
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 530 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY HARPER, NEILSON, PICKETT, BIZZARRO, BURNS,
ORTITAY, DONATUCCI, QUIGLEY, SAINATO, MACKENZIE, MURT,
WHEELAND, VITALI, DRISCOLL, DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, O'NEILL,
TOOHIL, MILLARD, RYAN, DUSH, SONNEY, HENNESSEY, READSHAW,
CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, VAZQUEZ, DEASY,
B. MILLER, ROZZI, FABRIZIO, WATSON, WARD, BOBACK, GOODMAN,
ROEBUCK, MARSICO, PASHINSKI, DeLUCA, GILLEN AND BRADFORD,
OCTOBER 2, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 2, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2017 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, Christopher Columbus was determined to find a
6 quicker route west from Europe to Asia and embarked on what
7 would become four trips across the Atlantic Ocean starting in
8 1492; and

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, For this reason, Italian Americans started
5 celebrating the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus
6 as a way for citizens of Italian descent to be accepted by the
7 mainstream; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 17 million Americans
13 of Italian heritage in the United States, and more than 1.4
14 million Americans of Italian heritage reside in Pennsylvania;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have become one of this
17 Commonwealth's most influential ethnic groups, with deep roots
18 in religion, politics, the arts, science, law and economic and
19 social institutions to preserve their heritage; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and
21 Daughters of Italy, is the largest organization in this
22 Commonwealth for men and women of Italian heritage, with many
23 lodges located in almost every county in this Commonwealth;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
26 month of October 2017 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in
27 Pennsylvania and commend the early immigrants for their
28 important role in our Commonwealth's history.