

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has benefited from the contributions of its many residents of Irish birth or heritage, traditional celebrations of Irish heritage are held in mid-March to honor St. Patrick, and on February 28, President Obama declared March 2013 to be Irish-American month; and

WHEREAS, Burlington was the gateway to America for a number of refugees in the nineteenth century, as tens of thousands of Irish fled famine and oppression in their homeland through Canada; and

WHEREAS, we currently are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, which took place July 1-3, 1863 during the American Civil War, when Irishmen fought for the Union in Vermont units; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's only ethnic-based unit in the Civil War was the Emmet Guards militia company, raised in Burlington by Captain John Lonergan, and his "Irish Company" served as Co. A, 13th Vermont Regiment and distinguished itself at the battle of Gettysburg; and

WHEREAS, Captain Lonergan received the Medal of Honor for gallantry at Gettysburg and a historical marker will be erected in City Hall Park, to be dedicated July 27, 2013, and the headquarters of the Vermont branch of the Fenian Brotherhood, militant Irish nationalists dedicated to freeing Ireland from British rule, was in Burlington; and

WHEREAS, today, our City is home to a lively scene of Irish culture with frequent performances, informal sessions, and instruction in music and dance; and

WHEREAS, an authentic Irish pub here, the Rí Rá, is staffed in part by young men and women from Ireland who eagerly share their culture with the patrons; and

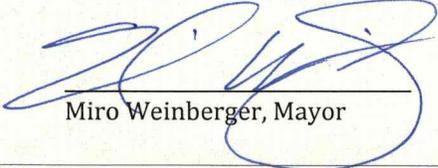
WHEREAS, the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, founded by the son of Irish immigrants, provides outstanding entertainment throughout the year and always presents world-class Irish music on St. Patrick's Day; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival is organized each March by a committee of dedicated volunteers to celebrate responsibly with a full program of events around the City;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby proclaim the week of March 11 through March 17, 2013 to be

IRISH HERITAGE WEEK

in the City of Burlington and **BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that I commend the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival volunteer committee for providing our community with a festival fit for our rich Irish history.


Miro Weinberger, Mayor

