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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 429 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, WILEY, TARTAGLIONE, BOSCOLA, GREENLEAF,  
DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, SCARNATI, SCAVELLO, SABATINA, KILLION,  
SCHWANK, COSTA, FARNESE, MENSCH, VULAKOVICH, HUTCHINSON AND  
WARD, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2016 as "Italian-American  
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Explorer Christopher Columbus, the son of a wool  
4 merchant, was born in Genoa, Italy, around 1451; and

5 WHEREAS, He was determined to find a quicker route west from  
6 Europe to Asia and embarked on what would become four trips  
7 across the Atlantic Ocean starting in 1492; and

8 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus accidentally stumbled upon the  
9 Americas during his voyage and his journeys resulted in  
10 centuries of exploration on the American continent; and

11 WHEREAS, While Italians have always been a part of American  
12 history, it was not until the 1820s that Italian immigrants  
13 began moving to the United States in sizable numbers; and

14 WHEREAS, As Italian Americans began settling in major cities  
15 across the United States, they often faced religious and ethnic  
16 discrimination which occasionally led to brutal violence; and

17 WHEREAS, For this reason, Italian Americans started

1 celebrating the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus  
2 as a way for citizens of Italian descent to be accepted by the  
3 mainstream; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed  
5 Columbus Day as a national holiday; and

6 WHEREAS, Today we credit Christopher Columbus with Italian  
7 immigration to the New World and what is now Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 17 million Americans  
9 of Italian heritage in the United States, and more than 1.4  
10 million Americans of Italian heritage reside in Pennsylvania;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Allegheny County has the highest Italian-American  
13 population in this Commonwealth, and is in the top 10 in the  
14 country, with more than 194,000 people according to the 2000  
15 United States Census; and

16 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have become one of this  
17 Commonwealth's most influential ethnic groups, working  
18 tirelessly to preserve their heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have deep roots in religion,  
20 politics, the arts, science, law and economic and social  
21 institutions; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, the Order Sons of Italy in America is the  
23 largest and oldest national organization for men and women of  
24 Italian heritage in the United States, with many chapters  
25 located in this Commonwealth; and

26 WHEREAS, This year, a new national historical library opened  
27 up in downtown Pittsburgh where visitors can look at shelves  
28 filled with more than 200 books and DVDs about Italian  
29 Americans; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2016

1 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and commend  
2 the early immigrants for their important role in our  
3 Commonwealth's history.