

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 17

By: Boren and McIntosh of the
Senate

and

Hill and Stewart of the
House

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the long friendship between Oklahoma and Ireland; commemorating economic relations between Ireland and Oklahoma; welcoming esteemed guests from Ireland; recognizing ties between Ireland and the United States and the Irish ancestry of many Oklahomans; commemorating the celebration of St. Patrick's Day throughout the state; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma and Ireland have enjoyed a long friendship that predates Oklahoma's statehood and Ireland's independence; and

WHEREAS, in 1847, during the Irish famine, the Choctaw Nation raised \$170.00 for famine relief, over \$5,000.00 in today's money, which was a fortune at the time, even though they had recently been forcibly moved to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Ireland commemorated the gift of the Choctaw Nation with the dedication of the Kindred Spirits sculpture, featuring a circle of eagle feathers, in County Cork; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation unveiled on August 30, 2024, as a tribute to their connection with Ireland, the Eternal Heart sculpture, depicting a Celtic Trinity knot intertwined with a heart, facing the east toward Ireland; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Oklahoma established the Oklahoma Ireland Trade Commission for Oklahoma businesses and industries to benefit from Ireland's position within the European trade market; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature is honored to welcome Senator Aubrey McCarthy, of the Irish Senate, and Mr. Phil Thompson, Chief Executive Officer of the humanitarian organization Tiglin, an Irish organization dedicated to helping people overcome addiction, homelessness, and social exclusion, which he co-founded alongside Senator McCarthy in 2008. The two will meet with Oklahoma business leaders regarding economic development opportunities between Oklahoma and Ireland. Their visit also honors the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Three of the signatories were born in Ireland, and others were of Irish descent; and

WHEREAS, many Oklahomans take pride in their Irish ancestry and continue to preserve Irish culture through festivals and celebrations, particularly in March, as Oklahomans honor the Patron Saint of Ireland and celebrate Irish heritage, including Tulsa IrishFest, ShamROCK the Gardens in Oklahoma City, and the Oklahoma City St. Patrick's Parade in Stockyards City, with Margaret "Peg" Malloy serving as this year's Grand Marshal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THERIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the state's long history of friendship and relationships with Ireland.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature welcomes Senator Aubrey McCarthy and Phil Thompson as they visit the Great State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commemorates March 17 as St. Patrick's Day.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Mark Daly, Chair of the Senate of Ireland; and the Oklahoma American Irish State Legislators Caucus.

Adopted by the Senate the 11th day of March, 2026.


Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2026.


Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 11th

day of March, 20 26, at 4:24 o'clock P M.

By: Benjamin Lepak