

The Power of Irish Wisdom

By Renee Gatz, author of *Wise Words & Witty Expressions*

On the first Monday of each September, Americans recognize the contributions of our workforce by celebrating the public holiday, Labor Day. According the United States Department of Labor, Labor Day is “a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.”

The American work ethic has been instrumental in building our incredible country, driven by our belief that anyone can become anything they dare to dream, because Americans understand that **anything worth having is worth working hard for**. We are a country of people that **dream big** and believe that you can **bloom where you are planted**. We can point to endless examples of people who have come from very little and worked hard to build successful lives for themselves, their families and in the process created opportunities for others here and around the world. Therefore, it is only right that we take one day out of each year to recognize how we as a nation have collectively contributed to America’s success.

It would be remiss of me, however, not to acknowledge the difficult economic circumstances that are making it hard for many Americans to participate in the promise of America. Additionally, it is important to recognize those that are employed and find themselves doing far more with much less, making for long, tough days. I am confident that we will see ourselves through this challenge. We have been in tougher spots and come out better than before. Americans know that our country is where you can find opportunity like nowhere else and that we are equipped to successfully address our challenges, even if it is taking longer than we like. We also understand that **no one said it was going to be easy**. We can **plan our work and work our plans** but in these challenging economic times, we must **rise to the occasion** and amend our plans based on the challenges we face today, understanding that **this too shall pass** and that **tomorrow is another day** that will bring with it prosperity and path to allow our dreams to come true.

Everything does happen for a reason and **difficult times build character** and building on the existing strength of the American resolve can only make us more successful as we move forward. Because we are a generous people who remember the importance of paying it forward, we will continue to create opportunities for own people and those around the world, which will ensure many more Labor Day celebrations.

Happy Labor Day!