

## HR20 INTRODUCED



1 OZV1MM-1  
2 By Representative Mooney  
3 RFD:  
4 First Read: 16-Mar-23  
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HR \_\_\_\_\_ RECOGNIZING AND HONORING SAINT PATRICK'S DAY.

WHEREAS, Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is known for bringing Christianity to Ireland, and with it, literacy and learning; the island was known as the "isle of saints and scholars" by the early Middle Ages; and

WHEREAS, although Catholics continue to celebrate feast days of the saints around the world, only Saint Patrick's feast day is celebrated so widely, enthusiastically, and across denominations, showing the diaspora of Irish people and influence around the world; and

WHEREAS, long before the popular secular celebrations that we know today, the first celebration honoring Saint Patrick occurred in the Spanish colony of Florida in the settlement of St. Augustine in 1600 with the firing of canons and the first modest parade in his honor followed a year later; now, cities across the United States and around the world host large festivities of parades and cultural celebrations; and

WHEREAS, although the Irish arrived in the colonies with settlers from Great Britain and made their homes in the Northeast and Appalachia, many more emigrated seeking relief from the Irish potato famine from 1845 to 1855 and created pockets of communities in the States, from the East Coast to the West Coast; their culture has become part of the



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29 integrated American landscape; and

30 WHEREAS, there are 44,000,000 Americans of Irish  
31 ancestry spread across this great nation and contributing to  
32 science, education, art, agriculture, business, industry,  
33 literature, music, athletics, entertainment, government, and  
34 military service; now therefore,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
36 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in honor of the valuable  
37 contribution of Irish-American citizens and the rich Irish  
38 culture that has wound its way into the great melting pot of  
39 America, we recognize Saint Patrick's Day and encourage all  
40 to celebrate the holiday.