

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4
5 By: Representative Lea

HR 1040

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND TO HONOR THE IRISH
9 CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ARKANSAS FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
10 EDUCATING ARKANSANS ABOUT THEIR RICH IRISH CULTURE
11 AND HERITAGE.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND TO
16 HONOR THE IRISH CULTURAL SOCIETY OF
17 ARKANSAS FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
18 EDUCATING ARKANSANS ABOUT THEIR RICH
19 IRISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE.

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22 WHEREAS, the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas is a non-profit, public
23 service organization founded in 1996 to educate Arkansans in aspects of the
24 culture and history of Ireland; and

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26 WHEREAS, the society provides Irish food and objects of Irish art for
27 folk festivals and fairs, provides concerts of Irish music and dance, and
28 participates in community service programs and events – all in an effort to
29 reconnect Arkansans with their Irish heritage; and

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31 WHEREAS, the society was originally founded by a group of Irish
32 nationals, many of whom had immigrated to Arkansas during the nursing
33 shortage of the 1980's. Recruited by area hospitals, nurses from Ireland and
34 Great Britain came to Arkansas originally intending to work for a few years
35 and return to their homeland. Instead they married and settled in Little Rock
36 and began to raise families. As their children grew, they realized the



1 importance of passing on their Irish culture and heritage to their American-
2 born children; and

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4 WHEREAS, the goals of the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas are to
5 develop and further enhance local interest in the culture of Ireland and its
6 people, to publicize the presence of an active Irish community in the Little
7 Rock area, to reacquaint Arkansans of Irish descent with their culture and
8 ethnic history, and to familiarize the general public with the culture of the
9 Irish people and the richness of their contributions to the United States and
10 the State of Arkansas; and

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12 WHEREAS, the society has about eighty (80) members who share a love for
13 and interest in Ireland; and

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15 WHEREAS, the society presents an annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in
16 downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock. Before the parade, the society
17 holds an annual festival on or near St. Patrick's Day. As the success of the
18 annual festival has grown, so has the interest in the community-wide parade;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the 12th Annual Parade will occur on Saturday, March 12, 2011,
22 at 1:00 p.m. and the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas wishes all Arkansans
23 a very safe and happy St. Patrick's Day,

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25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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29 THAT the House of Representatives recognizes and commends the Irish
30 Cultural Society of Arkansas for its contributions to educating Arkansans
31 about their Irish culture and heritage and encourages Arkansans to celebrate
32 St. Patrick's Day not only for its fun, traditional joviality but also for
33 its rich cultural heritage.