

CONGRATULATING VISITING MASTER CHEFS FROM IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND CANADA FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN IRISH CULINARY CULTURAL EVENTS.

WHEREAS, THE COMMONWEALTH, WITH 23 PER CENT OF ITS RESIDENTS CLAIMING IRISH ANCESTRY, HAS THE UNIQUE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE MOST IRISH AMERICAN STATE IN THE COUNTRY; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMONWEALTH'S IRISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION OF CELEBRATING SAINT PATRICK'S DAY, DATING BACK TO MARCH 17, 1737, WHEN THE CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY OF BOSTON, WHICH WAS FORMED TO ASSIST FELLOW CITIZENS IN NEED, HELD THE FIRST IRISH COMMEMORATION IN THE 13 COLONIES; AND

WHEREAS, IRISH GROUPS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH ARE ORGANIZING CONCERTS, DANCES, LITERARY READINGS, ART EXHIBITS, SPORTING EVENTS, COMMEMORATIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS DESIGNED TO CELEBRATE IRISH HERITAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE; AND

WHEREAS, SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADES SHALL TAKE PLACE IN SOUTH BOSTON, ABINGTON, CAPE COD, HOLYOKE, LAWRENCE, SCITUATE AND WORCESTER TO CELEBRATE THE COMMONWEALTH'S IRISH HERITAGE AND TO ENCOURAGE TOURISM IN MASSACHUSETTS; AND

WHEREAS, THE BOSTON IRISH TOURISM ASSOCIATION, TOURISM IRELAND AND THE CANADIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN BOSTON HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN TRAVEL AND TOURISM TIES BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND CANADA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BY PROMOTING THE COMMON CELTIC BONDS BETWEEN THESE COUNTRIES; AND

WHEREAS, THE BOSTON IRISH TOURISM ASSOCIATION AND TOURISM IRELAND, ALONG WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, ARE ORGANIZING AN IRISH FOOD AND CULTURE WEEK TO BE HELD IN MARCH 2008; AND

WHEREAS, THREE MASTER CHEFS FROM IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND, ALONG WITH 1 MASTER CHEF FROM NOVA SCOTIA IN THE CANADIAN MARITIME PROVINCES, SHALL VISIT THE COMMONWEALTH BETWEEN MARCH 9 AND 17, 2008, TO PARTICIPATE IN A MOVEABLE FEAST OF GAELIC GOURMET GALAS ALONGSIDE THEIR FELLOW CHEFS AT THE OMNI PARKER HOUSE HOTEL, JURYS BOSTON HOTEL, HOTEL COMMONWEALTH, THE EASTERN STANDARD RESTAURANT, THE BLACK ROSE PUB AND OTHER VENUES THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH; AND

WHEREAS, THESE CULINARY AND CULTURAL EVENTS ARE MEANT TO PORTRAY THE MOST POSITIVE AND ILLUSTRIOUS ASPECTS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS IRISH COMMUNITY; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY JOINS THE BOSTON IRISH TOURISM ASSOCIATION IN CONGRATULATING AND WELCOMING THE VISITING CHEFS FROM IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND CANADA TO THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN IRISH FOOD AND CULTURE WEEK, ORGANIZED BY THE BOSTON IRISH TOURISM ASSOCIATION AND TOURISM IRELAND; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE TO THE BOSTON IRISH TOURISM ASSOCIATION.

SENATE, ADOTTED MARCH 6, 2008.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

CLERK OF THE SENATE

OFFERED BY:

SENATOR JOHN A. HART, JI