



Columbus Day 2008

May the Vision and Courage
of Christopher Columbus
Inspire Us All



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**THE NATION'S CAPITAL
CELEBRATES
516 YEARS OF DISCOVERY**



**HONORING THE GREAT
DISCOVERER**

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MONDAY OCTOBER 13, 2008

**THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL
COLUMBUS PLAZA - UNION STATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**SPONSORED BY THE
NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION
IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

CELEBRATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The Site

In the years following the great 1892 quadricentennial (400th anniversary) celebration of the achievements and discoveries of Christopher Columbus, an effort was launched by the Knights of Columbus to establish a monument in the nation's capital to the great discoverer. At their urging, the U. S. Congress passed a law which mandated a Columbus Memorial in the nation's capital, and appropriated \$100,000 to cover the construction costs. A commission was established composed of the secretaries of State and War, the chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on the Library of Congress, and the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. With the new Union Station rail terminal completed in 1907, plans focused on putting the memorial in the plaza in front of this great edifice.

After a series of competitions, sculptor Lorado Z. Taft of Chicago was commissioned. His plan envisioned what you see this day, a monument constructed of Georgia marble; a semi-circular fountain sixty-six feet broad and forty-four feet deep, and in the center a pylon crowned with a globe supported by four eagles connected by a garland.

A fifteen-foot statue of Columbus, facing the U. S. Capitol and wrapped in a medieval mantle, stands in front of the pylon in the bow of a ship with its prow extending into the upper basin of the fountain and terminating with a winged figurehead representing democracy. Flanking Columbus are two seated, allegorical figures: to his left, representing the Old World, is a patriarchal figure resting his arms upon a shield and grasping a crumpled map, while to his right, representing the New World, is a pre-Columbian figure (American Indian) crouching behind his crude shield and reaching for an arrow. On the rear of the large pylon is a double medallion picturing the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Set at the extremes of the axis of the balustrade are couchant lions. Three towering flagpoles rise behind the monument representing the historic ships of 1492, the *Niña*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria*. Classic-columned lampposts in front of Union Station feature replicas of ships on their cross-axis near the base mounts.



Daniel Burnham, who designed Union Station, had been the major architect of the 1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Burnham's architecture was so well received in Chicago that it launched the "City Beautiful" movement, to transform major cities, especially our nation's capital, into a series of well-landscaped neo-classical places, expressing confidence in our Republic during the 1890 period. Burnham's Columbus Fountain and Taft's Columbus statue were influenced in part by Frederick MacMonnies' fountain at the World's Columbian Exhibition.

The dedication of the tribute to Columbus took place on June 8, 1912 in the presence of President Taft and accompanied by an elaborate three-day celebration organized by the Knights of Columbus that brought 20,000 Knights and their families to the capital, it was reported. Thus began the annual Columbus Day celebrations at the site.

The Ceremony

Throughout the years fraternal, civic and cultural organizations provided leadership for the ceremony. For some years now, in collaboration with the National Park Service, it has been organized annually by the National Columbus Celebration Association (NCCA), established in 1989 to plan the celebration in the Quincentenary and subsequent years. Appearances of the U.S. Military Honor Guard, the service bands, and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps add to the pageantry. Reading of the annual Presidential Proclamation, addresses by members of the diplomatic corps—especially from Spain, Italy the Bahamas, and the Organization of American States—the awarding of a national essay contest prize and reading of the essay by the winner, and wreath-laying by embassies and many fraternal and patriotic groups, both national and local, give interest and color to the occasion, which brings in many attendees from other parts of the country each year. The event is open to the public free of charge. (For descriptions and photographs of ceremonies of earlier years, see the web site www.columbuscelebration.org/)



Color Guard from the Military District of Washington

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



*(Relevant contemporary events are shown in italics;
some important recurrent New World locations are shown in boldface italics.)*

1451 - Christopher Columbus is born in Genoa, Italy, the son of Susanna and Domenico Colombo, a Ligurian weaver and one of the keepers of the city's gates. (Queen Isabella and Amerigo Vespucci are both born this same year).

1453 - Turks capture Constantinople, kill the Emperor and the thousand-year-old Byzantine Empire ends.

1465 - Columbus's first sea voyages to Corsica.

1468 - Gutenberg dies. 1470 - Portuguese discover West African Gold Coast.

1473 - Copernicus is born. 1475 - Michelangelo is born.

1477 - Columbus has moved from Genoa to Lisbon; sails to England, Ireland, Iceland and possibly near the Arctic Circle.

1478 - St. Thomas More is born in England.

1479 - Columbus marries Felipa Moniz Perestrello of Porto Santo in the Madeira Islands. The union gives Columbus a son and heir, Diego.

1483 - Martin Luther is born.

1484 - Columbus approaches King John II of Portugal with a plan for an expedition to seek lands to the west via a sea route; Columbus and Diego arrive in Palos, Spain (going to the Franciscan Monastery La Rábida, near Palos) to discuss sponsorship of expedition westward on the "Ocean Sea."

1485 - Felipa Perestrello dies.

1488 - Son Fernando (Ferdinand) is born of union with Beatriz Enriquez.

1488 - Bartholomew Diaz rounds Cape of Good Hope. 1492 - Spanish take Granada, ending the Moorish kingdom in Spain and consolidating the monarchy of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. Jews expelled from Spain.

1492 - April 17: King and Queen of Spain sign the Santa Fé document defining Columbus's proposed expedition.

1492 - May 23: King and Queen decree citizens of Palos will be crew members.

First Voyage: Discovery of the New World (Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola), 1492-1493

1492 - August 2: Mass held for Columbus and crew at Church of St. George, Martyr, in Palos at noon; Columbus embarks from Palos de la Frontera that day with three caravels (*Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*) and 90 men.

1492 - October 12: After 33 days crossing the Atlantic, land is sighted at 2 a.m., and at dawn Columbus lands on the island of Guanahani in the Bahamas archipelago. On **October 27** at nightfall the shore of Cuba is sighted, and on **December 6** the three vessels reach the western end of the island of Hispaniola, containing the modern Dominican Republic and Haiti.

1492 - December 24: The *Santa Maria* runs aground on the north coast of Hispaniola. A fort and tower are constructed and 39 or 40 men left behind in this first settlement, named *La Navidad* because of the day of the accident. Columbus and the rest leave in the *Niña* to rejoin the *Pinta* and return to Spain.

1493 - March 15: Columbus returns to Palos and receives a special audience at the Spanish court in Barcelona.

1493 - May 4: *Pope Alexander VI establishes a line of demarcation dividing the New World between Spain and Portugal; it will be revised June 28.*

Second Voyage: Colonization of Hispaniola and Exploration of Southern Coasts of Cuba, Jamaica, and Hispaniola, 1493-1496

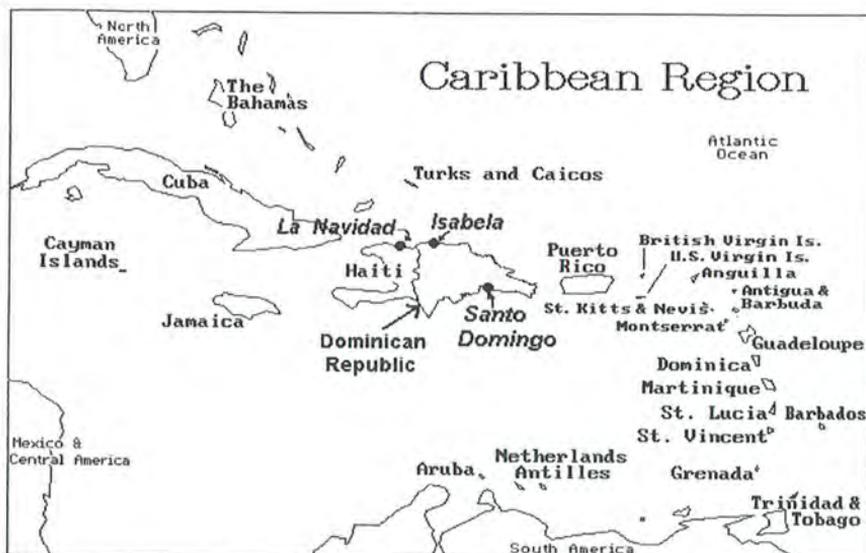
1493 - September 25: Second voyage leaves Cadiz with 17 ships and 1200-1500 colonists, including 200 volunteers not on salary from Spain, youngest brother Diego (Giacomo, or James, not to be confused with his son of the same name, who, with his other son Ferdinand, would become a page at court early in 1494), and five religious with the mission of evangelization.

1493 - November 2: Columbus's second expedition arrives in the Indies on a Sunday, and he names the landfall island Dominica.

1493 - November 27: After sailing up the Leeward Islands, through the Virgin Islands, along the south shore of Puerto Rico, and then along the north coast of Hispaniola, the expedition arrives at *La Navidad*. They find the colonists dead, the town and surrounding villages burned to the ground in vicious retaliation for reported mistreatment of the Indians by the garrison. Columbus treats kindly the local chief of this northwest part of Hispaniola, his earlier friend Guacanagarí, who (apparently rightly) blames the attack on another cacique (of the north central part of the island), Caonabó. On **December 8** the expedition leaves, heading eastward. Later that month, Columbus is sick, until mid-March.

1494 - January 2: In a solemn ceremony a new settlement is established about seventy miles east of *La Navidad*. It is named *Isabela* to honor the queen, and planned to be a grand capital city. Established to be within reach of reported gold mines, it is otherwise poorly sited near a river that flooded and a miasmatic marsh, and will last only a couple of years.

1494 - January 6: On the Feast of the Epiphany all attend the first Mass known to be offered on the soil of the Western Hemisphere, celebrated by Fray Buyl who heads the religious contingent. Afterwards, a party of 2 captains and 15-30 men and Indian guides set out to find the mines, in an area several dozen miles



distant, returning on **January 20** with some gold in hand. Several hundred men take sick by the end of January, and soon half the population are laid low. Columbus himself will be sick again in April for eight days.

1494 - February 2: With provisions spoiled by rain and humidity, Columbus orders twelve ships back to Spain under Antonio de Torres, his second in command, with a request that three or four be returned with food, medicines, clothing, work animals, and 100 miners.

1494 - March: Columbus leads a party of 500 men to the area of the mines and erects a fort, naming it Santo Tomás. After returning to *Isabela* he learns that the native King Caonabó plans to attack the fort. Columbus sends 400 men to deter the Indians, and a small amount of bloodshed results. At *Isabela* in this period there is much dissension, and even rebellion. Unfortunately the colony had been set up by the crown with a fragmentation of the authority Columbus had on the first voyage. He has to arrest the comptroller, who had schemed to make off with several ships and a load of gold; to threaten to withhold rations from workers who don't work; and to deal with the hidalgos who refuse to do manual labor (required due to the general sickness) and resent orders from this foreigner.

1494 - April 25: Leaving his brother Diego in charge, Columbus takes an expedition to explore neighboring lands. He visits Cuba, thinking it a peninsula, and, for the first time, Jamaica, and will be gone five months.

1494 - June 7: *Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal moves the Pope's 1493 line of demarcation 600 miles west, following Columbus's suggestion before he left Spain that the Pope's original specifications be treated as guidelines for further negotiations.*

1494 - June: During the Admiral's absence, his dearest brother, Bartholomew, arrives at *Isabela* with three caravels and supplies, joining brother Diego there. During the Admiral's prolonged absence, there is a rebellion of Indians because of the behavior of Margarit, commander of the fort at San Tomás. Summoned by Bartholomew to explain his conduct, the quick-tempered Margarit grabs the

three ships Bartholomew had brought and, before the return of the Admiral, leaves for Spain with the aggressive Fray Buyl (who thought Columbus should have been tougher on the Indians), arriving in November to spread more negative and slanderous reports on Columbus. On Hispaniola some of Margarit's men and disaffected colonists run rampant on the island with licentiousness and brutality toward the natives, with responses from the Indians and counter responses.

1494 - June 13: Meanwhile, away exploring the southern coast of Cuba, the Admiral is convinced it is part of the Asian mainland. He turns back within a few miles of the western tip of the island, and his extended indirect return to *Isabela* involves more explorations—including the southern coast of Jamaica and of Hispaniola. At the site of the future Santo Domingo he dispatches a land party of nine men to cross Hispaniola by way of San Tomás to *Isabela*, which they do while he takes the sea route around the eastern end of the island. On this return trip Columbus becomes very seriously ill.

1494 - September 29: The Admiral's expedition arrives back at *Isabela* and he has to be carried ashore sick, and is in bed for weeks. The three Columbus brothers are now reunited, and the ill Christopher appoints Bartholomew his deputy and as Adelantado (equivalent to a provincial governor), an honor to this Italian that is much resented by the Spaniards. Along with a friendly letter from the sovereigns, Bartholomew had brought news that many negative reports had been sent to Spain by dissatisfied colonists.

1494 - Fall: De Torres and the four caravels requested by Columbus in **February** arrive with more provisions, apparently the first women and children as well, and another letter from the sovereigns.

1494 - late: A series of military campaigns against the disaffected Indians starts.

1495-98 - Leonardo Da Vinci paints "The Last Supper."

1495 - February 24: De Torres with his four caravels, and Columbus's brother Diego, leaves again for Spain, carrying as slaves about 500 of the 1600 Indian captives from the recent punitive expedition (200 die during the voyage, probably due to lack of immunity to unfamiliar diseases suffered by these tropical natives in a winter crossing of the cold North Atlantic).

1495 - March 27: Columbus leads 200 men, horses, and native auxiliaries under his friend, the cacique Guacanagarí, deep into the island where another chief had assembled an impressive army of thousands. The Indians are frightened and routed by the cavalry, and many are captured. Alonso de Ojeda later captures Caonabó (responsible for the massacre at *La Navidad*) by a ruse.

1495 - May: Starting in May, for about ten months the Admiral and Bartholomew are engaged in subduing the island, traveling throughout it. Three forts are built, and a harsh and much-criticized system of tribute in gold or cotton is initiated. The Indians fight a guerrilla war, adopt a scorched earth policy, suffer a famine, and thousands die, from violence, hunger, and suicide.

1495 - June: A hurricane destroys three ships, leaving only the *Niña*. From salvage a ship similar to her, the *Santa Cruz*, also called *India*, is built.

1495 - October: Four caravels arrive from Spain under the command of Juan Aguado, a former friend, sent by the monarchs to conduct a judicial investigation of Columbus' behavior in light of the negative reports that had been spread in Spain. There is great discontent in *Isabela*, where most—who had come to get

Slavery in the Sixteenth Century

In the sixteenth century all theologians held that it was licit to enslave pagans, but not Christians, captured in a just war, and Moors and Christians enslaved each other without scruple. Presumably it was that understanding that underlay the enslavement of the Indians, who were also seen as potential converts and as a profitable income source. Isabella did not approve of this policy. Early on, the Spanish monarchs prohibited enslavement of the Indians because they were not known enemies of Christianity like the Saracens, and had committed no crime against Spain. But exceptions were allowed: for Caribs, understood to be cannibals who preyed on others, and for rebellious Indians, according to the doctrine on pagan captives in war. Spain was the first country to examine seriously the moral aspects of slavery and to bring about changes in thinking in this regard. Perhaps for the first time in history a great ruler--in this case, Charles V, who ruled most of Europe and the New World--called a halt to all conquests until it was clear whether they were just or not. A famous debate was held at Valladolid in 1550-1551 before learned and high-ranking men about the morality of slavery, as a result of which the anti-slavery view gained general acceptance. (See Louis H. Rivera, *A Violent Evangelizing: The Political and Religious Conquests of the Americas* [Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992], pp. 93, 96, 103; Gianni Granzotto, *Christopher Columbus* [Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987], p. 222); John Noble Wilford, *The Secret History of Columbus* [New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991], pp. 185-190; Robert Royal, *1492 and All That* [Washington: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1992], pp. 72-74.)

rich quick rather than settle--want to leave. The disadvantages of the settlement's location have become evident, and the Admiral has been looking for a new site. He decides to return to Spain to answer the allegations against him.

1496 - March: Columbus leaves for Spain in the *Niña* and the *India*, after telling Bartholomew, left in charge, to relocate the city on the southern shore. Both agree it is to be named for their father, Domenico. Traveling via Mariegalante and Guadeloupe, he arrives at Cadiz **June 11**. Bartholomew's first job is to erect a fort, San Cristóbal, near the site of present-day *Santo Domingo*.

July: Supply ships to *Isabela* bring a letter from Columbus and royal instructions to relocate the capital to the Ozama River near Fort Cristóbal.

1496 - Summer: Work begins on *Santo Domingo*, originally called *Isabel Nueva*, destined to be the first permanent settlement by Europeans in this hemisphere. This time the site has been very well chosen.

1497 - April 23: The sovereigns issue instruction for the third voyage. His titles and privileges and Bartholomew as adelantado have all been confirmed.

1497: *Cabots, father and son, reach the east coast of North America.*

Third Voyage: South American Discoveries; Administration of Hispaniola, 1498-1500

1498 - January 23: *Niña* and *India* depart from Sanlúcar with supplies for the settlement, sent in advance of Columbus's own departure.

1498 - May 30: Columbus departs from Sanlúcar on his third voyage with six caravels, three of which he takes on a very southerly route to investigate rumors of a southern continent. After a becalming near the Equator in terrific July heat, he opts not to go as far south as planned, but much more directly to the west.

1498 - July 31 - August 13: He discovers Trinidad and explores mainland South America (principally the Gulf of Paria and the Paria Peninsula on the north coast of Venezuela, both just west of Trinidad), and records on **August 14/15** that he has discovered a hitherto unknown large continent, which he later comes to believe holds the Garden of Eden.

1498 - August 31: Columbus is escorted to the new *Santo Domingo* by



Bartholomew, whom he had met near Hispaniola's southernmost point, about 100 miles to the west. (*Niña* and *India* had already arrived at Isabela.) A rebellion is in progress led by Francisco Roldán, chief justice of the colony, who had allied himself with some of the Indians. The three of Columbus's caravels on the direct route had overshot their destination and ended up in the vicinity of Roldán, who was at large

in the southwest part of the island (the area called Xaragua, a peninsula now part of Haiti, and had induced many from their crews to desert to him.

1498 - October 18: Columbus sends two vessels back to Spain with somewhat incoherent letters describing his discoveries in South America and ideas for a settlement there, and asking for the appointment of someone to administer justice. He also suggests that he could send all the slaves that could be sold (presumably captives from battles with hostile Indians), The letters apparently do not make a good impression on the rulers, who are losing confidence in him.

October 20: He makes a conciliatory overture to Roldán, resulting in an agreement on **November 16** on terms favorable to Roldán and his men. To fulfill a provision that he provide transportation back to Spain within a specified time for those rebels who wished to go, Columbus sacrifices his plan to send Bartholomew with *Niña* and *India* to Paria in South America to organize fishing and the taking of pearls. Instead, the ships are to be used for the rebels' home trip. But a storm and needed repairs delay things past the specified deadline and Roldán uses that to win more concessions, which Columbus finally agrees to in **September, 1499**. One result of the settlement will be the beginnings of what later becomes the system of *repartimientos* or *encomiendas*--plantation lands, together with the Indians on them at the service of the grantee, which is agreed to by the caciques. Meanwhile, without approval by Columbus as viceroy (whose influence at home has greatly declined), three other expeditions are allowed to take off from Spain to explore parts of the New World (perhaps necessary to establish claims before other nations did so).

1498 - Vasco da Gama discovers a sea route to India for Portugal and arrives at Malabar coast; Michelangelo sculpts the Pietà in Rome.

1499 - In Spain, one of Columbus's former captains on Hispaniola, Alonso de Ojeda (who had captured Caonabó), has obtained Columbus's chart of his explorations of South America and a license to go there, and he and Amerigo Vespucci leave Spain on a voyage of discovery, explore the northern coast of South America, and discover the mouth of the Amazon River, (Vespucci's account of the voyage, predated two years, omits mention of Ojeda, and results in the continent being named for him.)

1499 - September 5: Ojeda arrives in Xaragua on Hispaniola, and without authority starts cutting logwood, which the crown had reserved for itself. Roldán agrees to capture Ojeda and his men for Columbus and send them to Santo Domingo, but they manage to get away, load up with slaves in the Bahamas and return to Spain.

1499 - October: Columbus sends two caravels back to Spain explaining his settlement with Roldán as forced by circumstances, and again asking that a wise administrator of justice be sent to help him govern. However, in the spring the rulers have already selected Francisco de Bobadilla, a distinguished and trusted aristocrat who has long served them, to go to Hispaniola as chief justice and also as royal commissioner to hear complaints. He is not well-disposed toward Columbus, apparently resenting him as an upstart foreigner (a wave of anti-Genoese sentiment is sweeping the court at the time), has been affected by the negative reports, and seems to regard his task as to rein in Columbus. It will be over a year after his selection that he finally sails for Hispaniola, in **July, 1500**.

1500: *Pedro Avarez Cabral discovers Brazil, claiming it for Portugal; Vicente Yanez Pinzón, former captain of Niña, lands on the Brazilian coast, and Vespucci and Ojeda return to Spain. 1500-1501: King Ferdinand fights Moorish revolts in Granada, declaring it a Christian kingdom in 1501.*

1500 - Another rebellion, by Adrián de Moxica, one of Roldán's lieutenants, is put down by Columbus with Roldán's help. To reinforce authority, Columbus has moved to a "get tough" policy, with executions of key rebels.

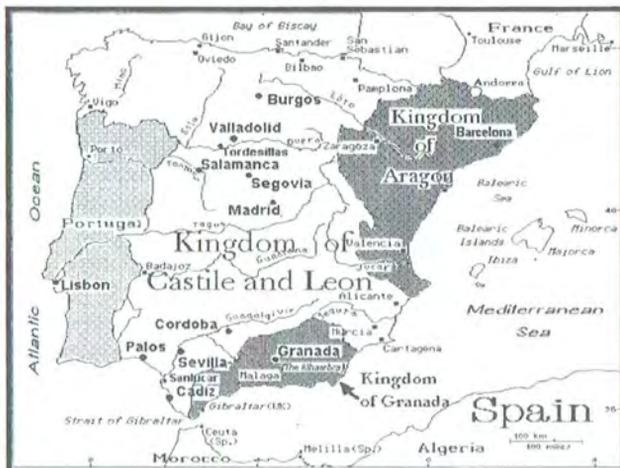
August 23: Bobadilla arrives at *Santo Domingo* while Columbus is away suppressing another rebellion, is upset to see two Spanish corpses hanging from the gallows, and learns of more executions scheduled the next day. He has a run-in with Columbus's brother Diego, who had been left in charge, arrests him, apparently engages in rabble-rousing, and impounds Columbus's house, money, papers, and possessions. When Columbus returns in **September**, he perhaps at first thinks that Bobadilla is another of those explorers he has not authorized, but then accepts his credentials and is shackled like Diego. Convinced in the eventual triumph of justice, he also persuades Bartholomew, still at large with a military force, to submit as well. (Columbus has more than once asked for a judicial administrator as an assistant or even a replacement for himself, and had expressed willingness to pay the cost. But he afterwards feels that the man he got is, in his negative view of the enterprise, the opposite of what is required.)

1500 - October: Bobadilla sends Columbus and his two brothers back to Spain. The Admiral is accused of injudicious governing of natives in Xaragua. When the ship captain, once underway, offers to remove his chains, Columbus insists on keeping them on, to be removed by direct orders of the rulers. They arrive in Cadiz by the end of the month. Soon freed by the sovereigns, Columbus goes to the Carthusian monastery in Seville where he draws maps of the new lands to the west, having an idea that they are a barrier in front of Asia. Studying reports of other explorations, he sees the possibility of a middle passage between the lands explored to the north and to the south.

1501 - At the monastery, he completes his "Book of Privileges" (outlining what is his due from the sovereigns) and works on preparing and dictating his "Book of Prophecies" (intended as a poetic statement of their and his divine vocation regarding the New World), a project that ends by **March 23** of the next year.



"Columbus in Chains"



1501 - September 13: Nicolás de Ovando receives appointment to succeed Bobadilla as Hispaniola's governor, and departs on **February 13, 1502.**

1502 - March 14: The sovereigns authorize Columbus's fourth voyage, and he takes leave of Seville for Cadiz on **April 3.**

1502 - Vasco da Gama founds a Portuguese colony at Cochin, India; **Vespucci** concludes after his second voyage that America is a separate continent, not identical with India.

Fourth Voyage: Central American Discoveries and Marooning on Jamaica, 1502-1504

1502 - May 9: Columbus, almost 51 years old, leaves from Cadiz, with 4 ships (*La Capitana*, *Vizcaína*, *Santiago*—also called *Bermuda*—and *Gallega*) and 140 men and boys. There were 56 of the latter, virtually all teen-agers, some as young as 13 or 14. Included in the company are Columbus's brother Bartholomew and son Fernando (Fernandez), who keeps a record of the voyage. (A quarter of those setting out will never return.) The expedition is financed by the sovereigns and is to focus on finding precious metals, stones and items of value, but no slaves, and to visit Santo Domingo only on the way home. **May 25:** They leave the Canary Islands.

1502 - June 15: They arrive at Martinique and head northwest along the islands.

1502 - June 29: Columbus arrives off Santo Domingo, hoping to replace one of his ships and take shelter from an impending hurricane, the signs of which he has recognized. Governor Ovando, having succeeded Bobadilla, does not permit the ships to land, disregards Columbus's warning about the hurricane, and sends a fleet of 28 ships off the next day for Cadiz. **June 30:** Forbidden the harbor, Columbus anchors offshore in a protected area and his ships ride out the storm without great damage. But the home-bound fleet runs directly into the storm. Nineteen ships go down with all hands, others with a few survivors, and four limp back to Santo Domingo. Over 500 men and a fortune in gold are lost. Only one ship goes on to reach Cadiz--the very one carrying Columbus's own revenues

from the colony, sent by his agent. Among the drowned are fleet commander de Torres (formerly Columbus's second in command), Bobadilla, who had sent Columbus home in chains, Roldán, and many other rebels.

1502 - July 14: After repairs to his storm-damaged ships, Columbus leaves Hispaniola, heading for the mainland (Central America), farther west than anyone had gone before. Winds and currents force him toward the Cuban coast,



whence he heads south by west toward his original intended destination.

1502 - July 30: He arrives at the island of Guanaja, off the north coast of present-day Honduras. **August 14:** Ashore this Sunday they attend the first Mass known to have been celebrated on the continent, in an area he names La Costa de la Orejas.

August 17: Columbus formally claims the mainland for the sovereigns.

1502 - September 14: After slow and torturous progress east along the forbidding coast against the prevailing wind under terrible stormy conditions, he rounds the cape he names Gracias a Dios ("Thanks be to God"), and turns south.

1502 - October 5: With several stops en route meeting and trading with Indians, they reach a large body of water first mistaken for the passage to Asia, but in fact the beautiful Chiriqui Lagoon, where they spend a week and a half. Columbus learns that an isthmus separates him from another ocean to the west, and apparently loses hope of finding a westward passage through the land mass, settling for finding gold to bring some success to his royal sponsors.

1502 - October 20: He arrives at the Guayga river, the beginning of a gold-bearing region called *Veragua* by the Indians.

1502 - November 2: Driven eastward by a storm, he arrives at a harbor he names Portobelo. Weather forces him to stay seven days before continuing east, and then being pushed part way back by winds to a place near Nombre de Dios, where he stays until **November 23** to repair vessels and casks.

1502 - November 26: Heading east again he is again driven back and shelters in a small harbor he calls Retrete ("closet") nine days in more miserable weather.

1502 - December 5: In the face of continuing bad weather and headwinds from the east, Columbus decides to go back west to learn the truth of what Indians had said about gold mines of *Veragua*. Winds now begin to whipsaw between east and west, with fierce thunderstorms and the ever-present danger of reefs.

1502 - December 20: The ships are blown back into the same harbor they had been in eight days earlier. The new year finds Columbus anchored near the end of what will be America's answer to his long-sought passage--the Panama Canal. They stay until **January 3, 1503**, then head west again.

1503 - January 6: On the Feast of the Epiphany Columbus reaches a river he christens Belén (after Bethlehem) near *Veragua* and the reputed gold mines. They explore and trade. **February 6:** He has decided to make a settlement in the area, leaving Bartholomew with most of the men and one ship, while he returns to Spain for reinforcements and supplies. **February 24:** After further exploring

and trading, Bartholomew starts to build the settlement on the Belén River, having found no better location, though this site is not a good one. Heavy flooding rains have ceased, but now sandbars at the mouth of the previously-flooded river trap the ships in the estuary. They also learn that the Indians, displeased at their settlement, plan to destroy it and kill them.

1503 - March 30: Bartholomew with 74 men goes to *Veragua*, and captures the cacique, who later escapes. Rains come, the ships can leave, and Columbus decides to leave immediately for Hispaniola with three ships. Seeing them gone, Indians attack the settlement. Bartholomew is wounded. Columbus, off shore, is out of contact with the settlers, and Indians slaughter a ten-man party he sends to fetch fresh water. (On **April 6** he is left alone on his ship, all his men ashore, and sick and feverish in a terrible storm when he can do nothing for the ship and can get no help, has either a hallucination or mystical experience.) Ten days pass with no communication with the settlers on account of the weather, then all are evacuated after another weather delay of several more days. In the nearly three-month stay at *Veragua*, ship worms have done great damage, and *Gallega* is left in the estuary. The site does have gold, but environmental conditions make it impracticable even later to exploit the mines. **In 1536** Columbus's grandson, D. Luis Colón, will be granted by Emperor Charles V 25 square leagues in the area along with the title *Duke of Veragua*, which will be passed on to his descendants to the present day, in exchange for renunciation of hereditary titles and privileges over all of the Spanish Indies.

1503 - April 15: Columbus heads east again to Portobelo, where *Vizcaína* is also abandoned because of worm damage. He continues east beyond Retrete to what is probably the present Punta des Mosquitos.

1503 - May 1: Flagship *La Capitana* and *Bermuda*, the only ships left and both needing continual pumping due to worm holes, head north for Hispaniola, but on **May 13** arrive well to the west, at islands off the south coast of Cuba. (Sick and exhausted, Columbus had been persuaded to turn north before he had intended.)

1503 - June 23: The leaking ships have limped to Jamaica and two days later are permanently beached at Santa Gloria. Columbus had been there ten years earlier, and experienced hostile relations with the Indians, so restricts his men to living aboard the beached ships, as at sea. He barter for food and canoes from the Indians.

1503 - July: Since there is no hope of any ships visiting the place, two loyal ship captains, Diego Mendéz, and Bartolomeo Fieschi of Genoa, take an expedition of two canoes with Indian paddlers to the east end of Jamaica and then across the treacherous hundred-mile passage to Hispaniola. After arriving they must still go 350 miles to get to Santo Domingo, which they reach in **September**. But Ovando the governor has no interest in sending help. He forces Mendéz to wait for the next fleet from Spain to charter a rescue vessel.

1503 - In Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella issue a decree granting liberty to Indians; in Italy, Leonardo da Vinci paints the Mona Lisa.

1504 - January 2: After months with no news from the party sent for help, 48 men, under the leadership of Francisco de Porras, have decided to revolt. They take ten canoes, are joined by others who don't want to be left behind, and head east, leaving Columbus and a handful of loyal men at Santa Gloria. They rob the Indians along the way and set out to cross the strait to Hispaniola, but after only

a few miles turn back due to overloaded canoes, headwinds, and their own inexperience. They throw everything but their weapons overboard, including Indian paddlers, of whom 18 perish. Two more unsuccessful attempts convince them to return to Santa Gloria.

1504 - February 28-29: Meanwhile, anticipating that the Indians had become hostile and want to kill the Spaniards, Columbus invites them to a palaver, and cows them into submission by using his foreknowledge of a lunar eclipse to convince them that he has power to intercede with God to control such things and keep terrible evils from befalling them.

1504 - End of March: a small caravan finally sent by Ovando (after about six months' delay!) arrives to learn what has happened to Columbus, but with orders to bring no one home. However, it does carry a welcome letter from Mendéz saying he is chartering a rescue vessel.

1504 - May 19: The rebels return to Santa Gloria and, choosing to fight, are defeated in a battle with Bartholomew and Columbus's fifty men. The ringleader, Porras, is shackled, but the others pardoned and allowed to remain ashore under a leader Columbus selected.

1504 - June: The rescue ship promised by Mendéz arrives and on **June 18** Columbus and his 100 men leave for Santo Domingo, where he is now well treated by Ovando who, however, releases Porras.

1504 - September 12: Columbus leaves the New World for the last time.

1504 - November 7: The Admiral arrives at San Lúcar in Spain, in bad health, must be carried ashore, and moves to Seville.

Last Days

1504 - November: Ignored by the crown, Columbus initiates a series of insistent letters to son Diego at court, pressing his claims. Though sick, he lives comfortably and financially secure, with attendants and servants in a rented house.

1504 - November 26: Queen Isabella dies. Ferdinand serves as regent of Castile for her successor, the insane daughter Juana, in the Netherlands with her husband, Prince Philip.

1504 - December : The sick Columbus sends brother Bartholomew and son Ferdinand to court at Segovia to join son Diego there in pressing his claims.

1505 - May: Columbus goes north to the court at Segovia by mule.

1505 - Early summer: Columbus is granted an audience with King Ferdinand.

1505 - August 25: He writes codicil to his will and attests will before a notary at Segovia; series of petitions to King Ferdinand.

1505 - Late October: Columbus follows the court to Salamanca; declines to negotiate about his titles.

1506 - April: Columbus follows the court to Valladolid, and sends Bartholomew with letter to demand justice of Queen Juana, who arrives in Spain at Coruña on April 28.

1506 - May 19: Columbus signs his last will and testament.

1506 - May 20: Columbus dies in Valladolid, and is buried at the Franciscan Monastery there.

1507 - Martin Waldseemuller proposes the New World be called "America" after Amerigo Vespucci.

1509 - Columbus's remains are moved to Carthusian monastery outside of Seville.

1514 - His brother Bartholomew dies and is buried at the Carthusian monastery.

1515 - His remaining brother, Diego, a priest, dies, and is also buried there.

1526 - Columbus's older son, Diego, dies and is buried at the Carthusian monastery.

1537 - Remains of Columbus and Diego are transferred to Hispaniola and interred in the Cathedral at Santo Domingo.

1539 - Columbus's other son, Fernando, dies and is buried in Seville Cathedral.

1795 - When Spanish withdraw from eastern Hispaniola (present-day Dominican Republic) and cede western Hispaniola (present-day Haiti) to the French, remains at Santo Domingo are hastily removed and taken to Havana.

1877 - Box discovered in Santo Domingo cathedral describing contents as remains of Columbus gives rise to theory that the remains of son Diego, not Christopher, had been sent to Havana.

1899 - After Spanish-American war and Cuban independence, remains in Havana, thought to be Columbus and his son Diego, are taken back to Seville to be interred in the cathedral there.

1960 - Contents of tomb at Santo Domingo are examined and found to contain incomplete remains of two different persons.

1992 - Remains in Santo Domingo cathedral are transferred to the huge new Columbus Lighthouse, the *Faro a Colón* in Santo Domingo.

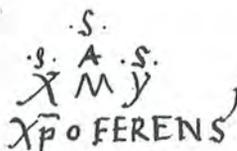
2003 - Remains of Fernando and purported remains of Columbus exhumed at the Seville Cathedral, as are those of the Admiral's brother Diego, all to be taken temporarily to Granada for DNA and other tests. (Columbus's casket found to contain remains of a single person, but only about 15% of his skeleton.)

2005-2006 - Results of tests are published. Researchers are convinced that Seville contains part of Columbus's bones and admit the possibility that Santo Domingo may also have part of them. Santo Domingo refuses to allow any tests.

EMS

+ + +

The original of John Vanderlyn's picture of the "Landing of Columbus at the Island of Guanahani, West Indies, October 12, 1492," reproduced at the beginning of this chronology, hangs in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. The statue of "Columbus in Chains" was given to Pope Pius XI on his golden jubilee, later bequeathed to Supreme Secretary of the Knights of Columbus (1939-1964) Joseph F. Lamb and is now in the Knights of Columbus Headquarters Museum in New Haven, Connecticut. (Photo by John Pelverts.)



Columbus's signature:
Christoferens - "Christbearer"

Union Station Then and Now

Union Station, the magnificent backdrop to our annual celebrations, is 100 years old this year. Pictured below is a photograph from about 1910, before the Columbus Memorial and Fountain were added. Missing, too, are the three flagpoles that would later come to represent the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María. The center picture is the main waiting area from that era (note lack of statues), and the bottom picture shows the same space as it is today.



The Columbus Memorial and Union Station

This year marks the 100th anniversary of completion of Union Station (though it was put into service in 1907). It was also exactly 100 years ago that the Columbus Memorial Commission, established by Congress in 1907, chose the plaza in front of the station as the site for the Columbus Memorial, then initiated a competition for the design of the memorial. The story of how Columbus came to stand in front of one of the capital's greatest landmarks is told here by William Wright, who is completing a doctoral dissertation on the history of Union Station at the University of North Carolina.

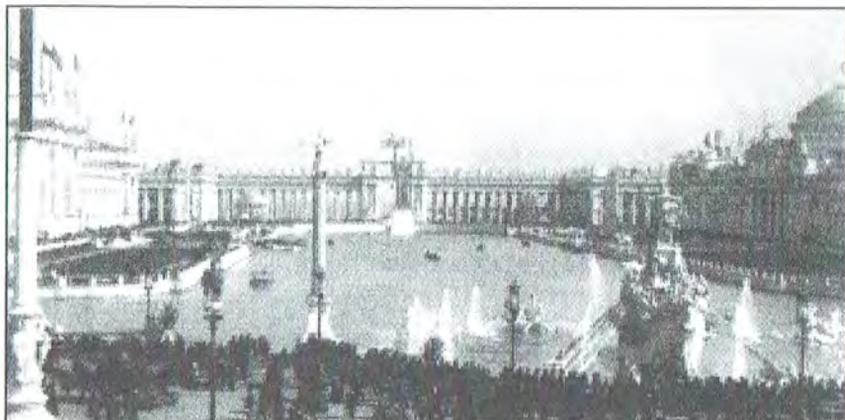
“**R**arely in the history of Washington,” concluded the *Evening Star*, the capital’s leading newspaper, “has there been a parade to equal that...following the unveiling of the Columbus Memorial statue.” The *Star* was not, in its story from the day after the June 8, 1912 ceremony, just indulging in the hyperbole that often seeped into papers at the turn of the century. The elements of the procession alone made it easy to see why the *Washington Post* labeled it “spectacular”: five floats, more than twenty bands, 1,000 soldiers, 1,200 sailors and marines, and more than 15,000 Knights of Columbus, all stepping off nearly three miles from the White House to Union Station. Spread along the route, cheering throughout a delightfully clear and comfortable Saturday afternoon, were tens of thousands of spectators.¹

What also made the parade exceptional was its conclusion. Greeting the marchers as they curved around the plaza at Union Station was the new Columbus Memorial. Brilliantly white marble reaching fifty feet up and stretching sixty feet across, it was, claimed the *Monumental News*, “the greatest monument ever erected to the memory of Christopher Columbus.”² Adding to the scene was the adjacent 2,500-person reviewing stand. Dressed in patriotic bunting, it hosted some of the most important people in the capital, including the Secretary of State, the Italian ambassador to the United States, and President Taft.

The good feelings that the monument inspired—which were reinforced by evening events that featured a dinner for more than 1,500 Knights, a concert, and two hours of fireworks on the Mall—made it easy to forget the work and conflict that had preceded its creation. Honoring Columbus at one of Washington’s most powerful buildings came only after disputes among government officials, architects, builders, and the Knights of Columbus. This process had an importance beyond a single memorial: it also demonstrated the efforts at the turn of the 20th century to redefine how the capital should look and whom it should represent.

The Trip from Chicago to Washington

The route to the Columbus Memorial at Union Station really started 700 miles away. The 1893 World’s Fair, located in Chicago’s Jackson Park, commemorated the 400th anniversary of the explorer’s arrival in the Americas. A well-founded fear of not being finished led the promoters of what



The Court of Honor was the heart of Chicago's 1893 World Columbian Exposition, influenced by the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris. The Chicago fair had about 200 separate buildings on a tract of 633 acres (Paris had 160 acres). The temporary Court of Honor buildings and the Palace of Fine Arts (now Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry) constituted the famous "White City." In the foreground to the right is the Columbian Fountain with its sculptured ship. The fountain influenced Washington's Columbus Memorial.

was officially known as the World Columbian Exposition to push its opening back a year, but the delay made little difference to the public. Attendance during the fair's six-month run totaled more than 27 million, a staggering number given that the country's population was less than 65 million. People came from around the world to see, as one of them put it, "the most stupendous, interesting and significant show ever spread out for the public."

The fair's theme helped inspire the monument at Union Station. Historian John Wilford Noble pointed out that the United States had always honored Columbus, who offered a young country a hero whose "vision and audacity [meant] there was now a land free from kings, a vast continent for new beginnings."³ This recognition was particularly clear in the nation's capital. Washington was, after all, named in part after Columbus, and he appeared in the city's public art, such as the paintings decorating the U.S. Capitol. By reminding Americans of his role in their country's history, the fair encouraged additional tributes, and by the end of the century, monuments to him stood in cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. Often leading these efforts were the Knights of Columbus, whose membership at the turn of the century had reached nearly 300,000.

The layout of the fair also pointed towards the station and its plaza. While people loved the new products they encountered, which ranged from Cracker Jack to shredded wheat to the Ferris Wheel, the dominant memory many took home was of the White City. This carefully arranged collection of buildings at the heart of the grounds, named after the ivory paint that covered each, presented an unforgettable demonstration of how architecture and art could create urban beauty. Even one of the most committed critics of the fair's style, architect Louis Sullivan, admitted that the fair's design "penetrated deep into the constitution of the American mind."⁴

Overseeing the development of the White City was Daniel Burnham. Already a successful Chicago-based architect, Burnham used his role as the fair's Director of Works to promote a series of principles: the feasibility of comprehensively planning infrastructure such as sewers and lighting; the appropriateness of neoclassical elements such as columns and arches for major public buildings; and the benefits that resulted from grouping architecture and sculpture around public space. In the years that followed, both the White City and the movement it helped inspire, City Beautiful, helped shape how Americans improved their communities.



Daniel Burnham had a key role in the development of the Chicago World's Fair, Washington's Union Station, the post office next door, the Columbus Memorial, and the monumental core of Washington.

The success of the fair helped make Burnham the country's most famous architect and planner, and his firm grew to 200 staff. By 1901, he was a central figure in two projects that would radically change Washington. He had joined architect Charles McKim and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., both of whom had worked at the fair, as the experts for a commission the U.S. Senate had created to beautify the capital. The McMillan Commission, as it was often known to recognize the Michigan senator who sponsored it, produced a comprehensive plan to improve metropolitan Washington, particularly what became the monumental core along the Mall.

In addition, by this point D.H. Burnham & Co. had been hired by the Pennsylvania Railroad to design its new Washington terminal. For the previous thirty years, the city had been served by two stations. At New Jersey Avenue and C Street NW stood the Baltimore & Ohio depot, an Italianate structure built in 1852 and subsequently expanded rather awkwardly. In 1873 the rival Pennsylvania, along with the carriers coming from the South, began operating a three-story red brick building at Sixth and B Streets NW. (B would not become

Constitution Avenue for another half-century.) It was a remarkable and depressing location: the PRR's political influence enabled it to occupy fourteen acres of the Mall and to send 100 trains each day across what should have been the capital's central park.

The doubling of Washington's population between 1870 and 1900 to 270,000 left the city with stations that were, as the *Evening Star* put it in the 1890s, "inadequate and discreditable."⁵ Not only did the tourist trade—already the third largest contributor to the local economy, behind government and construction—suffer because the facilities limited traffic, but those visitors who did come failed to receive an appropriately impressive welcome to the capital of the increasingly powerful United States.

These conditions helped explain why most of Washington was delighted when, in October 1901, news leaked that the city was to receive what would

become Union Station. At the beginning of the year, Congress had given the B&O and the PRR the right to build separate, larger stations in return for eliminating virtually all of the fifty grade crossings—street level intersections between rails and roads—that endangered pedestrian and carriage traffic. While the new plan would also remove the grade crossings, now all of the city's carriers would operate from an elegant new terminal just north of the Capitol.

Driving this change was Alexander Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania. While his appreciation for art (his sister Mary was the country's premier Impressionist) made it easy for him to see the aesthetic benefits of removing his railroad from the Mall, his main motivation was financial. The PRR feared that growing public interest in City Beautiful principles, particularly for parks, would force it from the Mall in the not-too-distant future, requiring it to pay for yet another station somewhere else. Cassatt chose to share facilities (and construction costs) with the Baltimore & Ohio, a decision he could make because the PRR currently owned a controlling share of the B&O. The *Evening Star* again summarized local feelings, celebrating that Washington would finally have a terminal "befitting in architecture and cost...the dignity of the capital city."⁶

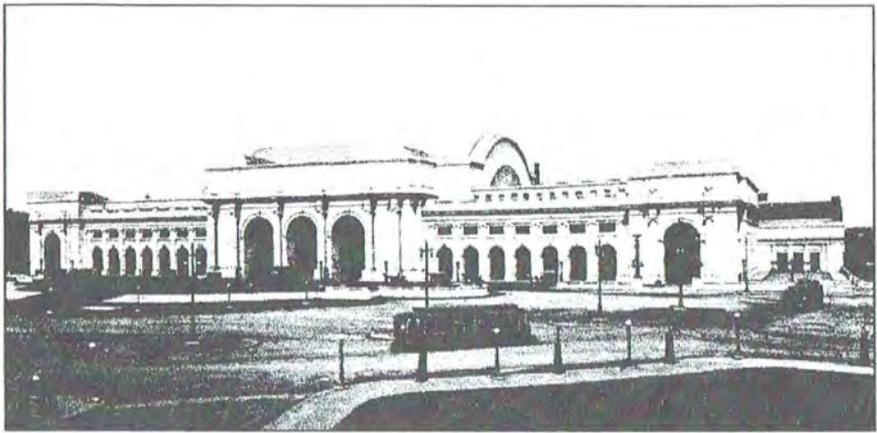
Outside Washington's Gateway

It would be eighteen months, however, before construction of Union Station began. Much of the delay resulted from a dispute over the area outside the front doors of the building through which most people would enter Washington. This fight took place in the Capitol, since at this time Congress served as Washington's city council and had to approve a new terminal,

The central issue was whether federal government should buy enough land in front of the building in order to create a plaza. Leading the opposition were a group of House members who labeled themselves "economists" because of their belief in limited federal spending, particularly physical improvements. Fighting just as hard to keep the plaza were people who saw it as money well spent to beautify Washington. "The railroads can get along without this Grand Court," Burnham argued, "but we cannot. It is essential to the [McMillan Plan's] broad scheme of improvement."⁷ President Cassatt's admiration for public spaces such as the Place de la Concorde in Paris led him to support something similar in Washington, even when the economists threatened to hold up the entire Union Station Act because of it. Ultimately, enough House members joined the Senate to pass a bill that included funding for a plaza.

Washington was one of many cities deciding on the best approach to its terminal. Though not every new depot included a plaza—in New York, neither the new Pennsylvania Station nor the new Grand Central Station would have one—an open space out front appealed to many people. Railroad men liked how it made the entrance to their place of business obvious. Municipal officials were happy to have a spot where crowds could welcome visitors without blocking surrounding streets. Architects wanted their work in what Peirce Anderson, Burnham's chief designer, called "a proper setting" and, more broadly, favored focal points that simultaneously identified important buildings and beautified a city.

Planners first worked on how to make the plaza, a semi-circle with a 450-foot radius, fit into the city. It would intersect six roads—Massachusetts and



Union Station, showing the semi-circular plaza before the three flagpoles and the Columbus Memorial and Fountain were erected. In front of the building and just to the right of the lamp post in the very center of the picture and above the trolley is the basin of the eastern fountain.

Delaware avenues; First, California, E, and F streets—and had to keep traffic moving, stay within a limited budget, and create a proper setting for the new station. It took nearly five months of hearings and negotiations in 1904 to produce a plan, largely the work of the District's engineers and Olmsted, that balanced convenience, cost, and appearance.

The other main question about the plaza involved its interior. The municipal engineers, Anderson, and Olmsted all wanted to avoid a great expanse of asphalt, which would be hot during Washington's summers and boring all the time, and so they divided the area into three sections. They devoted the 250 feet around its southern edge to through traffic: an outer lane would carry trolleys; an inner one, cars and carriages. Along the front of the building would run a roadway 75 feet wide, also divided into channels for streetcars and private vehicles. The half-moon left in the middle would be decorative and, it turned out, much in demand.

The first proposal for its use appeared in the fall of 1904. Anderson and Olmsted believed that the streets approaching the plaza created three focal points, and on each of those spots they placed a fountain. The result was an isosceles triangle whose base lay parallel to the front of the building; along this base they added three 60-foot flagpoles, and they increased the size of the central, forward fountain.

Yet work would not start for five years. Part of the delay resulted from the conditions at the station itself. Its builders initially claimed it would open for the 1905 inauguration, but construction delays (there were also major cost overruns) meant the first train, a B&O express from Pittsburgh, did not arrive until October 1907. The Pennsylvania and the southern lines shifted from the Mall three weeks later, a gap that resulted largely from the unfinished state of the terminal. Only in May 1908 did the full building open, and even then it would be years until all the decorative elements, such as the legionnaires around the waiting room mezzanine, were in place.

Part of what held up work on the plaza was what lay underfoot. It stood on more than 30 feet of landfill, and the District government, worried about having to pay for repairs, refused to allow construction until the dirt had settled. Only in the summer of 1909 did workmen install the east fountain, which, like its twin,

consisted of three huge pieces of polished green granite: a 9-ton base, a 5-ton basin rest, and an 18-ton basin. The bowl, which had a circumference of 13 feet, was so heavy that only one freight car in the Northeastern U.S. could carry it, and a special derrick had to be imported from New York to lift it into place. The western fountain soon followed.

By the time the crane swung into action, however, the plan for the central focal point had changed radically. Recognizing that the plaza would be one of Washington's most visible spots, advocates for various monuments began trying to replace the main fountain with their heroes. Among the first lobbyists were promoters of the memorial to U.S. Grant, but District Engineer Commission John Biddle turned them down after Burnham explained that placing a rectangular sculpture on a semi-circular plaza would create a "confusion of effect." Burnham also stopped an attempt to install statues of Revolutionary War heroes John Barry and John Paul Jones, arguing that a work with two main elements would sit poorly on what was one focal point.

Bringing Columbus to Union Station

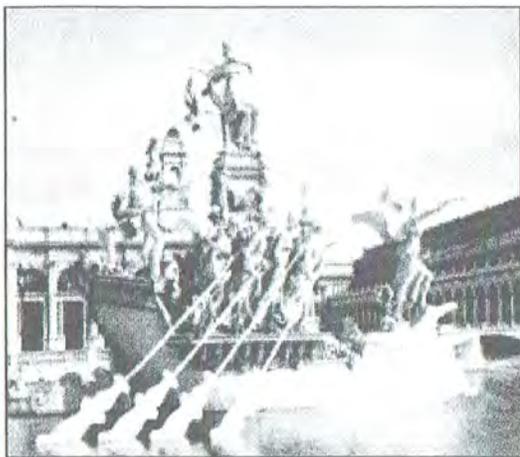
It was at this moment that Christopher Columbus reappeared at Union Station. In 1905, Burnham, Cassatt, and others had discussed whether the building front should include a frieze highlighting key moments or figures in American history. These ideas were subsequently abandoned, however, and Burnham and Anderson instead topped the columns along the main entrance with allegorical figures representing agriculture, electricity, fire, imagination, justice, and the mechanical arts.

The Columbus Memorial Commission reintroduced Columbus to the terminal. In early 1907, after an extensive campaign to recognize the explorer in stone, Congress had passed legislation that appropriated \$100,000 for a memorial and created a commission to select a site. Despite the importance of location to any monument, however, the commission's search barely qualified as perfunctory. Its five *ex officio* members—the head of the Knights, then Edward L. Hearn; the chairs of Senate and House committees on buildings in the Capitol complex; and the secretaries of War and State—met only once during their first year, and the minutes from that May 1907 meeting show that they discussed only the plaza. This failure to consider any other locations indicates that they must have reached their decision before the meeting.

The origins of this conclusion remain unclear, however. Col. Charles Bromwell, the commission's executive officer, wrote that its members were "influenced by the sentiment that as this District is named after the great discoverer, it would be fitting that his statue should be the first object seen by those entering the city," but he never explained the origin of that feeling. It did not come from the District officials; when asked their opinion, they deferred to Burnham. Though the architect rarely declined credit, this time he said simply that he had "no objection" to the plan and parroted that "the Memorial to Columbus should be the first object to meet the eye of each person as he enters the District."¹¹

In March 1908, after the commission officially chose the plaza as its site, Burnham's firm gave the five members revised drawings that kept the flagpoles and the two smaller fountains but replaced the forward fountain with the monument. Accompanying these drawings was some of the salesmanship that would characterize Burnham's career. Although only an informal consultant at this

point, he declared that he would prefer to select a sculptor with whom he would collaborate. If the commissioners wanted a competition, he continued, his firm should create the general design from which the contestants worked. The



The flamboyant centerpiece of the Columbian Fountain in the Chicago Fair was this sculptured ship, which enthroned a female Columbia rather than Columbus himself. Columbus statues or tributes, however, were found at many other places in the fair. Washington's fountain would be centered on a considerably simpler monument and sculpture of Columbus himself.

commissioners did decide to hold a competition, and D.H. Burnham and Co. soon had a contract to develop the "architectural" features on which sculptors would base their submissions.

Burnham and Anderson included in their design a two-level fountain intended to recall how Columbus had sailed the ocean blue, and made the larger, bottom basin semi-circular to echo the shape of the plaza. At either end of its rim, to represent power, they placed a lion. The center of their composition was a 45-foot tall rectangular pylon, on top of which was the globe Columbus helped explore; surrounding it were eagles that symbolized the United States.

These details appeared in the "Programme of Competition" released in the summer of 1908. Inside its steel blue covers were directions that told sculptors to focus on the central section of the memorial, particularly the front face of the pylon:

The subject of the competition is a figure of COLUMBUS standing above a sculptured motive suggesting the ship; this motive to be treated with or without accessory emblems suggesting NAVIGATION and with or without figures typifying VICTORY or THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY...the size, outline and attitude of the figure of Columbus, as well as the size and treatment of the ship motive, are left entirely to the discretion of the sculptor.

Though the base had to be granite to match the station, the explorer and his ship could be granite, bronze, or a combination of the two. Anyone could enter the competition by paying \$8 (plus shipping and handling) for the drawings and the models on which they were to base their designs.¹³ The commission also invited six sculptors to compete, encouraging their participation by offering each a \$500 honorarium. Their backgrounds indicated the politics of commemorating Columbus: one was Italian, two Spanish, and three American. Plaster models were due by December 1, and the five commissioners would make their decision "after calling on such expert advice as they may deem advisable."¹⁴ The winner would receive a contract for \$20,000, the second and third place finishers each \$500; the rest of Congress's \$100,000 appropriation would go for construction.



Union Station as it appeared in the later years of the twentieth century, showing the Columbus Memorial and Fountain with Lorado Taft's sculpture of Columbus on the right. Also prominent are the magnificent three flagpoles. Almost an inch from the left edge of the photo is a lamp post, and immediately to its left the west basin of the Plaza can be seen. This is essentially how Union Station, its Columbus Plaza, and the Memorial and Fountain look today. A replica of the Liberty Bell has been placed behind the monument.

Twenty entries ultimately arrived in Washington at the Old Executive Office Building. On the last Sunday of 1908, Bromwell brought four sculptors from New York to provide the "expert advice" the program had described, and that group unanimously recommended model No. 3. It came from Philip Martiny of New York, whose sculpture already adorned the Library of Congress. They also chose as runners-up numbers 11, 15, 19 and 9.

The commissioners rewarded these comments by ignoring them. They also asked Burnham for his opinion, which he provided in February. He too admired No. 3, ranking it second on its "strength of conception and brilliant execution," and later offered to buy the model from Martiny. But "the one which in its general character will fit in best with the surroundings of the Plaza and the Station" and that "impresses me as the finest conception of Columbus the Explorer" was number 8, by Lorado Taft of Chicago.

Burnham's preference for an entry the panel had ignored can be explained several ways. He likely recognized it as Taft's work, having asked the sculptor to contribute to the World's Fair and Union Station and having recommended that he be an invited competitor. (The commission had already decided on that step.) Perhaps Taft had secretly agreed to be the collaborator Burnham had wanted, and working in the same city would have made it easy for them to shape the memorial. Maybe Taft's background was decisive: selecting the cousin of the man about to move into the White House might have benefits.

Neither of these explanations seems likely, however. Though Burnham aggressively pursued his ideas, he took pride in his principles, and it is therefore difficult to imagine him violating the contest's prohibition against communicating with the entrants or choosing an artist for political reasons. Taft did come from a powerful family, but he was successful on his own. After gaining entrance to the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, he established his own studio, from which he fulfilled commissions from across the country.

Burnham seems to have favored Taft's entry for the reasons he gave to the commissioners. The plaza and the station "had been designed to be very simple in mass and sober in detail," and this composition, particularly its "absence of

mass and sober in detail," and this composition, particularly its "absence of anything theatrical," exhibited the same characteristics.⁶ Taft showed Columbus standing calmly above the prow of the ship, his arms folded in contemplation, which fit with Burnham's questionable belief that Columbus was "only incidentally a sailor, a soldier or a courtier; he was primarily a great thinker." Taft's ship was similarly understated, its single decoration a female figure representing discovery, and no figures cluttered the basin. Martiny's model was, as Burnham put it, far more "exuberant:" Columbus pointed dramatically to the sky as he reached land, and the fountain featured figures such as a primitive sailor and Triton, the Greek sea god with the lower body of a dolphin.

Though the commissioners accepted Burnham's recommendation and then Taft's scale model, they soon began giving artistic advice. In June 1910, one complained that the design was not "sufficiently imposing or of sufficient merit artistically." He particularly disliked the human figures Taft had added on either side of the main shaft to represent the Old and New Worlds that Columbus had connected. The bearded figure in a toga and the American Indian "may have some mystic meaning, but I confess that after considerable thought I cannot discover it." The lions also came under criticism, with Secretary of War Henry Stimson complaining that they did not compare to the bison on the McKinley Memorial in Buffalo.

The commission's rules required disagreements to be resolved at a meeting with all five members, but with Stimson in China much of the fall, that discussion did not occur until December. At that point the members relented and approved Taft's design, but the delay forced Spencer Cosby, who had replaced Bromwell as executive officer, to grant the sculptor six additional months. As a result, the tentative unveiling date of October 12, 1911—Columbus Day, naturally, and a time when the Knights had planned to be in Washington for their annual convention—slipped away.

As with the station itself, construction of the memorial soon developed problems. Burnham's office had sent Cosby a list of contractors "whom we have found to be perfectly reliable," and the commission settled on J. C. Robinson & Son, a New York firm that provided the low bid. By the fall of 1911, however, the builders and the architects were fighting regularly: over how many men the job required, over what type of piles would support the monument's 130-ton weight, about whether Robinson was trying to sneak in stone already rejected as inferior. Arguments would continue well in 1913, largely because Robinson & Sons paid its subcontractors very slowly.

Unveiling the Memorial—and More Conflicts

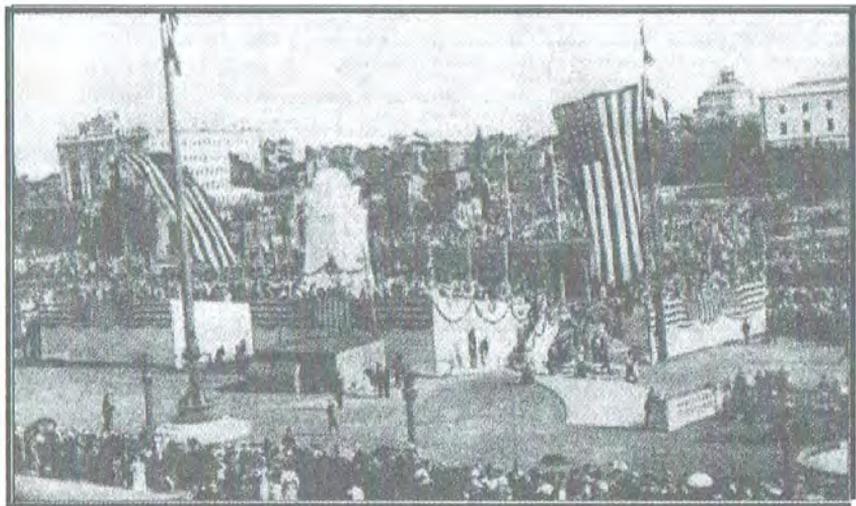
The opening ceremony, finally set for June 8, 1912, produced its own conflicts. Though they rarely said so directly, the Knights' leadership believed that honoring Columbus would help fight the anti-Catholic feeling that had run throughout American history. It offered an exceptional opportunity to prove "our fidelity...[and] our patriotism," and so the leaders pushed their members to attend the unveiling.²⁰ "Your DUTY to your Country, your Order and Yourself demands that you be present," insisted *The Columbiad*. "You may have to make some sacrifice of time and money, but DUTY demands sacrifice."²¹

This pressure may help explain why Edward Hearn, having retired from his insurance business in order to devote more time to the Knights, became increasingly testy as he worked on the unveiling with Cosby. Though no longer the

Supreme Knight, he threatened an "investigation" when he believed, for no obvious reason, that Cosby was withholding information about the date, and he became even more hostile during planning of the ceremony. After telling *The Columbiad* that his daughter would unveil the statue, Hearn became furious when Cosby reminded him of a meeting at which the two of them had agreed that the Italian or the Spanish ambassador would be a more appropriate choice.²² His outrage increased when he found that the Knights would receive 500 of the 2500 seats in the viewing stand, not the 1000 he expected. "[I]t has been quite clear to me for some time that a feeling of prejudice has been seeping into your office," Hearn snapped, "and that your desire has been, in response to that sentiment, to minimize any Catholic activity in connection with the unveiling." After noting on this letter's margin that such statements were "most amazing," Cosby decided not to answer.

The scene on the plaza on June 8 pushed these conflicts far into the background. Joining President Taft and the Italian ambassador on the viewing stand were the heads of the Army and the Navy, leaders of Congress past and present, the Columbus Memorial Commission, and the ambassadors from Spain, Britain, and Germany. Sadly absent was Burnham, who had died the previous week from colitis complicated by diabetes. On either side of the monument were sixty-foot-tall poles decorated to look like masts, and running between them was a steel cable. From it, hanging all the way to the ground, were two sixty-foot versions of the American flag, positioned so they wrapped the memorial's central shaft; white sheets covered the prow of the ship and the lions.

The ceremony began just before 3 p.m., when sailors in white uncovered the lions. After Secretary of State Knox introduced a series of speakers, the Italian ambassador approached ropes hanging at the edge of the stage. As he pulled, the



The unveiling ceremony as seen from the western section of Union Station, looking generally southeast, toward the rear of the monument. The two large flags covered the memorial and their parting constituted the unveiling. The domed building to the right of the picture is the Library of Congress. This rearward view of the monument is approximately as it is encountered by visitors exiting Union Station into the city. In the extreme lower right corner about half of the basin of the west fountain of the plaza can be seen.

two flags parted, and the powerful June sun illuminated the white marble of the memorial. Sailors simultaneously raised huge flags of Spain and Italy alongside the monument, and artillerymen fired a twenty-one-gun salute. Only after several minutes did the crowd's applause quiet enough for the President to give his remarks.

The ceremony's benediction had just ended as the head of the parade reached the plaza. For the next two hours, the thousands standing and sitting on either side of Massachusetts Avenue reviewed the bands, floats, military men, and marching Knights. At the end of the procession, Taft laid the first of many wreaths at the base of the memorial, and then the city's engineers turned on the fountain. The Knights finished their day with a banquet at Convention Hall, while the rest of the city enjoyed two hours of fireworks launched from the base of the Washington Monument.

Initial reactions glowed like the memorial had. *The New York Times* called it "splendid" and *The Columbiad* wrote that although "the tribute no doubt was tardy,"

...the beauty and impressiveness of the memorial to Columbus, and the dignity and brilliancy which marked the unveiling, were such as to make the spectator forget the long years of neglect in the joy of feeling that at last the Great Discoverer, Columbus the Catholic, had come into his own.²³

Others shared the belief that the unveiling marked an important step towards a more inclusive society. "Like the ceremonies of the unveiling itself," a reporter from the *Star* noted, the banquet "marked anew the important position of the Knights of Columbus as an Order in the social fabric of the United States."²⁴

Everything was not done, however. During the winter of 1917, a Latin American artist visiting Washington noticed that Columbus's date of death had been written "MDIV," not "MDVI," and so the firm now known as Graham, Burnham & Co. hired a stonemason to repair the mistake. It never was, however, so the date of death has remained incorrect.

Other problems were harder to fix. Burnham had noted the appropriateness of "a properly designed memorial facing the station," yet the "architectural features" he and Anderson created forced competitors to face their designs south—that is, away from the terminal. One visitor later summarized the problem by noting that Columbus had "his back turned to incoming guests of the National Capital," giving travelers little chance to grasp the monument's symbolism. The memorial's size was another failing, as it was so large that it prevented someone in the portico's center doorway from seeing the Capitol.²⁵

This design did make sense from another perspective, however. It presented itself beautifully when viewed from the Capitol—its symbolism was clearly visible, and its scale fit well with the massive building behind. Characteristics such as these suggest Burnham may have developed other goals for the memorial.

Nor has the memorial ever had a setting that would allow visitors to appreciate it fully. Though early drawings and photographs suggested the plaza would be a calm, orderly space, the real one quickly became chaotic. The main source of trouble was the automobile, which Washingtonians took to so eagerly that by the 1920s, a higher percentage of them drove to work than in any other major American city. The increased speed of traffic led to so many accidents—between cars, trolleys, and pedestrians—that in the 1940s one Congressman called it "the most dangerous spot in Washington."²⁶ A series of modifications since then have attempted to create a calmer, safer plaza, but the

limitations of those changes are clear from the recent announcement that the District government will soon undertake another redesign.

Regardless of its setting, the Columbus Memorial has stood for nearly 100 years as a key element of Washington. Its creation illustrated both ideas about design that were moving across the country at the turn of the century and about the need for the city to look like the capital of a powerful nation. Since its unveiling, the monument has helped introduce millions of people each year to Washington, to the United States, and to a man who was crucial to the history of both.

Notes

1. *Washington Evening Star* (hereafter *Star*), Jun. 9, 1912, 2; *Washington Post*, Jun. 9, 1912, 1.
2. "Great Columbus National Memorial Unveiled," *The Monumental News*, Sep. 1912, 707.
3. John Noble Wilford, *The Mysterious History of Columbus: An Exploration of the Man, the Myth, the Legacy* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992), 252.
4. Thomas S. Hines, *Burnham of Chicago: Architect and Planner* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), 123.
5. *Star*, Mar. 7, 1894, 4.
6. *Star*, Oct. 15, 1901, 1.
7. Charles Moore, *Daniel H. Burnham; Architect, Planner of Cities* (New York, Da Capo Press, 1968), vol. I, 160.
8. Pierce Anderson to Alexander Cassatt, Sep. 15, 1904, Series I, Daniel H. Burnham Collection, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago (hereafter Burnham Papers).
9. Daniel Burnham to John Biddle, Jan. 8, 1906, Series I, Burnham Papers.
10. This material comes from Records of the Columbus Memorial Commission, Correspondence and other Records of the Executive and Disbursing Officer, 1907-1912, Record Group 42; National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland (hereafter Columbus Memorial Commission).
11. Burnham to Jay J. Morrow, Jul. 6, 1907, Entry 343, Box 1, Columbus Memorial Commission.
12. Minutes of the Commission, Feb. 4, 1908, Entry 340, Columbus Memorial Commission.
13. Bromwell to Mrs. Vinne Ream Hoxie, Apr. 7, 1908, Entry 343, Box 1 Columbus Memorial Commission. Among the unsuccessful bidders for the model-making contract was McNulty Bros., the firm that had handled interior plastering at the station.
14. Programme of Competition for the Sculpture of the Memorial to Christopher Columbus to be Erected in Washington, D.C., Entry 343, Box 1, Columbus Memorial Commission.
15. Burnham to Bromwell, Feb. 13, 1909, Entry 343, Box 2, Columbus Memorial Commission.
16. *Ibid.*
17. See, for example, Burnham to James McCleary, Aug. 11, 1910, Entry 343, Box 3, Columbus Memorial Commission.
18. Anderson to Thomas J. Donovan. Jun. 29, 1909, Entry 343, Box 3, Columbus Memorial Commission..
19. Daniel H. Burnham, Jr. to Ulysses S. Grant III, Sep. 29, 1911, Entry 343, Box 4, Columbus Memorial Commission.
20. *The Columbiad*, Feb. 1912, 10.
21. *The Columbiad*, May 1912, 1.
22. Letters between Hearn and Cosby, May 1918, Entry 343, Box 2, Columbus Memorial Commission.
23. *The Columbiad*, July 1912, 1.
24. Quoted in Christopher J. Kauffman, *Faith and Fraternalism: the History of the Knights of Columbus, 1882-1982* (New York : Harper & Row,)1982), 163.
25. *Post*, Jan. 29, 1930, 6.
26. *Post*, May 22, 1929, 20.

Why all those American flags?

Honor America Program and Honor America Corps

This is the third year that the Columbus Day celebration has been enhanced by the inclusion of all 27 of the official historic American flags, carried by a special group of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus known as the "Honor America Corps," a part of the "Honor America Program" established several years ago in Virginia and this past August winner of the top award in the Knights of Columbus for patriotic programs. Here we explain that program and its "Honor America Corps," and provide some background history of the United States flag.

The purpose of the Honor America Program is to reinforce, through education and by example, a broader knowledge and a deeper understanding of the heritage and traditions associated with and represented by the official, historical, and special flags of the United States. It was established in 2003 by Knights of Columbus of Rappahannock Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus under the leadership of Colonel Bill McCarthy, U. S. Army (Ret.), who serves as its director.

It is a multi-faceted education program. While to date it has mainly involved civic and fraternal activities, the primary objective is to reach the youngest citizens through parochial and public school systems. If they can be taught to honor and respect the flag, they may carry those lessons with them throughout their lives and pass them on to their own children.

There are four component subprograms: a school program, civic program, fraternal program, and liturgical program:

The **school program** involves an historical presentation centered on the display of a number of flags, both official and historical. The purpose is to engender an active interest in the flags and their significance, as well as possibly touch upon a few of the U.S. History Standards of Learning. The presentation consists of a static display of flags, accompanied by music combined with a brief narrative presentation, followed by a question and answer session. It normally lasts about 30 to 45 minutes.

The **civic program** supports a broad spectrum of civic events, such as the presentation of flags at Special Olympic opening ceremonies, a welcome home ceremony for National Guard soldiers returning from combat, Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, an annual display on Religious Freedom Day, opening ceremonies at professional baseball games, presentations to Boy and Girl Scout troops, and parades on Presidents' Day and Independence Day.

The **fraternal program** supports a wide range of fraternal events, including the presentation of flags at Honor the Clergy dinners, council social meetings, Past Grand Knight dinners, Fourth Degree exemplifications, Fourth Degree officers' installations, Fourth Degree meetings, Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament fundraisers, and Virginia State Council quarterly meetings.

The **liturgical program** supports church-related events, such as council and assembly corporate communions, memorial Masses (Memorial Day, 9/11 anniversary, Veterans Day, etc.), and funerals for fallen military heroes.

The basis for the foregoing program is the Honor America Corps flag collection, which currently has 56 official, historical, and special flags. Each flag in the collection was generously donated by patriotic individuals or organizations in support of the Honor America Program. The collection is broken down as follows:

Replicas of each of the 27 **official flags** that have flown over the United States since the birth of the nation are included in the collection.

- Replicas of *17 flags of historical significance* are currently included in the collection. There is potential for significant growth in this portion of the collection as many Knights in the Rappahannock Assembly come from areas with ties to historical flags.
- The number of *special flags* in the collection currently stands at 12.
- The four subprograms described above are complemented and supported by other activities:
 - Specific *ceremonies have been developed* for a number of activities and events, including Fourth Degree Exemplifications, Columbus Day and Flag Day observances, and flagpole dedications.
 - A series of *tri-fold pamphlets* have been designed for distribution to schools, civic organizations, and Knights of Columbus organizations. The pamphlets provide a brief description of the Honor America Program and the Honor America Corps and each pamphlet has a message tailored for its intended audience.
 - The *program's website* (www.honoramericacorps.org) is educational and informative in nature, and also serves as a recruiting and a fundraising tool. In addition to providing descriptions of the Honor America Program and the Honor America Corps, it provides a picture of each flag currently in the Corp's collection, a list of upcoming events, a Roll of Honor listing those individuals and organizations that have made financial contributions in support of the Honor America Program, and a virtual library of information related to the flag and the founding of our Nation.
 - To accomplish the program's objective, *the Honor America Corps* was established to provide a cadre of Knights willing to visit, on a regular basis, area parochial schools and school districts of Central Virginia as well as participate in civic and fraternal events to offer a clearer understanding of the meaning of our flag.

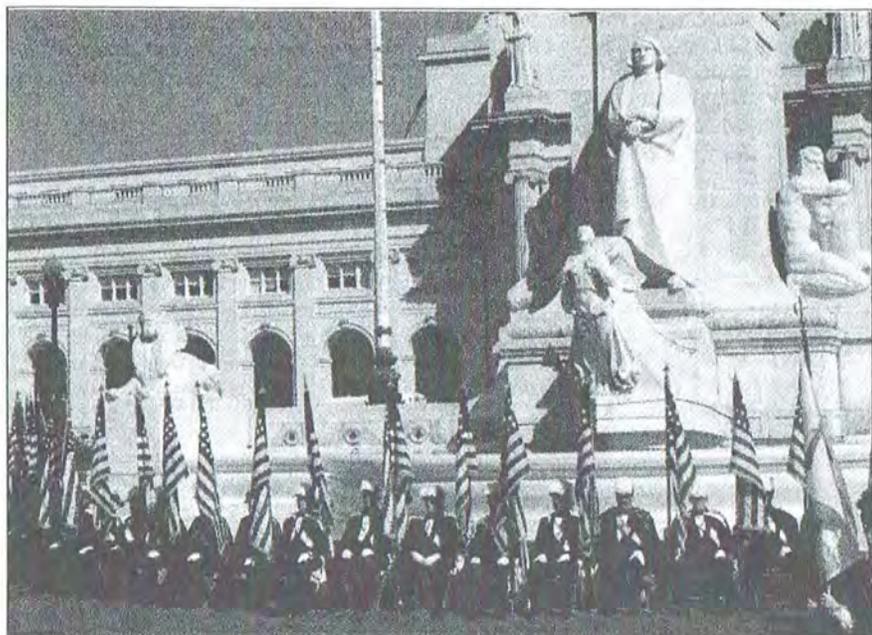
While the core membership of the Honor America Corps cadre comes from the Rappahannock Assembly, it is open to all Knights who are willing and able to participate in Honor America Corps activities. For example, participants in the annual Presidents' Day Parade in Alexandria, VA have come from several Northern Virginia assemblies. Newly-exemplified Fourth Degree Knights from the Virginia, Archdiocese of Washington, and Pennsylvania Districts carry the flags at their respective Exemplification dinners. However, undoubtedly the most impressive Honor America Corps response to date was the response by the cadre to the funeral for a fallen warrior – Colonel Paul M. Kelly, United States Army – when Knights from 13 Virginia assemblies carried the US flags in his honor.

Since its inception in 2003, the Honor America Corps has appeared before approximately 67,000 people. The audiences have ranged in size from over 6,000 at a minor league baseball game to 8 at a National Cemetery ceremony. No audience is too small for the Honor America Corps. If an event has a profound effect on one attendee, then the event is a success.

To date, several hundred Knights from councils and assemblies throughout Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia have proudly participated in Honor America Corps activities. With each passing fraternal year, the demand for appearances by the Honor America Corps has increased.

Additional information about the Honor America Corps can be found at www.honoramericacorps.org/. More information about the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and the history of the 27 official U.S. flags follows below.

The term “Fourth Degree” of the Knights of Columbus refers both to a grade of membership and, collectively, to those who have reached that grade, the highest in the order. A man becomes a full-fledged Knight when he receives the Third Degree, and the Fourth Degree is optional, about a sixth of the



*The Honor America Corps at their first appearance
at the national Columbus Day Celebration (2006)*



members in the order (but about a third in the District of Columbia) being Fourth Degree members. The basic unit of the order is the council, and a member must be a current member of a council to be a current member of the Fourth Degree, which is organized into assemblies.

The basic principle of the Fourth Degree is patriotism, and it is known as the Patriotic Degree, patriotism being understood as the cultivation of responsible citizenship and the promotion of good government.

Within the Fourth Degree there is a special group of volunteers known as the Color Corps, who—attired in tuxedos, capes and chapeaux at their own expense—enhance civic and religious events, and are known as “the visible arm of the Knights.” The colors of the capes indicate offices held or formerly held: red for rank and file members; white for the Faithful Navigators (i.e., CEOs) of assemblies, gold for Masters (in charge of the Fourth Degree for an entire state, or in this case, the Archdiocese of Washington which includes DC and five Maryland counties), and blue for the Vice Supreme Master who is in charge of the Fourth Degree in a region of a number of states. In addition, there are some roles expressly involved with direction of the Color Corps: the current commanders of the Color Corps in local assemblies (purple), and the current marshal and assistant marshals of the Color Corps for all of the assemblies in a state or several states (green).

The United States flag was adopted by the resolution of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, “That the flag of the thirteen united States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the union be 13 stars, white on a blue field representing a new constellation.” The design originated with Francis Hopkinson, chairman of the Continental Navy Board of the Congress, and was apparently originally intended for naval use.

After Vermont achieved statehood on March 4, 1791 and Kentucky on June 1, 1792, Congress adopted and President Washington signed a law on January 13, 1794 providing that after May 1, 1795 “the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white; and that the union be fifteen stars white in a blue field.” That was the only time that the official flag had more than 13 stripes.

By 1818 five more states had been admitted to the Union with no change in the flag law, and in that year a new law was adopted: “That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be twenty stars, white, in a blue field....That on the admission of every state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission.” This was the first time that the stripes were specified to be horizontal. While official flags followed that design, usually with the stars arranged in horizontal rows, unofficial flags varied greatly.

After the admission of New Mexico and Arizona in 1912 brought the number of states to 48, President Taft issued an executive order specifying the arrangement of the stars, as well as standard proportions, and sizes of official flags. The 48-star flag remained in use for more than forty-six years, including two world wars. The next flag, with 49 stars, was in use for only one year, from July 4, 1959 (after admission of Alaska on January 3) to July 4, 1960 (after admission of Hawaii on August 21, 1959), when our current 50-star flag was adopted—forty-eight years ago.

See next page for a complete list of the 27 historical official flags.

Quotations are taken from William Rea Furlong and Byron McCandless, *So Proudly We Hail: The History of the United States Flag*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC 1981, pp. 98, 158, and 185; description of Taft’s executive order is on p. 212.

The 27 Official Flags of the United States

State	Date Ratified or Admitted	Flag Design	Dates in Use	No. of Stars	No. Stripes
1 Delaware	Dec. 7, 1787				
2 Pennsylvania	Dec. 12, 1787				
3 New Jersey	Dec. 18, 1787				
4 Georgia	Jan. 2, 1788				
5 Connecticut	Jan. 9, 1788				
6 Massachusetts	Feb. 6, 1788				
7 Maryland	April 28, 1788				
8 South Carolina	May 23, 1788	1st	1777-1795	13	13
9 New Hampshire	June 21, 1788				
10 Virginia	June 25, 1788				
11 New York	July 26, 1788				
12 North Carolina	Nov. 21, 1789				
13 Rhode Island	May 29, 1790				
14 Vermont	March 4, 1791				
15 Kentucky	June 1, 1792				
16 Tennessee	June 1, 1796				
17 Ohio	March 1, 1803				
18 Louisiana	April 30, 1812	2nd	1795-1818	15	15
19 Indiana	Dec. 11, 1816				
20 Mississippi	Dec. 10, 1817	3rd	July 4, 1818	20	13
21 Illinois	Dec. 3, 1818	4th	July 4, 1819	21	13
22 Alabama	Dec. 14, 1819				
23 Maine	March 15, 1820	5th	July 4, 1820	23	13
24 Missouri	Aug. 10, 1821	6th	July 4, 1822	24	13
25 Arkansas	June 15, 1836	7th	July 4, 1836	25	13
26 Michigan	Jan. 26, 1837	8th	July 4, 1837	26	13
27 Florida	March 3, 1845	9th	July 4, 1845	27	13
28 Texas	Dec. 29, 1845	10th	July 4, 1846	28	13
29 Iowa	Dec. 28, 1846	11th	July 4, 1847	29	13
30 Wisconsin	May 29, 1848	12th	July 4, 1848	30	13
31 California	Sept. 9, 1850	13th	July 4, 1851	31	13
32 Minnesota	May 11, 1858	14th	July 4, 1858	32	13
33 Oregon	Feb. 14, 1859	15th	July 4, 1859	33	13
34 Kansas	Jan. 29, 1861	16th	July 4, 1861	34	13
35 West Virginia	June 20, 1863	17th	July 4, 1863	35	13
36 Nevada	Oct. 31, 1864	18th	July 4, 1865	36	13
37 Nebraska	March 1, 1867	19th	July 4, 1867	37	13
38 Colorado	Aug. 1, 1876	20th	July 4, 1877	38	13
39 North Dakota	Nov. 2, 1889				
40 South Dakota	Nov. 2, 1889				
41 Montana	Nov. 8, 1889	21st	July 4, 1890	43	13
42 Washington	Nov. 11, 1889				
43 Idaho	July 3, 1890				
44 Wyoming	July 10, 1890	22nd	July 4, 1891	44	13
45 Utah	Jan. 4, 1896	23rd	July 4, 1896	45	13
46 Oklahoma	Nov. 16, 1907	24th	July 4, 1908	46	13
47 New Mexico	Jan. 6, 1912				
48 Arizona	Feb. 14, 1912	25th	July 4, 1912	48	13
49 Alaska	Jan. 3, 1959	26th	July 4, 1959	49	13
50 Hawaii	Aug. 21, 1959	27th	July 4, 1960	50	13

From Milo M. Qaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy F. Appleman, *The History of the United States Flag*, Harper and Row, New York, 1961

Other Flags in the Ceremonies



In addition to the 27 historical flags borne by the Honor America Corps, the Honor Guard of the Military District of Washington carries in the National flag and flags of the military services, with battle streamers, as pictured on the back cover. The Fourth Degree Color Corps of the Archdiocese of Washington District carry in the flags of the participating nations, including the U.S., Spain, Italy, the Bahamas, the Organization of American States (left and opposite), plus those of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, and Columbus carries the Expeditionary Banner (see front cover). Posted at a corner of the dais is the flag of the Department of the Interior.

The **Expeditionary Banner** carried by Columbus is a reconstruction of the 1492 flag described in Bartolomé de las Casa's digest of the log book of the first voyage of Columbus (the closest narration we have to Columbus's own account). He relates the story of the initial landing in the Bahamas:



Two hours after midnight land appeared, some two leagues away. They took in all sail, leaving only the mainsail, which is the great sail without bonnets, and lay lose-hauled waiting for day. This was Friday, on which they reached a small island of the Lucayos, called in the Indian language Guanahani [today commonly assumed to be Watling Island, otherwise known as San Salvador]. Immediately some naked people appeared and the Admiral went ashore in the armed boat, as did Martin Alonso Pinzón and Vicente Yáñez his brother, captain of the Niña. The Admiral raised the royal standard and the captains carried two banners with the green cross which were flown by the Admiral on all of his ships. On each side of the cross was a crown surmounting the letters F and Y [for Ferdinand and Isabella]. (The contemporary spelling of the Queen's name was Ysabela.)

Quotation taken from J. M. Cohen, editor and translator, *The Four Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, Penguin Books, London, 1969, p.53. The illustration of the Expeditionary Banner of Columbus was adapted from: Rear Admiral William Rea Furlong and Commodore Byron McCandless, *So Proudly We Hail: The History of the United States Flag*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1981.



Honor America Corps prepares for entrance at the 2007 ceremonies



Members of the Fourth Degree Color Corps prepare to make entrance with national and governmental flags in 2007

OTHER PARTICIPATING KNIGHTS

For some years, the ushers at the annual ceremonies have been members of the college councils of the Knights of Columbus in DC. Shown here are members from the Catholic University, Georgetown University, and George Washington University Councils. DC has five college councils, the other two (at Howard and American Universities) being relatively new.



Some of the ushers at the 2007 ceremonies



Some of the ushers before the 2006 ceremony



Two more Ushers from 2007



How Christopher Columbus Changed the World*

By Christina Jean Moazed

The Greenwich Country Day School, Grade 9,
Stamford, Connecticut

Sponsored by Putnam Hill DAR Chapter

Long before the voyages of Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), people knew the world was a sphere and its approximate size. Ships had sailed across the ocean to the Indies, and the New World had already been discovered. What Columbus' voyages accomplished was to increase knowledge of the seas, navigation, exploration, and trade routes, which changed the perception of world geography. This led to discoveries of new cultures, ideas, foreign markets and colonization, which forever altered world economies.

By the 5th century B.C., Greek scholars determined that the world was spherical. Plato, Aristotle, and then Eratosthenes in the 2nd century B.C. calculated the earth's circumference based on mathematics and astronomy. Ptolemy created maps that were added to over time. They showed the world with more land than oceans, the continents were closer together, and Asia was much larger than it is. Vikings, explorers, and fishing ships sailed the Atlantic Ocean, and charted their routes so ships could find their way across the ocean. Columbus used these maps to chart his course, but he underestimated the distance across the ocean even more.

Discoveries in the Indies and its treasures inspired Columbus to explore Asia. When Turks blocked the eastern land route to the Indies in 1453, Europeans competed to find other trade routes. Portuguese explorers found an eastern sea route around Africa, but Spain needed its own trade route to improve its economy. Columbus was convinced that he could find a shortcut to Asia by sailing west from Europe across the ocean. There were only three known continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa, and one ocean, the Atlantic. It was not known that the American continent and Pacific Ocean were in between Europe and Asia. From 1484 Columbus tried to find a country to support his voyage, but experts argued correctly that Columbus underestimated the distance to Asia. Finally Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain agreed to sponsor him and provide him with financial rewards, which was a major incentive for Columbus and Spain.

Between 1492 and 1504, Columbus made four voyages from Spain to the New World. He explored the Canary Islands, Bahamas, Antilles, South America, and Central America. On March 15, 1493 when Columbus returned to Spain from his first voyage, news of his discoveries spread quickly throughout Europe to Rome. On May 3, 1493, Pope Alexander VI declared that all lands in the newly explored Indies, not already owned by a Christian prince, would belong to Spain. Columbus and Spanish settlers spread Christianity throughout the New World, which helped Spain develop its overseas empire. Spain competed with other countries to expand trade and Christianity.

*The assigned topic was *How did the four voyages of Columbus change our perception of geography and alter world economies?*

On later voyages, Columbus brought more ships loaded with men and supplies to colonize the new territories and return with more treasures. On his fourth and last voyage Columbus explored Honduras and Panama, where he learned of gold and a strait to another ocean. Columbus' voyages inspired the explorations of others who followed. Amerigo Vespucci determined in 1502 that South America was part of a new continent, not the eastern part of Asia as Columbus assumed. Ferdinand Magellan discovered a westward route to Asia in 1520 when he crossed from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean at the Strait of Magellan. This proved that Columbus was correct; there was a westward sea route to the Indies.

Columbus discovered treasures that affected the world economy. Herbs and plants were brought to Europe to grow new crops and produce medicines. Sugar, tobacco, cacao, and spices were desirable in Europe and created profitable industries. Columbus and his crew expected to find gold, and they did. So much gold came into Spain that it caused inflation, upset the economy, and led to the decline of the Spanish Empire. European countries competed with powerful armies and navies so they could take larger shares of the world's treasure. Improved navigation opened up new trade routes. Europeans expanded into foreign markets, and sold their goods to the New World. This stimulated European industry to produce more power and mechanical inventions that led to the Industrial Revolution.

Christopher Columbus' voyages improved understanding of geography, culture, and trade, which changed the perception and economics of the world. A New World view claimed that the New World was free to explore, conquer, colonize, and convert to Christianity. The idea developed that previously separated peoples were brought together in the New World to work out a common destiny. What followed not only changed the make up of the New World, but also changed the entire world forever.

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NIAF

*The National Society of the
Daughters of the American Revolution*
and the
National Italian American Foundation
are pleased to announce co-sponsorship in an essay contest featuring Christopher
Columbus

Contest is open to all students in grades 9 through 12.

2008 – 2009 TOPIC

*“Discuss five perils faced by Christopher Columbus’ expedition(s) and how
Columbus and his crew overcame them.”*

One essay is selected as the national winner and the winner is invited to attend NSDAR’s 118th Continental Congress to be recognized. Second and third place winners are also selected. Judging at the national level is conducted by the National Italian American Foundation. The **national winner** will receive \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October 2009 for the winner and one parent or guardian. The national winner must read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day (October 12, 2009).

The second place national winner will receive \$500, and the third place national winner will receive \$300.

FORM

Essay must be typed, or prepared on a computer or word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: Title or topic of essay: **“Five perils that challenged Christopher Columbus”**, Contestant’s full name and address, Contestant’s telephone number (with area code) and/or e-mail address, Name of contestant’s school and grade level, Name of sponsoring DAR chapter, and Number of words in essay. *Any essay without a title page will be disqualified.*

This contest will be administered by the NSDAR.
For further information about this contest contact:

Sharon Ellison Allen, National Vice Chairman,
Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, American History Committee, NSDAR
7137 Quail Ridge Road, Fort Worth, TX 76132-3529
Phone: (817) 361-7117 E-Mail: SAllenDAR@aol.com

Office of the Historian General, NSDAR
1776 D Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303

Do you
have a
Revolutionary
Patriot in
your family tree?



Consider membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a volunteer women's service organization that honors and preserves the legacy of our Patriot ancestors. More than 200 years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. As a member of the DAR, you can continue this legacy by actively promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.



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(202) 879-3224

Who is eligible for membership?

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

How is Patriot defined?

DAR recognizes Patriots not only as soldiers, but as anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, a request form is available online at www.dar.org by clicking on "Membership."

How many members does the National Society have?

DAR has 165,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 12 foreign countries. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 800,000 members.

How can I find out more?

Go to www.dar.org and click on "Membership." There you'll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining the work of this vital, service-minded organization.

CIVIC CEREMONY

Sponsored by

NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

in cooperation with the

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL MALL & MEMORIAL PARKS

Monday - October 13, 2008

COLUMBUS PLAZA -- UNION STATION

MUSIC PRELUDE10:45 a.m.

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

POSTING OF THE COLORS.....11:00 a.m.

U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard - Military District of Washington

Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Corps - Calvert Province

Districts of Washington Archdiocese, Maryland and Virginia

PROCESSION OF WREATH PRESENTERS

Led by the Columbus Expeditionary Banner

Conrad Murphy portraying Christopher Columbus

NATIONAL ANTHEMS: United States of America, Italy, Spain,

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Patrick Korten, *Vice Pres., Knights of Columbus*

INVOCATION: Rear Adm. Barry C. Black, Ph.D, ChC, USN (ret.)

Chaplain, United States Senate

RETIRING OF THE COLORS: U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard

WELCOME: Col. Thomas J. Hogan, USA-Ret., *NCCA President*

Peggy O’Dell, *Superintendent, The National Mall
and Memorial Parks*

REMARKS: Ambassadors of Diplomatic Corps

Representative, Organization of American States

READING OF PROCLAMATIONS:

From the President of the United States of America

From the Mayor of the District of Columbia

INTRODUCTION: NATIONAL YOUTH COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Miss Christina Jean Moazed, Stamford, Connecticut

“HOW CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CHANGED THE WORLD”

CONTEST SPONSORED JOINTLY BY

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Mrs. Linda Gist Calvin, *President General*

Represented by Martha V. Hilton, *Honorary State Regent, District of Columbia*

The National Italian American Foundation

Mr. John B. Salamone, *Executive Director*

Represented by Joseph Vecchio



MUSIC INTERLUDE: "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean"

Traditional

GySgt. Kevin Benneer, USMC, Vocalist

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL WREATHS

National Columbus Celebration Association
National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
Embassy of Italy
Embassy of Spain
Embassy of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
The National Italian American Foundation
The Lido Civic Club Of Washington
Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus
District of Columbia State Council, K. of C.
Maryland State Council, K. of C.
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District of Columbia Branch
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National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
District of Columbia State Society D.A.R.
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Virginia D.A.R.
District of Columbia Society Sons of the American Revolution
National Society Children of the American Revolution
The District of Columbia Society C.A.R.
Boy and Girl Scouts of America and Campfire Youth
of the Archdiocese of Washington

CLOSING HYMN (AUDIENCE)

“AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”

Samuel A. Ward

O beautiful for spacious skies
For Amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain.

(Refrain)
America, America
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears.

(Refrain)

DISMISSAL

MUSIC POSTLUDE - “Stars and Stripes Forever”

John Phillip Sousa

The United States Marine Band
“The President’s Own”



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION expresses its gratitude to the following for their timely efforts, both physical and financial, for the success of this celebration.

- **THE LIDO CIVIC CLUB OF WASHINGTON** for their very generous contribution.
- **DR. J. P. LONDON**, president and CEO of CACI International, Inc., for his very generous support toward the success of the celebration.
- Vice Supreme Master **RALPH L. ROSSI, PSD** of the Calvert Province for his support and making the National Columbus Day Celebration a Provincial event, thus attracting Fourth Degree Knights from five States; **RICHARD G. HEAD, SR, PSD**, Master, Virginia District; and **CHARLES H. SMALLWOOD**, Master, Archdiocese of Washington District.
- **COL. BILL MCCARTHY** of Fredericksburg and the Honor America Corps for the appearance of the 27 historical official American flags.
- **MR. PHIL FOWLER**, Ceremonial Activities Division, Military District of Washington, for the U.S. Joint Military Service Honor Guard, and planning arrangements for the appearance of the U.S. Marine Band, "The President's Own," by Maj. **DENNIS R. BURIAN**, U.S. Marine Band operations, the Pentagon.
- The National Park Service for preparing the site and for their support: **RICHARD J. MERRYMAN**, Chief of Park Programs, **RANGER ROBBIN M. OWEN**, Permits Officer, **SEAN J. KENNEALY** and **LANCE HATTEN**, National Mall and Memorial Parks, **MATHEW R. NEWMAN**, Maintenance, Special Events, **TONI BRAXTON**, Office of Communications, and **SGT STEVE BOOKER** and officers of the U.S. Park Police.
- **TIMOTHY SACCOCCIA**, K of C District Deputy for the five D.C. College Councils, for coordinating ushering services provided by college Knights.
- **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER WILLIAM A. PERRY**, Operations Chief, for professional arrangements for the appearance of The United States Marine Band.
- The National Italian American Foundation, **MR. JOHN B. SALAMONE**, Executive Director, for their generous support of the National Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.
- **LINDA GIST CALVIN**, President General, and **MARGARET DRUMMOND MACKENZIE**, Historian General, and their respective staff; **MARTHA HARTZOG**, National Chairman, American History Committee, and **SHARON ALLEN**, National Vice Chairman for the Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, for their assistance.
- The Office of Communications, Knights of Columbus in New Haven, for providing photographic services, and **DUANE J. LOMIS** for archival videography.
- **TOURMOBILE**, **CARLA BELL**, Assistant Sales Director, for their generosity in providing local transportation for the winner of the Columbus Essay Contest and her family.
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Headquarters Museum, New Haven, Connecticut, for archival photographs.
- **EDWARD M. SULLIVAN**, for preparation of the chronology and articles in the annual program books as well as composition of the book and **JOHN C. MOORE** for handling business matters and advertising, and **PETER D. GERVAIS** for assistance with the advertising.

BIOGRAPHIES

COL. THOMAS J. HOGAN, U.S. Army (Ret.) was born in Cleveland, Ohio and earned a BA degree (pre-law) from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. He served over 26 years in the Army, with infantry and military intelligence duties in Washington, DC, Berlin, Germany (two 3-year tours), Vietnam and Japan. Col Hogan was a senior scientist at Science Applications International Corp. for over 10 years, developing intelligence, command and control systems. He is a licensed Real Estate Broker in Virginia for residential and commercial properties. Col. Hogan has held numerous positions in the Knights of Columbus, serving as Virginia State Deputy in 1996-97. He has been on the NCCA Board of Directors since 1998, served as Vice President and then as Acting President in 2006-2007, and was elected President in 2007.

CAPTAIN MICHELLE A. RAKERS, assistant director of the "President's Own," the United States Marine Band, is a native of Breese, Illinois. After receiving a bachelor's degree in music management from the University of Evansville in Indiana in 1990, she pursued graduate studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in music performance, earning a master's degree. She has also done graduate study at Catholic University, and is currently pursuing a doctorate from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. Captain Rakers performed with the Kalamazoo Symphony in Michigan and the Evansville Philharmonic in Indiana before joining the United States Marine Band in May, 1998. She was commissioned a first lieutenant and assistant director in July, 2004, and promoted to captain in 2006. She is both the first female assistant director and first female commissioned officer in the history of "The President's Own." With the Marine Band, Capt. Rakers has performed at the White House, in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and across the country during the band's annual concert tour. She has served as a conductor and coordinator for the fall and winter Chamber Music Series,

CHRISTINA JEAN MOAZED was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, is 15 years old and was in ninth grade this year. She attended The Greenwich Country Day School for eleven years, and on graduation in June received awards for academics, effort, the Girls' Softball Award and the Dale Bartholomew Piano Award. She is attending Greens Farms Academy in Westport, Connecticut as a sophomore this fall. In April she was elected a state officer of the Connecticut Society of the Children of the American Revolution, and was recently appointed State Chairman of C.A.R. Magazines and Newsletters and Editor of *The Connecticut YANKEE* newsletter. She is also Vice President of the Mary Bush Society in Greenwich and in Girl Scouts. Christina enjoys all forms of writing, creative and poetry, loves history, and participated in a school trip to China in March, and in an earlier effort in the Dominican Republic to construct a school and church for the local people, with fellow students from Trinity Church in Greenwich. She has also devoted over 200 hours to community service, including Neighbor to Neighbor and Midnight Run, to distribute food and clothing to homeless people in New York City. Christina has played piano and flute for seven years, and performed in *Bye Bye Birdie* and acts of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* this year. Her favorite sports are crew, tennis, softball and basketball, for which she played on varsity teams this year. She has been rowing and competing in regattas with the Greenwich Crew team at Greenwich Water Club, and next year will row with the Saugatuck Crew team in Westport for her new school. She enjoys, and is enrolled to study, photography and videography next year, and is interested in a possible career in filmmaking, design or advertising.

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band

For over two centuries, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band has been part of the events that have shaped our national heritage. On June 8, 1912, the Marine Band, with President William Howard Taft, participated in the unveiling of the Columbus Memorial Fountain, providing ceremonial music during the official ceremony. Like the monuments the Marine Band has helped dedicate, its continued presence in American life stands as a symbol of the traditions and ideals on which our country was founded.

Established by an act of Congress in 1798, the Marine Band is America’s oldest professional musical organization. Its primary mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States.

President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut in the still-unfinished Executive Mansion on New Year’s Day, 1801. In March that year, the band performed for the inaugural of Thomas Jefferson and has performed for every Presidential inaugural since that time.

In Jefferson, the band found its most visionary advocate and friend. An accomplished musician himself, Jefferson recognized the unique relationship between the band and the Chief Executive by giving the Marine Band the title, “The President’s Own.”

Whether performing for South Lawn arrival ceremonies, State Dinners, or receptions, Marine Band musicians appear at the White House more than 200 times each year. Additionally, the band participates in more than 400 public and official performances annually, including concerts and ceremonies throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Each fall, the band travels through a region of the United States during its concert tour, a century-old tradition started by the band’s legendary 17th Director, John Phillip Sousa.

As Director from 1880-1892, Sousa brought “The President’s Own” to unprecedented levels of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. During his tenure, the band was one of the first musical ensembles to make sound recordings. Sousa also began to write the marches that earned him the title “The March King.”

“The President’s Own” continues to maintain Sousa’s standard of excellence. Marine Band musicians are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras. Auditionees perform behind a screen to ensure anonymity. The audition committee makes its selection based on musical graduates of our nation’s finest music schools, often holding advanced degrees in music. More than 90 percent serve with the Marine Band for 20 or more years.

As America’s oldest professional musical organization, the Marine Band’s omnipresent role in events of national importance has made it part of the fabric of American life. As President Ronald Reagan said, “Whether serenading Adams or Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Gettysburg, or performing here at the White House, the Marine Band has become a national institution and a national treasure.”

NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

Ever since the dedication in 1912 of the magnificent **Columbus Memorial and Fountain in Columbus Plaza in front of Union Station**, the site has been a focal point for annual celebrations mainly by Knights of Columbus and Italian-American organizations to honor the great navigator and discoverer. In 1934 Congress authorized and requested the President to issue an annual Columbus Day proclamation, and in 1968 declared Columbus Day a federal holiday, commencing in 1971, with a three-day celebration termed the "First National Columbus Day Celebration."

Under the leadership of the Knights and Italian-Americans, annual celebrations involving U.S. military organizations, the diplomatic corps—especially Italy, Spain, and The Bahamas—and the National Park Service culminated in 1989 in establishment of a permanent organization, the Washington Columbus Celebration Association, to plan proper observance of the forthcoming Quincentenary anniversary (1991-92) and put the annual celebrations on a firmer footing with permanent sponsorship. Involvement of many national organizations, many individual members from other parts of the country, and the integration of an annual national NIAF-DAR essay contest into the celebration led to the change of name ten years later to the **National Columbus Celebration Association**, consistent with what the celebration was called when the Federal Holiday was established two decades earlier.

According to its by laws, *"The Association seeks to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievement in linking the Old World and the New, but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and trials. These virtues—his faith, the courage of his convictions, dedication to purpose, perseverance in effort, professional excellence, and boldness in facing the unknown—are as appropriate today as they were in his time."* The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with these purposes to become members. (See application on last page of this booklet. More information can be found on the web site, www.columbuscelebration.org.)

The Association is governed by a board of directors elected to staggered three-year terms by the general membership at the annual membership meeting. Officers are chosen annually for one-year terms by the board. Current board members and officers are:

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Holes in the Calendar: When *IS* Columbus Day?

Today, October 13, 2008, we celebrate Columbus Day and the 516th anniversary of his landing in the New World--the first contact between the Old World and the New in historical times that had significant and meaningful consequences for history. The traditional date, observed in a number of countries, is October 12. But if not today, was yesterday, October 12, really Columbus Day?

The record is abundantly clear that Columbus's historic discovery took place on October 12, 1492. No question about it--and it has been so celebrated for many years. The tercentenary was celebrated in New York City on October 12, 1792, the first known celebration in the U.S., and the quatercentenary was celebrated nationally in 1892, when there was great interest in the anniversary, promoted by the young Knights of Columbus (founded in 1882), and even younger Daughters of the American Revolution (founded in 1890), both of which held a focus on Columbus and his discovery as a core value. President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation urging commemorative events as well as programs in schools--and there was the great World Columbian Exposition in Chicago the following year (because it couldn't be ready for 1892)..

In 1905 the governor of Colorado issued a Columbus Day proclamation, and within fifteen years two-thirds of the states had made October 12 a state holiday.

In 1934 President Franklin Roosevelt carried out a request from Congress that year that the President issue a proclamation designating October 12 as Columbus Day each year and called for appropriate observance of the day. His successors have regularly done likewise to the present day.

A Change in Day: Columbus Day No Longer October 12

Then in 1968, Congress passed the "Monday Holiday Law," which (1) officially added Columbus Day to the list of eight other *federal* "public holidays" (meaning that federal offices are closed, which effectively made it a *national* holiday in fact, if not in law), and

(2) mandated the celebration of five of those on the list, including Columbus Day, on specified Mondays, giving federal workers the benefit of a long holiday weekend. Columbus Day would be on the second Monday of October each year, whatever the actual date.

With three years allowed for calendar makers and others to prepare for the change, Columbus Day was first observed according to this law, and as a federal holiday, on October 11 in 1971. There was a three day celebration in Washington, promoted particularly by Italian-Americans.

Twenty-one years later, the very special year celebrating the quinentennial of Columbus's discovery came out just right, with the official Monday observance actually falling on October 12, 1992. What could be neater?

But in fact **October 12, 1992** still was not the *actual anniversary*. It was not *exactly* 500 years after the event. The reason is the change in the calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, to adjust for accumulated error in the calendar that had been in use since introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.

By the Pope's decree the calendar eliminated the accumulated surplus time by dropping 10 dates that now *would never exist*. The 91st anniversary *day* of the discovery (in terms of elapsed time since the landing) would now seem to be the 11th day after October 12, 1583, or October 23 (after ten full days are reinserted). So the actual anniversary *day* would seem to be ten days later than the anniversary *date*--and so on in later years. More on this after another consideration.

The First Hole: There Was No October 12, 1582!

Still, wouldn't October 12 1992 at least be the **500th October 12** since the original discovery--and yesterday the **516th October 12**? Not according to the Pope's calendar. For the change took place when he decreed that October 4, 1582 would, instead, be October 15, 1582. *So October 12, 1582 doesn't exist in his calendar, and so can't be counted!*

In summary, in the calendar he introduced, the 1992 500th anniversary of the discovery, in terms of *elapsed time* since the landing, was not October 12, but later in the month--and **October 12, 1992 was the 499th, not the 500th, October 12 since the discovery!** (Note that the day of discovery in 1492 is not counted in either case, so the discrepancy is not based on the way the count is made, but solely on the fact that October 12, 1582--which would otherwise have been the 90th anniversary of the discovery--never existed.)

The Second Hole: The Missing October 12 Restored!

But there's more. Is the calendar introduced by the Pope the one we use today? Though his calendar was adopted early on by most of the continental countries, some Protestant states held out for over a century, and Great Britain mandated the change in its possessions and colonies (including the American ones) even later, in 1752. By then the accumulated error in the Julian calendar was 11 days instead of 10--and the Brits dropped 11 full days between September 2 and September 14, 1752. So according to that calendar--presumably the one we use today--there never was a missing October 12 in 1582 or any other year, just eleven missing September days in 1752. *We have all our October 12's after all, unless we want to stick with the Pope's version!*

So how many days are we *really* off? The *real anniversary* is not found by simply inserting the missing ten days. Instead we insert nine. The Julian calendar assumed a solar year of 365 and 1/4 days, and included a leap year every fourth year when the four intervening quarter days would make another full day. But that made the average Julian year 11 minutes and 14 seconds longer than the solar year, as pointed out by Venerable Bede in 730

A.D. Every 128 years the calendar would be another day ahead of the solar calendar. Over the centuries those days added up, with Christian feasts no longer occurring in the proper seasons, so the Pope took action to make the vernal equinox occur on March 21 each year as it had in 325 at the time of the First Council of Nicaea.

(He not only dropped the ten days, October 5 through 14 inclusive, but fine-tuned leap year rules. Henceforth, years divisible by 4 would be leap years, but years ending in 00 would not be—unless divisible by 400, in which case they would be leap years. Some people in the year 2000 either didn't know or forgot that very last part of the rule, causing some real Y2K foul-ups!)

Because of the Julian increase of one day every 128 years, the number of days that must be added to convert a Julian date to a Gregorian date also increases the later the Julian date. One adds 10 days to Julian dates that occurred in the period October 5, 1582 - February 28, 1700; 11 for March 1, 1700 - February 28, 1800, 12 for March 1, 1800 - February 28, 1900, and 13 for March 1, 1900 - February 28, 2100. (Remember the calendar picked up an extra day in 2000, a leap year, which 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not. 1600 was a leap year. Note also that the years given are intended to bracket the year *an historical event occurred*, not the *anniversary year* that is of interest. The added days show how far the Julian calendar had fallen behind when the event occurred. Thus, for an *anniversary* in 2008 of a 1582 event, one adds 10 days, not 13. But an *event* in 2008 is 13 days off from the 2008 date given by the Julian calendar.)

However, Columbus's discovery on October 12, 1492 of the Julian calendar was 90 years *before* the 1582 introduction of the Gregorian calendar. ***The point of all this is that October 12, 1492 was nearer nine days than ten days off.*** So the discovery day needs an adjustment of nine days, rather than ten, to be consistent with the Gregorian calendar as extended backwards from its adoption in 1582.* Inserting nine complete days makes the real anniversary date in the calendar we now use October 22 each year, not October 12! October 22, 1992 was 500 ***complete years*** after the discovery of America.

(It has already been noted that the Chicago World Columbian Exposition was opened in 1893 rather than the actual quatercentenary year of 1892. The dedication date of the fair was in 1892, however. Originally scheduled for the traditional Columbus Day, October 12, it was later postponed with a three-day celebration, October 20, 21 and 22, 1892, which happily included the real anniversary of Columbus's discovery.)

Most of the foregoing isn't needed to know the bottom line: ten dates were cut from the 1582 calendar to correct for slippage since 325, but only about nine must be cut to bring 1492 in line. ***Ever since, we have to add nine days to the date to get complete anniversary years since any 1492 date, making the real anniversary October 22 each year, not October 12.***

Confused by all this? Maybe the second Monday in October isn't a bad day for the annual celebration after all!

—Edward M. Sullivan

*Kirkpatrick Sale, *Conquest of Paradise*, Knopf, 1990, p.62 (note), overlooks this, saying ten days.



This specially-commissioned statue
of a youthful

Christopher Columbus

graces the courtyard

of Holy Rosary Church,

Washington, D. C., where a brief ceremony is
held annually as part of the religious
celebration of Columbus Day, following a
special Mass in the church on the Sunday
preceding the Monday holiday

It was erected by parishioners under the
spirited leadership of its pastor,

Fr. Caesar Donozan, C.S.

and presented to the parish

by the Lido Civic Club

following the Quincentenary Mass
on October 11, 1992.

An inscription on a bronze plate on the supporting pedestal reads as follows:

CRISTOFORO COLOMBO

This monument erected on the occasion of the 1992 Quincentennial Jubilee celebrating the discovery of America, pays tribute to Cristoforo Colombo and his seafaring companions. Their bold voyage led to an historic encounter between the European world and the Americas. A turning point in Western Civilization, this event paved the way for the spreading of the Gospel and the establishment of a society anchored on the principles of Christian love and holiness.

1492-1992

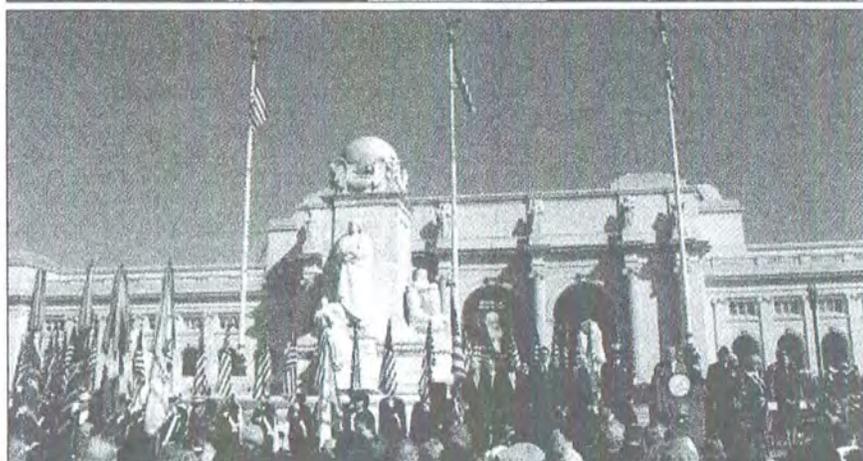


PHOTO GALLERY, 2006 AND 2007

PHOTO GALLERY, 2006 AND 2007



Blanch (Mrs. David R.) Curfman receives a bouquet of roses from NCCA President Tom Hogan at the 2007 ceremonies.



Blanch Curfman, 2007



Two Sailors, 2006



Diplomatic and Park Service representatives bow their heads during invocation by USAF Chaplain Col. Robert Bruno, Joint Staff Chaplain, JCS, at the 2006 celebration.



Wreath-layers pledge allegiance to the flag, 2007.



Wreath-layers with wreaths at 2007 celebration.

Dr. David R. Curfman - An Appreciation

A message from Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson of the Knights of Columbus, read on his behalf by Vice President for Communications Patrick Korten at the Columbus Day ceremonies on Monday, October 8, 2007.

On this Columbus Day 2007, we once again celebrate the life and legacy of one of the great explorers of all time. But this year, we also celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. David Curfman, who did so much as President of the National Columbus Celebration Association to make this annual commemoration in Washington a tremendous success.

I remember Dr. Curfman well – he took the reins of the Association during my days here in Washington, and I know personally of his intense interest in – and devotion to – honoring Christopher Columbus. Although I have not been able to participate personally in the celebrations since moving to New Haven, I am well aware of the many contributions he made as the Association's president.

Dr. Curfman was a man with many friends throughout the nation's capital, and many of you are here today because of his extraordinary ability to reach out to all those with a devotion to the history of America, of which Christopher Columbus was a defining part.

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus is a proud charter member of the National Columbus Celebration Association, and it is a great pleasure to share enthusiasm for this annual commemoration with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the National Italian American Foundation, who jointly sponsor the annual Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, another project brought about with Dr. Curfman's enthusiastic encouragement.

The by-laws of the Association state that our purpose is "to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievements in linking the Old World and the New, but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and his trials."

As we look back on Dr. Curfman's life, and his tireless efforts to make this annual celebration a great success, we are struck by the fact that it is precisely these values that we saw exemplified in his own life. Columbus was both a hero and model for him. The contributions he made to these annual celebrations built upon the foundation laid by his predecessor, Founding Chairman Emeritus John C. Moore, and made a great celebration even better.

Patriotism is the fourth principle of the Knights of Columbus, and this event exemplifies that principle in a wonderful way, with a large group of Fourth Degree Knights here today in their full regalia. We appreciate greatly the regular presence of the Military District of Washington and its Honor Guard, the Marine Corps Band, and the annual participation of a number of patriotic societies, both national and local, all of whom are here thanks to Dr. Curfman's efforts. The dignity and attention to the details of both history and protocol this morning are a result of the care and concern that Dr. Curfman brought to the organizing of this event.

In this, our [the Knights of Columbus's] 125th year, we thank you all for your participation and devotion to the memory of Christopher Columbus. We also offer special thanks to Dr. Curfman's wife Blanche, who was very much a part of those efforts over the years.

Let me conclude by quoting the inscription on the other side of the beautiful monument before you: "To the memory of Christopher Columbus whose high faith and indomitable courage gave to mankind a new world"

Thank you very much.

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In Memoriam

Raymond Honda

Member, NCCA Board of Directors

*Ray Honda also served as our
photographer for a number of years*



A former state officer of the DC Knights of Columbus and a pillar of Our Lady of Victory Parish on MacArthur Boulevard, he was much liked and, in his quiet way, a faithful, reliable, and generous participant in those organizations and endeavors to which he had made a commitment.

Inmaculate Conception Shrine Council

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District of Columbia

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by the National Columbus Celebration Association
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Greetings All,

The celebration of this Columbus Day, October 13, 2008, brings to mind the many celebrations that have gone before it. There is a tremendous outpouring of effort by individuals and organizations to honor the great and noble Christopher Columbus and his discoveries, and it is well worth the effort.

It is fitting that we pause once a year to recall the beginnings of the Americas. Columbus was the forerunner of Italian immigration. Italian-Americans are the offspring.

For many years, I have toiled to bring attention to the many contributions of Italian-Americans to our American society. My years with the NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (NIAF) and other associations will so attest. It has been a labor of love! It is a zeal that I hope to pass on. Along with others, I have chosen to be an advocate for the Italian-American Club at the Catholic University of America. What better way could I have chosen to pass on the legacy of Columbus and those who came after him?

It is my fond hope that Columbus and Italian clubs on the campuses of our universities and colleges will flourish and that all will plan to celebrate each Columbus holiday in a special way. For our local clubs there is no better way to do so then to attend the splendid annual ceremonies at the Columbus Memorial at Union Station in the nation's capital on Columbus Day, Monday, October 13. Music prelude by the Marine Band begins at 10:45 a.m., and the impressive ceremonies follow at 11 a.m.

I hope to see you there--if not this year, in the years that follow. And it is my hope also that you will consider joining the National Columbus Celebration. Association

Sincerely,

ALFRED ROTONDARO, PhD
Director Emeritus, NIAF

Dr. Rotondaro is a recipient of the NCCA Distinguished Service Medal. I heartily agree with the above comments.

John C. Moore

NCCA Founding Chairman Emeritus

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*Best Wishes For A Successful
Columbus Day Celebration*

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**We salute the work of the
National Columbus
Celebration Association
in continuing to recognize
the Great Discoverer**

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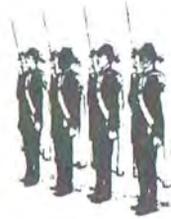
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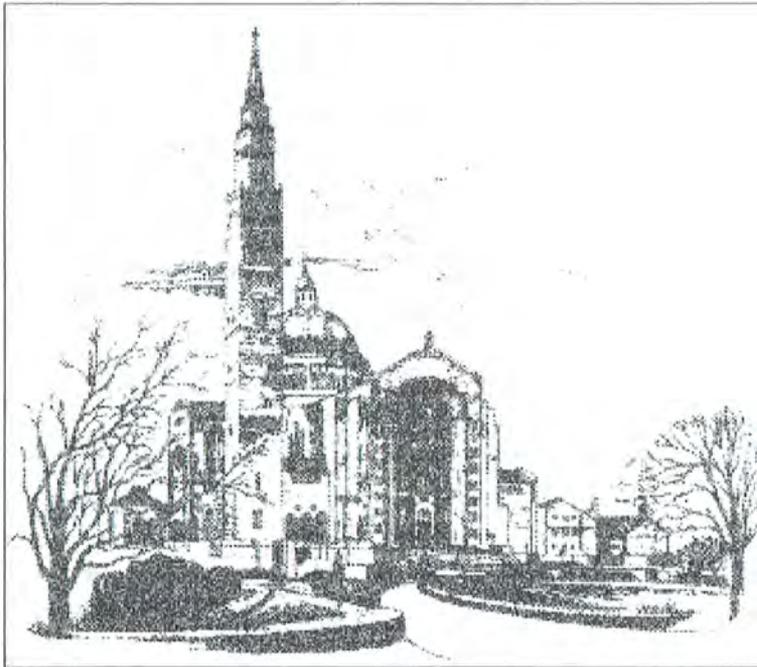
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John C. Moore, Charter Member - 1959



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NIAF

THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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The NIAF funds scholarships and grants; supports a variety of youth programs; researches Italian American history and culture; promotes a positive image of Italian Americans and works towards ending negative and stereotypical portrayals in the media; encourages the teaching of Italian language in U.S. schools; and promotes closer economic, political and cultural ties with Italy.

Please visit our website, www.niaf.org, to learn more about the National Italian American Foundation.

NIAF

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Above: Military Honor Guard in 2006 (the 500th year after Columbus's death), with U.S. flag and flags of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, with battle streamers. *In background and on front cover:* Union Station which opened 100 years ago this year, and the 27 historically correct official U.S. flags carried by the Honor America Corps, with green and white Columbus Expeditionary Banner carried by Columbus in the center of the front cover.