

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 33

4  
5 By: Senator Rapert

6  
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.

12  
13  
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.

20  
21  
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

25  
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

30  
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

3  
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

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

14  
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

20  
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,

24  
25 NOW THEREFORE,

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

28  
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, traditional joviality but also for its rich cultural  
33 heritage.