

Discovery 1492—1992



THE NATION'S CAPITAL
CELEBRATES 500 YEARS
OF DISCOVERY



HONORING THE GREAT
DISCOVERER

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1992
THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL
UNION STATION, WASHINGTON, DC

SPONSORED BY THE
WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

A Quincentennial Event

COLUMBUS PLAZA AT UNION STATION

The Columbus Fountain at Union Station is the most prominent commemorative figure of Christopher Columbus in the Nation's Capital. Built in 1912, the marble fountain centers on a forty-five foot shaft topped by a large globe showing an outline of the Western Hemisphere. In front stands a fifteen-foot tall statue of Christopher Columbus sculpted by Lorado Z. Taft. The two allegorical figures flanking Columbus represent the Old World and the New. On the shaft appears a medallion in relief representing King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, the Spanish monarchs who financed Columbus' voyage. Three flagpoles behind the monument stand for the "Nina," "Pinta," and the "Santa Maria," the three ships Columbus sailed to the New World.



The Columbus Fountain was designed to embellish one of the great landmark buildings in this city - Union Station - which has been rejuvenated as a lively commercial space while still serving as a train terminal. Daniel Burnham, who designed Union Station, was 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 in Washington D.C., into a series of well landscaped neo-classical palaces, 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. In this earlier work, however, the statue of Columbus sat enthroned on a ship, while here our Columbus rides in the bow of a ship.

The Columbus statue in the plaza, with Burnham's neo-classical Union Station behind it and his U.S. Post office to the west of it, bears a direct relationship to the Columbian Exposition of 1892-1893 in Chicago. Sculpturally and architecturally all these elements evoke the "Great White Way" of that most splendid of our early world fairs. As a major artistic remnant of the Exposition a century ago commemorating Columbus' voyage, the Columbus statue rightly serves as the focal point for our Columbus Quincentennial.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS - THE MAN

At this time, October 12, 1992, people from around the world will observe the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' epic voyage to the new world. The impact of this undertaking, the introduction of the Old World to the New World, has become for many an inspiration and a model to follow in their daily lives.

Christopher Columbus, born in Genoa, Italy, was the first of five children in a third generation of wool weavers. The exact date of his birth seems to be debatable, however, many believe that it was in the year 1451. As described by his son, he was a man "of good form, of more than middle stature, cheekbones a little high, inclined neither to stoutness nor thinness. His nose was aquiline, his eyes light, he was blond...but when he was thirty his hair went all white."

Being born in Genoa, which at that time was known for its sea commerce throughout the Mediterranean, Columbus learned early about boats. Spending his youth in a seaside city, making voyages as a young man, throughout the Mediterranean and Northern Africa, to England, Ireland and Iceland, Columbus became familiar with the seafaring life, and its problems. This experience in sailing, and his prior interest in geography, led him into a career as a mapmaker with his brother.

After years upon the water and beneath the stars, Columbus felt that he could sail over the waters from Mediterranean Europe to the fabled riches in India, China and Japan - places then at the end of arduous, almost mythical land routes, the caravan trails across Asia. What he proposed was a sailing expedition away from the familiar shores of Europe, moving westward into a void nobody knew.

Born a strong Catholic in a Catholic world, Columbus was firm and sincere, the source of his persistence as he continued to search for investors in the risky and bold undertaking he tried to launch from several bases. He first sought backing from the King of Portugal only to be rejected. Additional rejections from England and France, and several times from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain, came before his plan was finally accepted. But Columbus never lost his faith in himself and in the Lord.

It was on one of his many journeys searching for sponsors that Columbus met a Franciscan Friar, Father Juan Perez, who would later become a great friend and admirer of the sailor. Many believed that Father Perez, former accountant to the Kingdom of Castile and after his ordination confessor to Queen Isabella, used his influence with the Queen to obtain a second commission to further study Columbus' proposal. After many years of petitioning for funds to underwrite his journey, Columbus eventually won the approval of Queen Isabella.

On August 2, 1492, Columbus' expedition lifted anchor and he set sail for the Canary Islands. From there he set his course westward in search of a new passage to the Indies. Columbus not only had a seafaring sense and considerable knowledge of geography, but his faith was indestructible. Without outside assistance, or the assistance of the guidance devices we may today consider routine - no lighthouses, channel markers, navigational charts, depth charts - basically through his sailing skills, his courage and his faith in himself and in God, he navigated unknown seas without a coastline for 33 days. And on October 12, 1492, Columbus and his crews aboard the Santa Maria, Nina and Pinta, first spotted the New World.

Columbus accomplished what no other man before him was able to do. He led Europe to a new world. He was also the initiator of open sea navigation in the modern era; the first man to navigate great ocean distances without the sight of a coastline. Columbus knew everything essential to know about the ocean, its currents, its winds, and the way it led to distant shores. Not a single man was lost on his journey nor on his return to Spain. Columbus was, 500 years ago, a man of his time who linked available knowledge, untested theory, and great courage; and shaped history by such boldness.

Upon his return to Spain, the King and Queen honored him with the title, "Admiral of the Ocean Sea." In the remainder of his life, Columbus made three additional voyages between Spain and the colonies in the Caribbean area which he called Hispaniola, a region stretching from present day Santo Domingo Island to Cuba. Columbus completed his last voyage to the new world in 1504. He returned to Europe sick and prematurely aged and sometimes frustrated by the problems and disappointments he endured as a visionary explorer who was forced to become a territorial governor. He died in 1506 at the age of 56.

The world has never ceased to honor his accomplishments. Columbus led the way to the two great continents that we now call America. The exhausted, warring empires of old Europe were rejuvenated by a new age discovery. His sailing accomplishment alone was remarkable. Until the invention of motor powered vessels, any ship sailing from Spain, Portugal, France or Italy, headed for Mexico, the Caribbean or to the mouth of the Mississippi, followed essentially the same routes chartered by Columbus on his voyages. Beyond that, he had changed history by revealing this vast new source of natural riches, and of intellectual and spiritual revival for an exhausted old world.

In our observation of the 500th Anniversary of this epic voyage, we should above all else, recognize first this man of great spirit and faith in God, and second the exceptionally gifted sailor and navigator. A man who dared to look beyond familiar horizons, who persisted against many obstacles. He achieved great things and inspired the crews who joined him, by his simple, unyielding conviction that he had been given a purpose in life and through faith, persistence and divine guidance, he would achieve that purpose.

CHRONOLOGY

OF THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

- 1451 Born in Genoa, Italy, the son of Susanna and Domenico Columbo, a Ligurian weaver and one of the keepers of the city's gates (Queen Isabella was born the same year)
- 1465 First sea voyages to Corsica
- 1477 Sails to England, Iceland and possibly near the Arctic Circle
- 1479 Marries Felipa Moniz Perestrelo living in Porto Santo
- 1480 Son Diego is born
- 1484 Columbus approaches King John II of Portugal with plan for expedition to seek lands to the west via a sea route; Columbus and Diego arrive in Palos, Spain going to the Franciscan Monastery La Rabida to discuss sponsorship of expedition westward on the sea
- 1485 Don Felipa Perestrelo dies
- 1486 Meets King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella for the first time
- 1488 Son Fernando born of union with Beatriz Enriquez de Arana
- 1492 King and Queen of Spain sign the Santa Fe document defining Columbus' proposed expedition, April 17; King and Queen decree citizens of Palos will be crew members for voyage, May 23; Mass held for Columbus and crew at Church of St. George, Martyr in Palos at 12 Noon on August 2; embarks from Palos De La Frontera on August 2 with three caravels (Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria) and ninety men; Landfall sighted at 2:00 a.m. on October 12; Columbus goes ashore claiming land for Spain giving it the name San Salvador; leaves 39 men at settlement of Navidad and returns to Palos on March 15
- 1493 Second voyage leaves Cadiz with 17 ships and 1000 crewmen on September 25
- 1496 Returns to Cadiz on June 11
- 1498 Leaves Sanlucar on this third expedition with six caravels on May 30
- 1500 Arrives back at Cadiz in chains resulting from accusations of injudicious governing of natives of Haiti - soon freed; goes to Carthusian monastery La Cartuja 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
- 1502 Departs Seville on fourth voyage with four ships on April 3; son Fernando keeps ship's log; travels as far as Panama
- 1504 Arrives at Sanlucar on November 7; Queen Isabella dies on November 26
- 1506 Christopher Columbus dies at Valladolid, Spain on May 20; buried in the Franciscan Monastery of Valladolid

ABOUT COLUMBUS

Thanks to **Paul Horgan**, author of *Conquistadors in North American History*, we offer this excerpt from a chapter titled "The Lord Admiral".

THEY SAID OF HIM, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, born in Genoa, and now in the service of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Castile and Aragon, that he "was affable . . . though with a certain gravity," and that he was "a skilled man, eloquent and a good Latin scholar, and very glorious in his affairs," and that he was "a learned man of great experience" who did not waste his time in manual or mechanical tasks, which would hardly suit "the grandeur and immortality of the wonderful deeds he was to perform."

He stood taller than the average and was sturdily made. His eyes were lively in his ruddy and freckled face. His hair was "very red." He wore a hat with a wide brim turned up like a bowl. Over a doublet with full sleeves and knee breeches he put a cloth-of-Segovia poncho which hung down fore and aft and was open at the sides for his arms. His straight sword with a basket hilt was slung by the straps from his girdle. He could be "graceful when he wishes, irate when he was crossed." One purpose ruled him, and he pressed forward with it in all works of preparation, persuasion and deed. It was his wish to discover what was unknown about the world.

"To this my wish," he wrote, "I found Our Lord" - he was a deeply religious man - "most propitious, and to his end I received from him a spirit of intelligence. In seamanship He made me abundant, of astrology" - by which he meant astronomy - "He gave me enough, as well as geometry and arithmetic, and of ingenuity in mind and hands to draw this sphere and on it cities, rivers, and mountains, islands and harbours, everything in its right place. In this time I have seen and studied all writings, cosmography, histories, chronicles and philosophy and other arts."

From the idea of the table-top world of the Middle Ages, the advanced cartographers of his day were coming to see the world as a sphere, and the Lord Admiral understood and agreed with them.

WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES - OCTOBER 11, 1992 (AT HOLY ROSARY CHURCH - 595 3rd. St., N.W.)

12 Noon Christopher Columbus Memorial Mass,
Msgr. Roensch, Chaplain KofC, celebrant and homilist

Dedication of the new Christopher Columbus statue in the
Church Courtyard

History of the Statue - Rev. Cesare Donanzan, Pastor

Reflections, Christopher Columbus - John C. Moore,
General Chairman, WCCA

CIVIC CEREMONIES - OCTOBER 12, 1992 (AT COLUMBUS PLAZA, UNION STATION)

10:00am A Tribute to Christopher Columbus - D.A.R., S.A.R., C.A.R.
Speakers, Skits and Reception

11:30am Musical Prelude -
Filarmonica Sestrese Genoa Concert Band
Maestro Gianluca Silvano, Conductor
Maestro Charles Gabriele, Guest Conductor

1:45pm Posting of the Colors - Knights of Columbus Color Corp
- Calvert Province - Districts of Washington Archdiocese,
Maryland, and Virginia

National Anthems - U.S.A, Italy, and Spain

Invocation - Monsignor Roger C. Roensch, Asst. Director,
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception

Welcome - John C. Moore, General Chairman WCCA

Master of Ceremonies - Honorable Joseph A. DePaul

Introduction of Guests

The National Oath - Louis Koerber, President, National
Flag Day Foundation

U. S. Park Service - Robert G. Stanton, Regional Director

The Embassies - Italy, Spain, and the Bahamas

Reading of Proclamations -

From the President of the U. S.- Peter Nelsen

From the Mayor of DC - James M. Toliver, SD, KofC

Dance Selections - Nachttanz - Kenneth Reed, Director

Address - The Courage of Christopher Columbus -
Honorable Joseph E. DiGenova

Musical Selections - Filarmonica Sestrese Genoa Concert Band

Address - Culture and Religion, A Quincentennial Reflection - Dr. Christopher Kauffman

Presentation of Wreaths - Embassies and Association Members

3:30pm Conclusion - "Pledge of Allegiance" - Audience
Lead by Phillip Nelson, Master, Fourth Degree, KofC
"God Bless America" - Audience
Lead by J. Kemp Cook, PSD, DC KofC

BIOGRAPHIES

MONSIGNOR ROGER C. ROENSCH has been a priest of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception since 1981 currently serving as Pilgrimage Director. He was ordained in Rome, Italy on December 15, 1957. In 1970 he was appointed to the North American College in Rome as Director of the Office for Visitors to the Vatican. The North American College is a Seminary with a Graduate House of Studies and an Institute for Continuing Theological Education. In 1981, Msgr. was named Director of Development for the National Shrine. Msgr. Roensch serves as Chaplain for the District of Columbia State Council, Knights of Columbus. He is a long time participant in the Columbus Day ceremonies.

JOSEPH A. DePAUL is a practicing attorney in Prince George's County, Maryland. He has a long association with the District of Columbia. As a young adult he worked as a sightseeing guide in the Nation's Capitol. He is a graduate of the George Washington School of Law. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is rightfully proud of his Italian heritage and his active service in the U. S. Army during World War II. Among his many avocations is that of Master Of Ceremonies. He has been the M.C. for Columbus Day ceremonies a number of times.

JOHN C. MOORE is the General Chairman of the Washington Columbus Celebration Association, the host organization of this celebration. He is a native Washingtonian having grown up in the shadows of the Capitol. He is an alumnus of Benjamin Franklin (now George Washington) and Catholic Universities. He has been associated with Columbus Day ceremonies and activities for a major portion of his adult life. He is a Past State Deputy of the District of Columbia Knights of Columbus and a Past President of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce. He is a long time proponent of the need to honor Christopher Columbus.

LOUIS V. KOERBER is the President of the National Flag Day Foundation. The Foundation is an activist organization promoting the *"Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance"*. Its board is composed of prominent members from a cross section of Americans including the President of the U. S. Capitol Society. The Honorary Chairperson is Mrs. George Bush. Mr. Koerber is the President of Budeke's Paint Company, a 124 year old family business in Baltimore. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

ROBERT G. STANTON was appointed Regional Director of the National Capitol Region, United States Park Service in 1988. The Region covers 300 area parks and monuments accommodating 20 million visitors annually. He received his degree from Houston-Pillotson College in Austin, Texas. He attended Boston and George Washington Universities for his advanced studies. He has received numerous awards for his work including the Park Service highest award. He is an advocate of resource preservation.

PETER NELSEN is the President of the International Trade Council and Chairman of the International Development Institute. He is a teacher of economics and political science, U.S.D.A. Graduate School. Originally from Denmark, he has lived in the Washington, DC area for the past 22 years. He has been involved at the national level in the past six presidential campaigns.

JOSEPH E. diGENOVA is a former United States Attorney for the District of Columbia where he dealt with very complex criminal and civil matters. He also served as Counsel to an Attorney General of the United States on intelligence and National security. He has had extensive experience on Capitol Hill. He is the author of numerous published articles. He has appeared on many national television and radio shows. He attended Georgetown University where he received his law degree. He is practicing law as a partner in the law firm of Manatt, Phelps, Phillips and Kantor.

DR. CHRISTOPHER J. KAUFFMAN is a noted historian and scholar. He is the Editor of the U. S. Catholic Historian and a professor at the Catholic University of America. He has earned a number of degrees including a Ph.D from St. Louis University. He has written a number of Scholarly Papers and books. His most recent book, *Columbianism and the Knights of Columbus*, was published by Simon and Schuster in 1992. He is an avid student of the history of Christopher Columbus and of his achievements and their profound effect on the new and old worlds.

THE FILARMONICA SESTRESE, Genoa's 1992 Concert Band will present a series of concerts during October 9-21, 1992 at the White House, Columbus Plaza, Palm Coast, Disneyland and South Florida during its Columbus Quincentennial tour. Founded in 1845, the band earned accolades from Garibaldi, Mazzini and Verdi. In 1882 it won the Columbian award, and thereafter awards in Switzerland, Spain and Czechoslovakia. The band is under the direction of Maestro Gianluca Silvano, with Maestro Charles Gabriele as guest conductor.

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CELEBRATION TRADITION

For many years individuals and organizations have shared a common interest in an annual observance of the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus. The activities commemorating this renowned navigator and explorer center around his statue in Columbus Plaza at Union Station. The statue was dedicated in 1912 during a three day celebration. It was built on land purchased by the Knights of Columbus for this purpose and subsequently donated to the United States Government.

Typically, the celebration features, from the religious standpoint, a memorial Mass at the Holy Rosary Church or the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A civic ceremony at the Columbus statue provides entertainment in the form of dance and music, an address by a principal speaker, and laying of wreaths at the statue by representatives of the participating organizations. The music has been provided by the U. S. Military bands and by high school bands from DeMatha, Gonzaga, and St. John's.

Over the years, various individuals and organizations sponsored these celebrations. During the 1960's, a National Columbus Day Committee was formed by individuals who were urging Congress to declare Columbus Day, October 12th., as a National holiday. Their goal was fulfilled in 1971. From the middle 1970's until 1985 the principal organizers were Amerito, a Federation of American-Italian organizations of the Metropolitan Washington area, and the Knights of Columbus of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, and with the cooperation of the National Park Service. From 1986 to 1988, The Knights of Columbus was the principal organizer with support of the American-Italian and Spanish organizations, and the Italian and Spanish Embassies, with the National Park Service continuing to provide support. In 1989 the Washington Columbus Celebration Association (WCCA), consisting of all interested individuals and organizations, was established as the coordinating unit for all further celebrations. (See separate article in this program).

The following are highlights of celebrations over the past thirty years.

In 1963, the White House was the setting for a special ceremony to which 150 persons were invited to hear remarks by President John F. Kennedy in the Rose Garden. This followed the civic ceremony at Columbus Plaza. The first Columbus Day Festival at the statue sponsored by the National Columbus Day Committee was held in 1966 when Senator John Pastore of Rhode Island was the principal speaker. Music was provided by the United States Marine Band. In that same year a full scaled 100 ton reproduction of the Santa Maria, Columbus' flagship, was the setting for the first public installation of the officers of the Knights of Columbus state council.

In 1971, the first year of Columbus Day as a National holiday, the celebration was a three day program featuring a Commemorative Ball at the Washington Hilton Hotel and a concert at Constitution Hall with music by the United States Navy Band with Maggie MacDonald and Frankie Laine at guest artists. A second concert of classical music was performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 1972, John Volpe, the Secretary of Transportation, was the principal speaker.

In 1976 President Gerald Ford delivered the address, the United States Navy Band provided the musical entertainment, a Festival of Arts was held at Capital Park, and the celebration concluded with a Columbus Day Dinner Dance. The 1979 celebration featured the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Virgil C. Dechant, as main speaker. A cultural Festival was held at the National Visitors Center in Union Station.

In 1982 the celebration commemorated the 10th anniversary of Columbus Day being a National holiday. It featured a parade with floats and a marching band from the H. D. Woodson High School. The civic ceremony at the statue included a Spanish Dance Troupe.

The 1991 ceremony was the focus for the launching of the year-long Quincentennial Celebration of Columbus' discovery. The National Parks Service sponsored a three day festival of arts which included national and international singers and musicians from various cultures. The traditional civic ceremony included Attorney General William Barr as the principal speaker. Sergeant Alvy Powell of the United States Army sang the National Anthem and other selections. St. John DeMatha High School Band provided the music.

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WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION (WCCA)

The Association was established to continue an informal tradition of many decades in the Nation's Capital, that is, to plan and execute an annual celebration, on or near October twelfth, commemorating the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus, and the introduction of Christianity into this then uncharted hemisphere. A civic ceremony is held at the Columbus statue in Columbus Plaza at the Union Station. The ceremony typically features entertainment, speeches, and laying of wreaths. A Mass is celebrated elsewhere as the religious ceremony.

The Association functions as a coordinating entity for several organizations in the Greater Metropolitan Washington area, all of which share a common interest in the heroic achievements of Christopher Columbus. The organizations represented in the Association include the Knights of Columbus, the Order of the Sons of Italy in America, other Italian-American organizations, and the Embassies of Italy, Spain, and Paraguay. The Association enjoys an liaison with the District of Columbia Government and the National Park Service, the custodian of Columbus Plaza.

Membership is offered to organizations and persons sharing the Association's interests.

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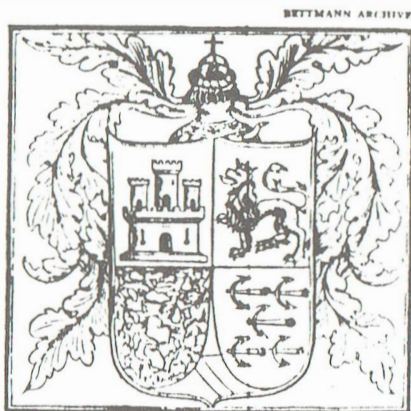
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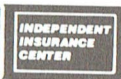
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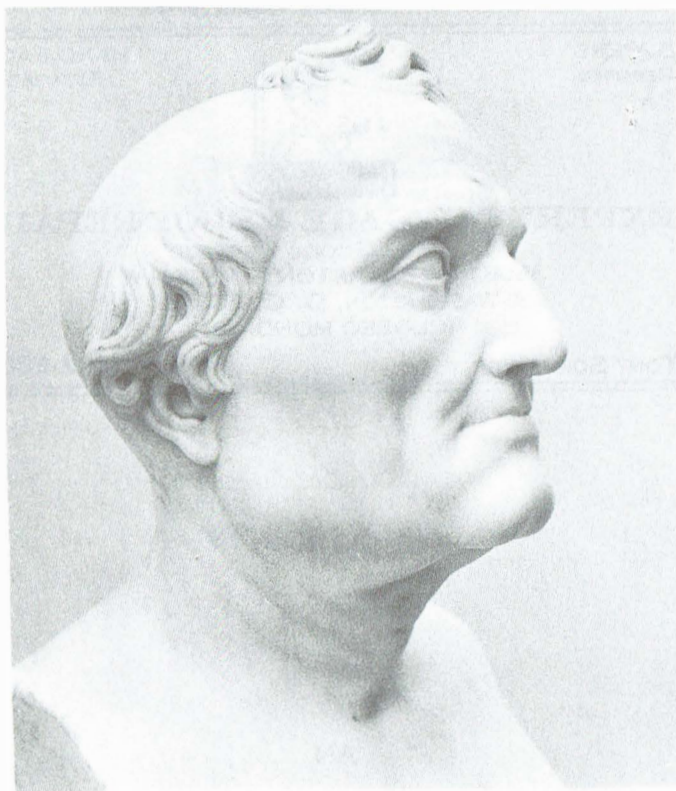
AN

ITALIAN
AMERICAN

1492

1992

Christopher Columbus 500th Anniversary



Let us never cease to honor the courageous navigator who discovered the new world "For All Americans.

Louis J. Figliozzi
Past President

Roma Lodge #71 O.S.I.A., Amerito, Lido Civic Club

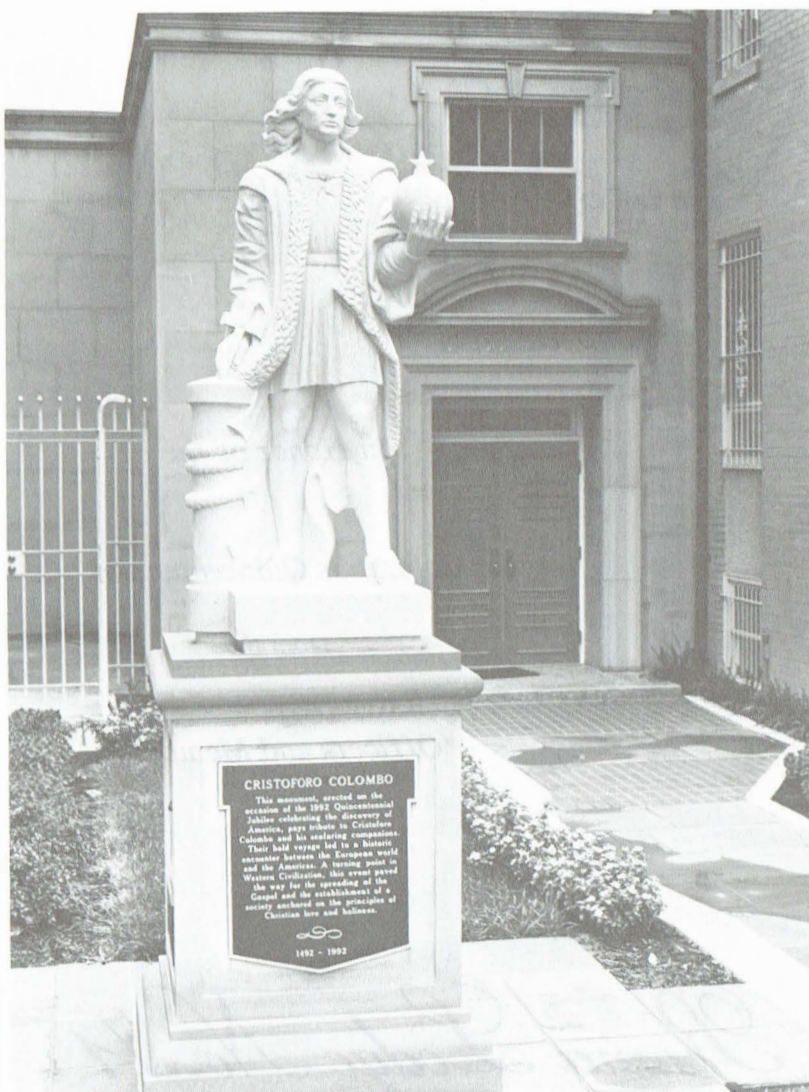


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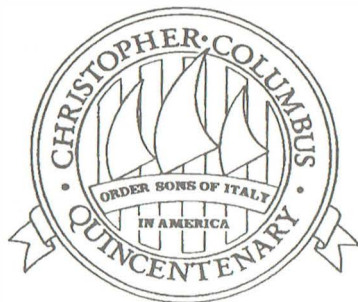
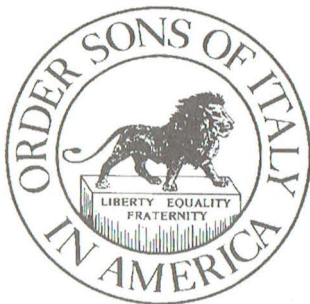
Roma Lodge No. 71

Washington, D.C.

LIDO CIVIC CLUB



In celebration of the Quincentennial Anniversary of the discovery of America; the members of the LIDO CIVIC CLUB of Washington, D.C. have made a gift to the community of this statue of Christopher Columbus, erected at Holy Rosary Church and dedicated on September 17, 1992.



**The Order Sons of Italy in America
Commemorates the Momentous
Historical Occasion of the
500th Anniversary of the
Discovery of America and the
Encounter of Two Worlds**

October 12, 1992

**Peter R. Zuzolo
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We salute Christopher Columbus on the
occasion of the Quincentennial of his historic
voyage to America

Greetings and Best Wishes
for the

Columbus Celebration 1992

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Order Sons of Italy in America

Chartered Oct. 22, 1983

**Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Council
No. 3877
District of Columbia**

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ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
QUINCENTENNIAL CEREMONY
Columbus Plaza-Washington D.C-Oct 12, 1992**

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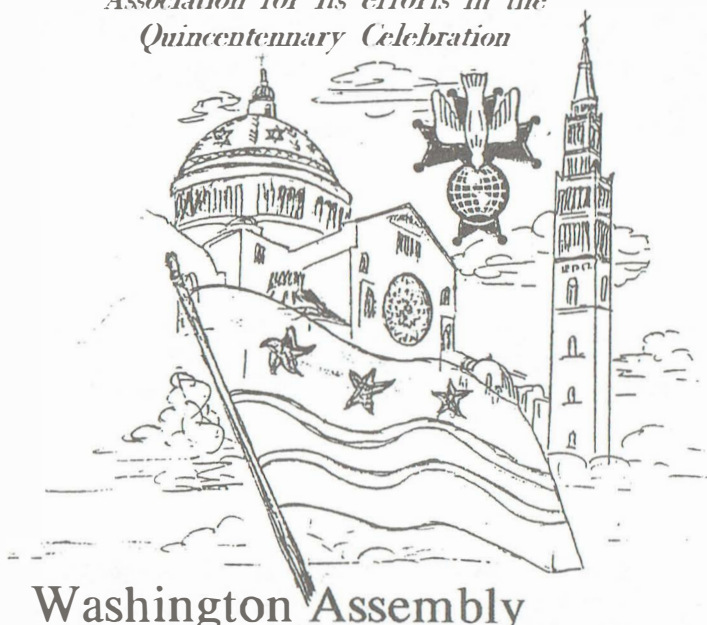
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Leland N. Johnson
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Welfare Officer	Joseph Malia
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Officer of the Day	Joseph Puglisi
Medical Officer	Dr. Paul Manganaro
3-Yr. Post Trustee	Tony Curatolo
2-Yr. Post Trustee	Carmen Campagnoli
1-Yr. Post Trustee	Robert Duck

NIAF and the Columbus Quincentenary

As chairman of the National Italian American Foundation's Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Program, I invite you to join me and NIAF in commemorating at this year's gala dinner, Christopher Columbus, the first immigrant to the New World.

Senator Paolo Taviani, the world-renowned Columbus scholar, wrote, "The Columbian discovery was of greater magnitude than any other discovery or invention in world history." It is in this spirit that we celebrate Columbus as a model of a brave, resourceful and innovative person who carried out an extraordinary accomplishment against impossible odds.



Hon. Frank J. Guarini

We also celebrate Columbus as a symbol of Italian American heritage. We commemorate the enormous and enduring contributions made to all facets of our society by Italian Americans. The Columbus Quincentenary is truly a celebration of the American immigrant especially the many millions from Italy.

We in the Italian American community take pride in upholding the legacy of Christopher Columbus. Celebrating the Quincentenary is an outstanding opportunity for us to plan for the future by learning from the past. In this celebration let us fully appreciate the great mosaic that America represents today and let us work toward a world where understanding, peace and harmony prevail.

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