

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 205 Session of  
2017

---

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, DiSANTO, MARTIN, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF,  
SCARNATI, FARNESE, RAFFERTY, SABATINA, HUGHES, YUDICHAK AND  
WHITE, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

---

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 voyage, and his journey resulted in  
11 centuries of exploration on the American continent; and

12 WHEREAS, When Christopher Columbus landed in the New World,  
13 he believed that he had reached the Indies and thought the  
14 people he met were Indians; and

15 WHEREAS, Thus, more than 500 years later, the native people  
16 of the Americas are still often referred to as "Indian"; and

17 WHEREAS, While Italians have always been a part of American

1 history, it was not until the 1820s that Italian immigrants  
2 began moving to the United States in sizable numbers; and

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

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, More impressive, Allegheny County has the highest  
19 Italian-American population in the State and is in the top 10 in  
20 the country, with more than 194,000 people, according to United  
21 States Census figures from 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, The Italian-Americans have become one of this  
23 Commonwealth's most influential ethnic groups with deep roots in  
24 religion, politics, the arts, science, law and economic and  
25 social institutions to preserve their heritage; and

26 WHEREAS, While the first Italians to settle in Pittsburgh may  
27 have faced discrimination, Italian cuisine was embraced  
28 enthusiastically; and

29 WHEREAS, A Pittsburgh staple, a Primanti Brothers' sandwich,  
30 which is a concoction of meats, cole slaw and french fries

1 stacked between two slices of Mancini's bread, was invented by  
2 Italian descendants; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2017  
4 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and commend  
5 the early immigrants for their important role in our  
6 Commonwealth's history.