



City of Ellensburg

PROCLAMATION

Irish American Heritage Month 2025

Whereas, Irish American Heritage Month began in 1991 with a Presidential Proclamation, calling upon the people of the United States to a month-long celebration of the contributions that Irish immigrants have made to the U.S.; and

Whereas, the United States, and many nations of the world, celebrate St. Patrick's Day annually on March 17 in honor of the patron saint of Ireland; and

Whereas, many Irish immigrants came to this land before this nation was founded, with the largest wave seeking refuge on our shores in the 1840's when the Great Famine ravaged Ireland; and

Whereas, across the country, these immigrants faced calloused discrimination: "No Irish Need Apply" signs were ugly reminders of the prejudice that disfigured American society at that time; and

Whereas, in spite of these hardships, Irish Americans fought valiantly in the Civil War and other conflicts to protect the freedom of all Americans and to contribute to the success of this country; and

Whereas, in 2021, 31.5 million individuals in the United States, about 9.5% of the population, claimed to be of Irish descent, including approximately 4,522 people in Kittitas County; and

Whereas, Irish immigrants and their descendants have contributed greatly to the enrichment of all aspects of life in the United States, including military and governmental service, science, education, art, agriculture, business, industry, and athletics, including 9 of the people who signed our Declaration Independence and 23 Presidents of the United States; and

Whereas, we honor the long history of the Irish and Irish Americans settled in Kittitas County and contributed to the establishment of Ellensburg by developing farms and ranches, establishing business community in Ellensburg, supporting our educational and religious entities; and and we recognize those Irish and Irish Americans who currently contribute daily to the strength and vibrancy of our diverse community; and

Now, Therefore, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim March 2025 as Irish American Heritage Month in Ellensburg and encourages all residents to join in this observance by participating in celebrations and strengthening friendships and understanding with our Irish and Irish American neighbors.

Signed this 3rd day of March, 2025.

Attest:
City Clerk

A blue ink signature of "Bob D. Leach" in a cursive, flowing script.

A blue ink signature of "Rich Elliott" in a cursive, flowing script.

Mayor
Rich Elliott