



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**2023**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, between 1680 and 1815, North Carolina became home to thousands of Irish settlers, with communities being built and established in the western part of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, these Catholic settlers, known as Ulster Scots, came to North Carolina to escape religious persecution; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 150,000 Irish Americans fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, today, North Carolina has the largest percentage of Scots-Irish ancestry of any state, with 2.9 percent of the population claiming the heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated ten percent of Americans report having Irish heritage, roughly seven times the population of Ireland; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina celebrates Irish Americans throughout history and salutes those that have made significant contributions to our state and our country; and

**WHEREAS**, Irish Americans have made significant contributions to the United States military, government, and economy that have helped move our nation forward; and

**WHEREAS**, this month and throughout the year, the State of North Carolina celebrates the heritage of Irish Americans and encourages residents to learn more about the positive impact Irish Americans have made and continue to make in North Carolina history;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2023, as **"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-third day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.