



Proclamation ***Recognizing Irish American Heritage Month***

WHEREAS, Irish American Heritage Month was first recognized in 1991 with a Presidential Proclamation, calling upon the people of the United States to a month-long celebration of the contributions that Irish immigrants have made to the U. S.; and

WHEREAS, the United States, and many nations of the world, celebrates St. Patrick's Day annually on March 17 in honor of the patron saint of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, many Irish immigrants came to North America to escape discrimination, inequities, poverty, and famine and seek new opportunities with the largest number of Irish immigrants arriving in the United States in the 1840s, and within the United States, immigrants from Ireland faced discrimination and inequities; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 approximately 32 million Americans, and 775,000 residents in Washington, and approximately 2,000 residents in Monroe (10.2%) identify as having Irish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Americans with Irish ancestry have made and continue to make America a better place and Americans a better people; and Americans with Irish ancestry have made profound and significant contributions to enrich America and the lives of every American; and every American should acknowledge, celebrate, and express thankfulness for these contributions; and

WHEREAS, the history of discrimination and inequities toward Irish Americans can be applied to the history and the present experience of people of other lived experiences and backgrounds and, rather than hide the difficult truths of this history and this present, we must work to ensure that we turn away from discrimination and injustice and toward liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe is working to advance inclusive and equitable policies and practices that ensure that the City is a safe place for all, where every person feels at home and every person belongs.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize March 2023 as

Irish American Heritage Month

AND WITH HUMILITY AND GENUINE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, I call upon each of us to celebrate our residents of Irish ancestry, and also to learn about the difficult truths of the history and experiences of Irish Americans and commit to taking actions to oppose similar discrimination, injustices, and inequities that continue to be experienced by human beings today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor