

MEMORANDUM

To: Molly Gray, Lieutenant Governor

Fr: Hannah Nyoike

Re: Burlington Irish Heritage Festival

Date: 2/26/2021

Background:

Remarks to be filmed in advance

Event to take place the week closest to St. Patrick's day (March 17th).

Week-long series of events held virtually via Facebook/Zoom in the format of the release of short videos featuring musicians, artists, dancers, and academics of Irish heritage in Vermont.

This will be the 26th year of the celebration.

The Irish Heritage Festival is asking for a short video (3-5 mins) recounting your ancestors Ireland-to-Vermont immigration story. This video will then be sent to the President of the Irish Festival for release the week of the festival.

Speaking Order/Attendees:

(Speaking order and day of Molly's video release unknown)

Suggested Speaking Points (3-5mins):

- First, I would like to thank the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival for inviting me to the 26th annual celebration.
- My name is Molly Gray, and I am Vermont's 82nd Lt. Governor
- So much has changed in the past year...I would so love to be able to experience music, art, and celebrations of the Irish Heritage Festival in person – but what a wonderful testament it is to the strength and adaptability of Vermonters and our Irish heritage to bring events such as these online.
- This year, the Vermont legislature has gone virtual, and the State House is nearly empty, but we've arguably seen more people than ever before be able to engage in the political process, because they are able to experience democracy from their own homes. It is my hope that this year's Irish Heritage Festival events being streamed online allows from more people than ever before to do the same.
- I was honored to be asked to share my own ancestral story....
- *(Give family story here)*

Attachments:

Burlington Irish Heritage homepage - http://burlingtonirishheritage.org/?page_id=34

Historical Society history of Irish heritage in Vermont-

<https://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/champlain-the-irish-lake/> -