Senate Resolution 80

By: Senator Dugan of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, we honor the Good Friday Agreement this year, the 25th anniversary of its ratification, as the framework for lasting peace in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement represented a landmark breakthrough that provided Ireland with a political framework to address its future; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement acknowledged the right of differing political traditions to pursue their goals of remaining part of the United Kingdom or of Irish Unity; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement demonstrated democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the British and Irish governments' ongoing support and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement; it is the irrevocable foundation of the peace process regardless of the United Kingdom's status regarding the European Union; and

WHEREAS, despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including securing justice for victims and providing for the rights of all sections of the community; and

WHEREAS, members of both political parties in the United States came together to support the Good Friday Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on the 17th of March during the annual celebration of the feast of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, Irish Americans join with men, women, and children of all ethnic origins who for one day become Irish and celebrate Saint Patrick, and this year we also celebrate and give thanks for the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement; and

WHEREAS, 2023 also marks the 175th anniversary of the first flying of the Irish flag by Thomas F. Meagher, who embodied the link between Ireland and the United States of America, started his life in Ireland, and died at age 43 as acting governor of Montana; and

WHEREAS, in one lifetime, Thomas F. Meagher ran for election to the City Council in Waterford, Ireland; led the rebellion for freedom from British rule in Ireland in 1848; was sentenced to death, which was commuted to transportation for life in prison in Australia, from where he escaped; became a brigadier general in the 69th Regiment of the famous Fighting Irish Brigade and fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War, including Fredericksburg and Antietam; and became a friend of President Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, we resolve to celebrate the flag of Ireland as a symbol of the link between the United States and Ireland and as a symbol of peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body honor the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and extend best wishes for the continued growth of the bond between the United States and Ireland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.