
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 401 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, PHILLIPS-HILL, FARNESE, MARTIN, ARGALL,
STREET, J. WARD, BROWNE, DINNIMAN AND COSTA, OCTOBER 2, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 2, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2020 as "Italian-American
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have contributed to a great number
4 of aspects of our everyday life in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus has been
6 credited with accidentally stumbling upon the Americas on one of
7 his journeys, resulting in centuries of explorations on the
8 American continent; and

9 WHEREAS, Shortly after Christopher Columbus journeyed to
10 America, the terms "America" and "Americas" were derived from
11 the Italian merchant, explorer and navigator, Amerigo Vespucci;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Italian Filippo Mazzei, a promoter of liberty,
14 became a close friend of Thomas Jefferson and published a
15 pamphlet containing the phrase "All men are by nature equally
16 free and independent"; and

17 WHEREAS, It was not until the 1820s that Italian immigrants
18 began moving to the United States in sizable numbers; and

1 WHEREAS, These immigrants provided labor for American
2 factories and mines and assisted in building roads, dams and
3 other infrastructure that fueled a booming industrial economy;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, As Italian Americans began settling in our nation's
6 major cities, they often faced religious and ethnic
7 discrimination, which occasionally led to brutal violence; and

8 WHEREAS, For this reason, Italian Americans started
9 celebrating the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus
10 as a way for persons of Italian descent to be accepted by
11 mainstream American society; and

12 WHEREAS, During World War II, more than 500,000 Italian
13 Americans served in the United States military; and

14 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 26 million Americans
15 of Italian heritage in the United States, making them America's
16 seventh largest ethnic group; and

17 WHEREAS, Of the 26 million Italian Americans, more than 1.4
18 million reside in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2020
20 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate the contributions and
23 achievements of Italian Americans in this Commonwealth.