

declaring March

as

"Irish-American Heritage Month"

WHEREAS, Irish-American Heritage Month was first celebrated by proclamation of the President in 1991. It seemed natural to choose March (Saint Patrick's Day falls on March 17) for the month-long recognition of the contributions that Irish immigrants and their descendants have made to U.S. society. Virtually every realm of American endeavor, from steelworking to biotechnology to literature, has seen improvement through Irish-descended hands and minds; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of the Presidential proclamation continues on a yearly basis, with the top political figure from Ireland, the "Taoiseach," visiting to conduct a shamrock-giving ceremony at the Oval Office, followed in the evening by a reception attended by the President and other key figures of both governments; and

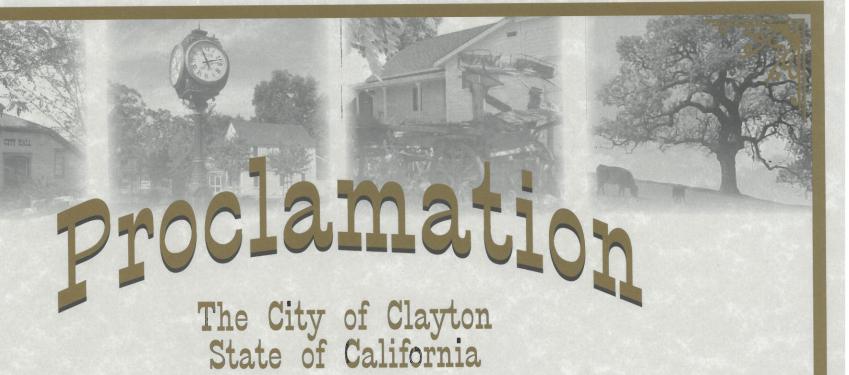
WHEREAS, most people know the basic facts of the influx of Irish families to the shores of the United States during the 19th century, with the image of the Irish immigrant being conscripted into the Army minutes after stepping off the boat perhaps the most ingrained in the minds of former grade-school history students; and

WHEREAS, what is less talked about is the anti-immigrant sentiment that was often faced by new Irish-Americans, largely a result of their Catholicism, which clashed with the predominantly Protestant backgrounds of the majority of families whose members had been among the original colonists. Irish-Americans faced bitter competition, even slanted legislation, in their search for good jobs and a place to call home; and

WHEREAS, this month we recognize not only the overcoming of those obstacles by Irish-Americans but also the incredible breadth and depth of their contributions to American society, from the Union's edge over the Confederacy in the Civil War to the intellectual contributions that have kept our country on the top tiers of accomplishment.

Now, Therefore, I, Peter Cloven, Mayor, and on behalf of the entire Clayton City Council, proclaim March, as "Irish-American Heritage Month" in Clayton, CA and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.





declaring March

as

"National Women's History Month"

WHEREAS, Women's History Month celebrates the often-overlooked contributions of women in history, society, and culture. It has been annually observed in the United States and other countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia, every March since 1987; and

WHEREAS, March is selected as the month for observing Women's History Month to correspond with International Women's Day on March 8, and Canada observes it in October in correspondence with Persons Day on October 18; and

WHEREAS, the month-long commemoration started with Women's History Day in 1978, organized by the school district of Sonoma, California. Hundreds of students participated in the essay competitions, many presentations were given, and a parade was held in Santa Rosa. The idea caught on and, a few years later, school districts, communities, and organizations all over the country were celebrating the day; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the National Women's History Alliance championed for the holiday to be observed as a national week, and this was backed by President Jimmy Carter, who issued the first proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The following year, Congress forwarded a resolution establishing a national observance. Six years later, the expansion of the event to the whole month of March was successfully petitioned by the National Women's History Project.

Now, Therefore, I, Peter Cloven, Mayor, and on behalf of the entire Clayton City Council, proclaim March, as "National Women's History Month" in Clayton, CA and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.



march 2, 2022



declaring March 31

as

"Cesar Chavez Day"

WHEREAS, Cesar Estrada Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, to a Mexican-American family in Yuma, Arizona. He spent his early years at a farm where his mother worked as a part-time laborer. As the Great Depression periled the states in the late 1930s, the Chavez family lost their homestead to foreclosure. Now a nomad in their own country, his family moved to California in search of a livelihood; and

WHEREAS, the migration had a grave impact on Chavez, who dropped out of school soon after and began working in the fields. In 1946, he joined the navy and served for two years. After his discharge, he rejoined farmwork, got married, and settled in Delano, California; and

WHEREAS, after living a life of instability, low wages, and no ownership, Chavez began questioning the rationality behind his lack of accumulated wealth after years of hard work and dedication. His quest for answers led him down the path of grassroots organizing. In 1952, he became a mobilizer for a Latino civil rights group called the Community Service Organization (C.S.O.); and

WHEREAS, Chavez spent the next decade of his life fighting against racial and economic discrimination. He encouraged his community members to participate in democracy and led hundreds of voter registration drives. He later became the national director of C.S.O. After a dispute within the organization, Chavez resigned from his post in 1962 and joined hands with Dolores Huerta. Together, they founded the National Farm Workers Association; and

WHEREAS, he spent the following years of his life involved in regular protests, strikes, and participating in labor uprisings throughout the country. Inspired by Gandhi's principles of non-violence, he led hundreds of sit-in protests and hunger strikes; and

WHEREAS, Chavez passed away in 1993. Later that year, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Even decades after his passing, he continues to inspire human rights activists everywhere and is a folk hero for millions of Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, Peter Cloven, Mayor, and on behalf of the entire Clayton City Council, proclaim March 31, as "Cesar Chavez Day" in Clayton, CA and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

