

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. J. RES. 112

To designate May 13, 1994, as “Irish Brigade—Marine Day”.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 1993

Mr. FISH introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

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## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

To designate May 13, 1994, as “Irish Brigade—Marine  
Day”.

Whereas the United States of America is a Nation of immigrants and the contributions of Irish immigrants, and their descendants to the defense of the public liberty has been a hallmark of Irish Americans;

Whereas officers and men of the Irish Brigade in the service of France volunteered to fight for American liberty as early as 1776, over two years before the entry of France into our War for Independence; many were later recruited by Benjamin Franklin;

Whereas the Irish Brigade fought for American liberty in our War for Independence at Savannah, Georgia; and Irish troops of the Regiments of Dillon and Walsh of the Irish Brigade at Gloucester Point, Virginia, under Count Arthur Dillon of the Legion of Lauzun in the Army of Rochambeau, closed the ring around Cornwallis at Yorktown, thus assuring victory for Washington and independence for the United States;

Whereas the predominantly Irish Thompson Battalion of Pennsylvania become the keystone of Washington's Continental Army and under Anthony Wayne, the Infantry Line of Pennsylvania was known as 'the Line of Ireland' and, a significant portion of the Continental/Revolutionary forces were Irish including Richard Montgomery, Jeremiah O'Brien, Timothy Murphy, John Barry, Stephen Moylan and John Sullivan;

Whereas the honor roll of Irish-American Marines extends throughout the entire history of the United States Marine Corps, from 10 November 1775 to the present, including such names as Thomas Murphy, Maurice O'Connell, Daniel Carmick, Presley Neville O'Bannon, Charles G. McCawley, John Rannahan, Dan Daly, Edward R. Murphy, Raymond Davis, Robert Emmett O'Malley, Martin Brandtner, P.X. Kelly, Michael Ryan, Paddy Collins and Al Gray;

Whereas 137 men of the Regiment of Walsh of the Irish Brigade, with their officers, Eugene MacCarthy, Edward Stack and James O'Kelly, who volunteered to serve as American Continental Marines with John Paul Jones on the BONHOMME RICHARD, were inducted into the Marines on 13 May 1779 at L'Orient, France, and were

reviewed by John Adams, American Commissioner to France, on that date;

Whereas the induction of these members of the Irish Brigade into the American Continental Marines is shown in the painting, “JOHN ADAMS REVIEWS JONES’ MARINES, 13 MAY 1779” by Colonel Charles Waterhouse, USMCR, Artist in Residence of the United States Marine Corps, and is recorded in the Diary of John Adams and in *Marines in the Revolution* by Charles Richard Smith;

Whereas the Marines on the BONHOMME RICHARD carried the war to the enemy’s shores and, in action against the HMS SERAPIS and HMS COUNTESS OF SCARBOROUGH off Flamborough Head on 23 September 1779, so distinguished themselves in battle as to have made possible the action which rendered the HMS SERAPIS unable to continue the contest, one of the most desperate and bloody battles in American naval history;

Whereas indeed did the Irish Brigade volunteers on the BONHOMME RICHARD proved themselves worthy of the tribute to the Irish brigade as “Semper et ubique Fidelis” -- Always and everywhere Faithful, while, at the same time, earning their right to the motto “SEMPER FIDELIS” as American Marines;

Whereas the Leatherneck Scholarship Fund has chosen the print by Colonel Charles Warehouse, “JOHN ADAMS REVIEWS JONES’ MARINES, 13 MAY 1779” to illustrate the tradition of service and sacrifice which inspired the scholarships dedicated to the memory of Captain Manuel Rivera, United States Marine Corps and Major Eugene McCarthy, United States Marine Corps Reserve,

two naval aviators killed in action during OPERATION  
DESERT STORM; and

Whereas Irish Americans continue the tradition of honorable  
military service in defense of the United States: Now,  
therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That, May 13, 1994, is designated as “Irish Brigade Ma-  
4       rines Day” and the President of the United States is au-  
5       thorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling  
6       upon the people of the United States to observe such day  
7       with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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