**For Immediate Release!**

**February 12, 2025**

**The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to participate in the Irish Flag Raising Exercise on Saturday March 1, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Holyoke City Hall to celebrate the Irish American Heritage Month of March.**

**Mayor Josh Garcia and Holyoke City officials plan to be in attendance.**

**Hibernian President Joe O’Connor will preside as Master of Ceremonies. Other dignitaries planning to be in attendance: representing Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Committee will be 2025 Parade President John Beaulieu and Parade Grand Marshal James Lavelle; Barbara Twohig President of the Massachusetts State Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians; Mary Kate O’Connor President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2 and President Sean Cahillane of the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England. Piper Matt O’Connor will play the pipes at the event and Sheila Moreau will sing the American and Irish Anthems.**

**There are over 31.5 million residents who claim Irish Ancestry in America. The U.S. Congress designated March as Irish American Heritage Month in 1991.**