
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 538 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MALAGARI, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, KORTZ, BURNS, DONATUCCI, SAINATO, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, SCHMITT, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, ISAACSON, PICKETT, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, KINSEY, BURGOS, RYAN, YOUNGBLOOD, HILL-EVANS, HELM, VITALI, BERNSTINE, SONNEY, ROEBUCK, STRUZZI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KIM, A. DAVIS, READSHAW, MURT, DeLUCA, HOWARD, HEFFLEY, CIRESI AND JOHNSON-HARRELL, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2019 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

15 WHEREAS, As Italian Americans began settling in major cities

1 across the United States, they often faced religious and ethnic
2 discrimination which occasionally led to brutal violence; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
25 month of October 2019 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in
26 Pennsylvania and commend the early immigrants for their
27 important role in our Commonwealth's history.