



# City of Ellensburg

## PROCLAMATION

### IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**Whereas,** Congress established March as Irish American Heritage Month, calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**Whereas,** Irish immigrants came to this land even before our nation was founded, with the largest wave seeking refuge on our shores in the 1840's when the Great Famine ravaged Ireland. Throughout the country, they faced callous discrimination: "No Irish Need Apply" signs were ugly reminders of the prejudice that disfigured our society.

**Whereas,** in 2018, 32 million individuals in the United States, about 10% of the population, claimed to be of Irish descent, including approximately 4,915 people in Kittitas County.

**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 of Independence; 23 Presidents of the United States; first lady of song Ella Fitzgerald; novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald; Yankee pitching great Whitey Ford; crusading journalist Nellie Bly; and Richard and Maurice McDonald, who are credited with creating fast-food;

**Whereas,** we recognize the Irish Americans who contributed to building our local community such as Civil War veteran Patrick Carey, who may have been the first Irish immigrant in the valley, having homesteaded here in 1876; early settler Edward J. Fogarty, who was said to have been a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln; William Crowley, who came to Kittitas County in 1889 to become a teacher, farmer, businessman, County Commissioner and sheriff; and Jack Kelleher, who opened Kelleher Motors in 1911 and whose family continues to sell us cars and trucks today;

**Whereas,** the City of Ellensburg recognizes and honors the many Irish Americans residing herein who contribute to the strength and vibrancy of our diverse community.

**Now, Therefore,** the City Council of the City of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim March 2021 as Irish American Heritage Month in Ellensburg and encourages all citizens to join in this observance by building bridges of understanding and friendship with our Irish American neighbors.

Signed this 1st day of March, 2021.

  
Bruce Tabb  
Mayor

Attest:   
City Clerk