

Chief Justice Roberts, Chancellor of the Board of Regents
Office of the Regents
Smithsonian Institution
MRC 050, P.O. Box 37012
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

I am writing to you as Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian has been charged with the "increase and diffusion of knowledge" particularly as it concerns preserving and interpreting the story of America. Unfortunately, the Smithsonian has been deficient in telling the story of the Irish contribution to the American narrative, most noticeably during March which is "Irish American Heritage Month".

Since 1991, American Presidents of both parties have yearly designated March as Irish American Heritage Month and encouraged all Americans to recognize the contributions that Irish immigrants and their descendants have made to our nation through appropriate programs and activities. Public Law 101-418, designated March 1991 as "Irish-American Heritage Month" and Congress has subsequently passed numerous resolutions in succeeding years in addition to the afore mentioned presidential proclamations. Yet, the Smithsonian, a federal institution, fails to heed the will of the President and the Congress and continues to under represent the achievements of Irish Americans as part of our nation's story. The Smithsonian does this while actively (and rightly) celebrating four other heritage months with extensive programs: Black History Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and American Indian Heritage Month. It is important to emphasize that we do not question nor dispute the recognition that the Smithsonian accords to the important role that the heritages it does recognize played in the history of our nation, we ask only that the heritage and contributions of Irish American be accorded the same and equal recognition .

I ask you Chief Justice Roberts as Chancellor of the Smithsonian, and a man who has dedicated his life to the cause of justice, to inquire why the Secretary of the Smithsonian and his staff do not recognize Irish American Heritage Month with appropriate programs as they do other Heritage Months and require them to develop a plan to appropriately commemorate Irish American Heritage Month in future.

Sincerely;

Name: _____

Address: _____