

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

SR 18

4
5 By: Senator Rapert

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7 **SENATE 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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21 WHEREAS, the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas is a nonprofit, public
22 service organization founded in 1996 to educate Arkansans in aspects of the
23 culture and history of Ireland; and

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

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



1 born children; and

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

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

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

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20 WHEREAS, the 14th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will occur on
21 Saturday, March 16, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., and the Irish Cultural Society of
22 Arkansas wishes all Arkansans a very safe and happy St. Patrick's Day,

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24 NOW THEREFORE,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
27 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

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