

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 384 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, COSTA, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, BRUBAKER, CORMAN, DINNIMAN, EARLL, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, FARNESE, FERLO, FOLMER, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LEACH, McILHINNEY, MENSCH, PICCOLA, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, SCARNATI, SCHWANK, SMUCKER, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON, VANCE, VOGEL, VULAKOVICH, WARD, WASHINGTON, WAUGH, D. WHITE, M. WHITE, WILLIAMS, WOZNIAC, YAW AND YUDICHAK, OCTOBER 15, 2012

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2012 as "Italian-American
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus' voyages led to widespread
9 European awareness of the American continents in the Western
10 Hemisphere; and

11 WHEREAS, This awareness opened the way for European
12 exploration and colonization of the Americas; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, we accredit Christopher Columbus with Italian
14 immigration to the New World; and

1 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 26 million Americans
2 of Italian heritage in the United States, and more than 1.5
3 million Americans of Italian heritage reside in Pennsylvania;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many
6 Italian immigrants settled in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh
7 regions, but they faced hardships, such as low pay and hazardous
8 working conditions throughout this Commonwealth, which prompted
9 them to support labor union movements; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Italian Americans developed religious, political,
14 economic and social institutions to preserve their heritage and
15 to support themselves in adjusting to life in their new country;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Today, the Order of Italy in America is the largest
18 and oldest national organization for men and women of Italian
19 heritage in the United States, and many of its chapters are
20 located in Pennsylvania; and

21 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have made remarkable contributions
22 to our society in the arts, law, science, government, commerce,
23 manufacturing and finance; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2012
25 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.