
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 448 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, DiSANTO, BARTOLOTTA, GREENLEAF, STREET,
DINNIMAN, SABATINA, EICHELBERGER, BLAKE, FOLMER, ARGALL,
COSTA, MENSCH, HUGHES, AUMENT, WARD, RAFFERTY AND FARNESE,
OCTOBER 1, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 1, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2018 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, During Columbus's time, most people believed that
6 the world was formed mainly of one giant landmass consisting of
7 Europe, Asia and Africa, mostly because these were the only
8 continents mentioned in the Bible, and surrounded by one
9 enormous body of water they called the ocean sea; and

10 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus was determined to find a
11 quicker route west from Europe to Asia and embarked on what
12 would become four trips across the Atlantic Ocean starting in
13 1492; and

14 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus accidentally stumbled upon the
15 Americas during his voyage, and his journey was a catalyst for
16 centuries of exploration of the Americas; and

17 WHEREAS, When Christopher Columbus landed in the New World,

1 he believed that he had reached the Indies and thought the
2 people he met were Indians; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Italian immigrants arrived relatively unskilled but
7 soon helped fuel a booming industrial economy by providing labor
8 for American factories and mines and helping to build roads,
9 dams, tunnels and other infrastructure; and

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

13 WHEREAS, For this reason, Italian Americans started
14 celebrating the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus
15 as a way for citizens of Italian descent to be accepted by the
16 mainstream; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed
18 Columbus Day as a national holiday; and

19 WHEREAS, We credit Christopher Columbus with Italian
20 immigration to the New World and what is now Pennsylvania; and

21 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 17 million Americans
22 of Italian heritage in the United States, and more than 1.4
23 million Americans of Italian heritage reside in Pennsylvania;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, In 1905, the Order Sons of Italy in America was
26 formed with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to follow in 1913;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, More recently, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
29 became an independent organization and was renamed the Grand
30 Lodge of Pennsylvania Sons and Daughters of Italy, existing to

1 promote education, encourage the dissemination of Italian
2 culture, organize programs for patriotic and humanitarian
3 purposes and combat discrimination while protecting and
4 upholding the positive image of Italian heritage; therefore be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2018
7 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and commend
8 the early immigrants for their important role in our
9 Commonwealth's history.