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110th CONGRESS
2d Session
S. RES. 457
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 14, 2008

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the [REDACTED] or Spring Festival.

Whereas the [REDACTED] is celebrated on the second new moon following the winter solstice;

Whereas February 7, 2008, marks the first day of the [REDACTED] for 2008, also known as the Year of the Rat or the Year of Wu Zi;

Whereas the [REDACTED] festivities begin on the first day of the first lunar month and end 15 days later with the celebration of the Lantern Festival;

Whereas there are approximately 3,500,000 Chinese-Americans in the United States, many of whom will be commemorating this important occasion;

Whereas this day will be marked by celebrations throughout our country as Chinese-Americans gather to watch the dragon and lion dances; and

Whereas the United States Postal Service will debut a new stamp series for the 12 animals in the Chinese calendar on February 9, 2008, with the series continuing through 2019: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate--

- (1) recognizes the cultural and historical significance of the [REDACTED] or Spring Festival;
- (2) in observance of the [REDACTED], expresses its deepest respect for Chinese-Americans and all those throughout the world who will be celebrating this significant occasion; and
- (3) wishes Chinese-Americans and all those who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

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This is of course a relic of the French and Spanish occupation; but I judge that the religious feature has been pretty well knocked out of it now.

-from Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain

It has been said that a Scotchman has not seen the world until he has seen Edinburgh; and I think that I may say that an American has not see the United States until he has seen this in New Orleans.

-Letter to Pamela Moffett, 9 and 11 March 1859



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H. RES. 161 RESOLUTION

Honoring the 250th anniversary of New York's [REDACTED] parade.

Whereas, on March 17, 2011, New York will host its 250th annual [REDACTED] parade;

Whereas the modern New York [REDACTED] parade is the largest parade in the world, with hundreds of thousands of participants and millions of spectators participating each year;

Whereas the parade was first celebrated in 1762, before the American Revolution and 14 years before the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas the parade is named after the Patron Saint of Ireland, [REDACTED];

Whereas early parade participants wore the color green at a time when wearing such a color was illegal in Ireland;

Whereas the parade moves along Fifth Avenue in view of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and American Irish Historical Society;

Whereas the 69th Infantry Regiment of the New York Army National Guard, also known as the 'Fighting 69', leads the parade route;

Whereas parade participants celebrate Irish history, sing Irish songs, and perform Irish music;

Whereas the Ancient Order of Hibernians have played an integral role in the parade;

Whereas current and former Members of Congress have served as Grand Marshals of the parade;

Whereas United States Presidents, Senators, Governors, Mayors, and many other elected officials have participated in the parade;

Whereas President Harry Truman participated in the parade in 1948 to honor the contributions of Irish-Americans to the United States victory in World War II;

Whereas marching bands from every county in Ireland and throughout the United States participate in the parade;

Whereas Irish culture has contributed greatly to the culture, politics, and history of the United States;

Whereas the parade has played a role in the history of the United States on numerous occasions, including in 2002 when the entire 1.5 mile parade stood silently and paused facing the World Trade Center in honor of the heroes of 9/11; and

Whereas many [REDACTED] parades throughout the United States have evolved from their beginnings as a show of unity by Irish immigrants into United States institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives--

(1) honors New York's [REDACTED] parade on its 250th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes the leadership of and participants in the parade and other [REDACTED] parades throughout the United States for their efforts to celebrate and honor [REDACTED], Ireland, and the history of Irish-Americans in the United States.

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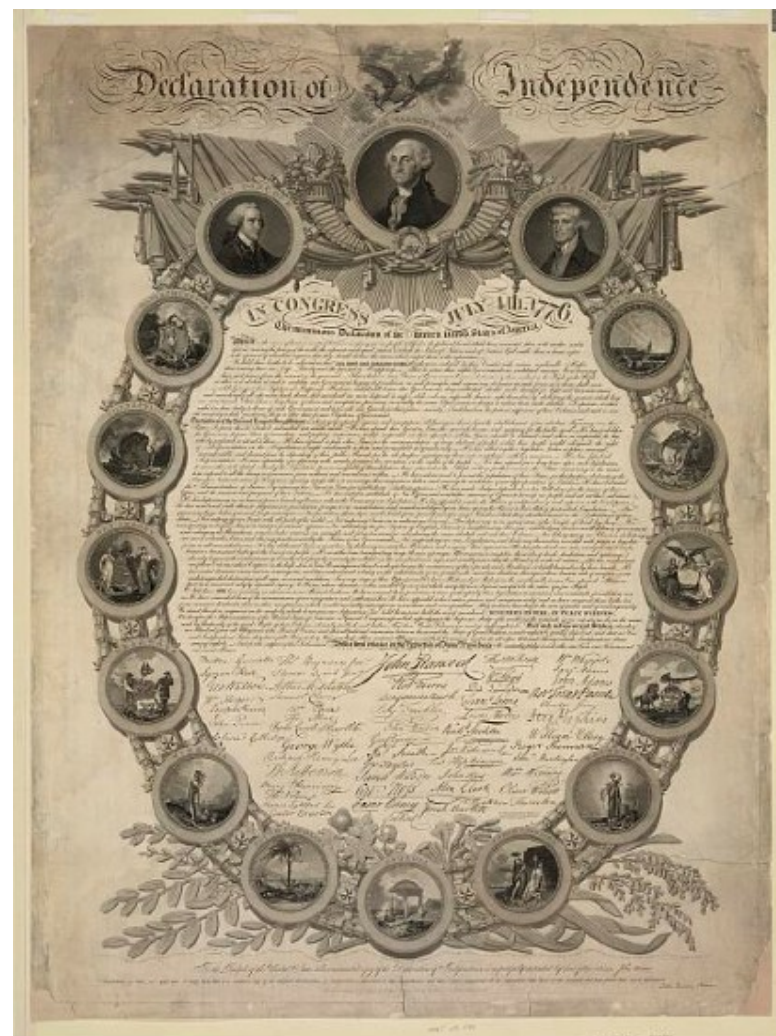
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I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

-from a letter to John Adams to his wife Abigail

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CHAP. 118.—An Act Making [REDACTED] a legal holiday.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first Monday of September in each year, being the day celebrated and known as [REDACTED] is hereby made a legal public holiday, to all intents and purposes, in the same manner as Christmas, the first day of January, the twenty-second day of February, the thirtieth day of May, and the fourth day of July are now made by law public holidays.

Approved, June 28, 1894.