

THE SOCIETY OF THE  
**FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK**  
OF BALTIMORE, INC.

PO Box 324  
TIMONIUM, MD 21094  
(410) 252-7971

Return Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dear Senator or Representative:

As your constituent and as a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Baltimore, I respectfully request you to ask the Department of Defense (DoD) to ensure that all organizations, commands, and installations of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force observe the month of March as Irish American Heritage Month beginning in March 2009.

As you may know, United States Presidents have proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month each year since 1991. The 2008 Proclamation states "... I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation." I feel that this should include all of the DoD Services and organizations.

Army Regulation 600-20, titled ARMY COMMAND POLICY, dated March 18, 2008, paragraph 6-19, EO Special/Ethnic Observances states "Senior mission/installation commanders will develop, plan, and conduct observances during the designated timeframe as outlined in table 6-1..." This Table provides special commemorations/ethnic observances for specific groups. I am deeply concerned that Irish-American Heritage Month is not included in Table 6-1 even though U.S. Presidents have proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month each year since 1991.

Irish-Americans have significantly contributed to the freedom and development of our country from its earliest times. Irish-Americans have earned the honor of receiving observances by their sacrifice, service, and contributions to America. Our contributions are significant. Although AR 600-20 applies to the Army, I ask that DoD ensure that the Navy and Air Force as well as the Army observe Irish-American Heritage Month in March 2009 and each year thereafter.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

**Celebrating our 53<sup>RD</sup> Year**

*The Oldest Irish-American Organization in the United States*

Founded 1771

[www.friendlysonsbalt.com](http://www.friendlysonsbalt.com)

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