
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 204 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, FERLO, TEPLITZ, DINNIMAN, ROBBINS, STACK,
ERICKSON, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, ARGALL, WASHINGTON, KASUNIC,
MENSCH, SCARNATI, BRUBAKER, SCHWANK, SMITH, BROWNE, COSTA,
RAFFERTY, PILEGGI, VOGEL, WARD, VULAKOVICH, HUGHES, WHITE,
YUDICHAK, YAW AND SOLOBAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2013 as "Italian-American
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The explorer, Christopher Columbus, a 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 end up being four trips across the Atlantic Ocean starting
8 in 1492; and

9 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus accidentally stumbled upon the
10 Americas in his voyages and his journeys resulted in centuries
11 of explorations on the American continent; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, we accredit Christopher Columbus with Italian
13 immigration to the New World and what is now Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 26 million Americans
15 of Italian heritage in the United States, with more than 1.5
16 million Americans of Italian heritage residing in Pennsylvania;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have become one of this
3 Commonwealth's most influential ethnic groups; and

4 WHEREAS, Most Italians settled in the Philadelphia and
5 Pittsburgh regions, however, throughout this Commonwealth, the
6 immigrants faced hardships with low pay and hazardous jobs
7 during the early centuries, prompting them to support labor
8 union movements; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite instances of discrimination and
10 exploitation, Italian Americans did not surrender their values
11 or culture; and

12 WHEREAS, Instead, the citizens of Italian decent developed
13 religious, political, economic and social institutions to
14 support themselves in adjusting to life in this Commonwealth and
15 to preserve their heritage; and

16 WHEREAS, The Order Sons of Italy in America is currently the
17 largest and oldest national organization for men and women of
18 Italian heritage in the United States, with many chapters
19 located in this Commonwealth; and

20 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have become prominent in
21 Pennsylvania for the arts, law, science, government, commerce,
22 manufacturing and finance; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2013
24 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and commend
25 the early immigrants for their important role in the history of
26 this Commonwealth.