

**Before the Board of County Commissioners
Martin County, Florida**

A Proclamation

**Designating March 2026 as Irish American Heritage Month
in Martin County, Florida**

- 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 also fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida; and
- Whereas,** the Irish first came to Spanish “La Florida” in the 1500s – first as missionaries and mercenary soliders and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators, and three of the Spanish Governors of “La Florida” were actually Irish military officers; 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,** 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,** Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim, served as Florida’s military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and
- Whereas,** Irish Americans, since America’s inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to Florida and our Nation; it is fitting and proper to celebrate their cultural heritage and many valuable contributions.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that March 2026 is designated as Irish American Heritage Month in Martin County, Florida.

Presented this Tenth Day of March 2026

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSIONER