      immigrants became fervent patriots, fighting fiercely and dying  
17      bravely for this county in all of its wars, especially during the Civil  
18      War and at the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg;  
19      and
- 20   **WHEREAS**, Today, almost 39 million Americans claim Irish ancestry,  
21      according to the most recent federal decennial census; and
- 22   **WHEREAS**, Irish-American men and women have become recognized  
23      leaders in all areas of American life and culture, including business,  
24      organized labor, politics, education, the arts and entertainment; and
- 25   **WHEREAS**, Each year on March 17, the feast of St. Patrick, the patron  
26      saint of Ireland, is celebrated throughout the State and all over the  
27      country in observances that include large, colorful parades,  
28      traditional Irish music and the wearing of green clothing; and
- 29   **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to honor the significant  
30      accomplishments and contributions of the Irish-American  
31      community in this State by designating the week including March  
32      17 of every year as Irish-American History and Heritage Week; and
- 33   **WHEREAS**, It is appropriate to encourage American history classes in  
34      this State to highlight the contributions to this nation that Irish-  
35      Americans have made throughout American history; now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

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4       1. The week including March 17 of every year is designated as  
5 Irish-American History and Heritage Week.

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7       2. The Governor and Legislature of the State of New Jersey  
8 encourage American history classes throughout the State to discuss  
9 and examine the contributions that Irish-Americans have made to the  
10 history of this country during Irish-American History and Heritage  
11 Week.

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13       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18       This joint resolution designates the week including March 17 of  
19 every year as Irish-American History and Heritage Week and  
20 encourages American history classes throughout the State to discuss  
21 and examine the contributions of Irish-Americans to the history of this  
22 country.

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24       The resolution recognizes Irish-American history as important due  
25 to the significant influences that Irish men and women have had on  
26 American history and culture. The resolution further recognizes the  
27 important role that Americans of Irish descent have played throughout  
28 American and New Jersey history.

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33 Designates week including March 17 of every year as Irish-American  
History and Heritage Week.