

# Proclamation

**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**, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and

**WHEREAS**, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and

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

**WHEREAS**, three of the Spanish Governors of "La Florida" were actually Irish military officers; 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 this nation's political, business, and religious establishments; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Antonio V. Arserio, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2026, as

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.



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ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, MAYOR