

CITY OF WINTER PARK

# proclamation

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## Irish-American Heritage Month | March 2026

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

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

**WHEREAS**, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent, three were Irish born, and 22 of our nation’s presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish-American heritage; and

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

**WHEREAS**, in 1883, Captain Olive Perry, an Irish-American, achieved a major naval victory in the Battle of Lake Erie; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1942, the five Sullivan brothers made the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and freedom during the Naval Battle of the Guadalcanal and later had the Destroyer USS Sullivan commissioned in their memory; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2002, Irish-born Commodore John Barry was recognized by the United States Congress as the “First Flag Officer of the United States Navy,” where he fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Irish-Americans have provided and continue to provide service to this nation’s political, business and religious establishments and it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many contributions of Irish-Americans to our nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Sheila DeCiccio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Winter Park in the state of Florida, do hereby proclaim **March 2026** as “**Irish-American Heritage Month**” in Winter Park, Florida, and look forward to seeing you adorned in green at the city’s Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade Saturday, March 7.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I** have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Winter Park, Florida, to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

**Sheila DeCiccio**  
Mayor