# THE NATION'S CAPITAL CELEBRATES 502 YEARS OF DISCOVERY



## HONORING THE GREAT DISCOVERER

# CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

## MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 1994

THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL COLUMBUS PLAZA

UNION STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPONSORED BY THE WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION



A Venetian drawing (1621) of Columbus's Fleet Departing Cadiz on Their Second Voyage

## WE SALUTE THE BRAVERY AND SUCCESS OF THE SECOND VOYAGE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS TO THE NEW WORLD!

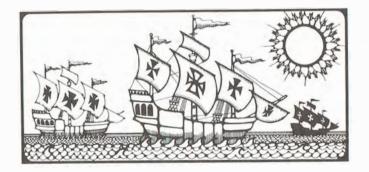
DR. and MRS. DAVID R. CURFMAN

## COLUMBUS PLAZA AT UNION STATION

The Columbus Fountain at Union Station, shown on the cover, 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 Larado 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 on the 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 Nations'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 out 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 the conclusion of every Columbus Day celebration.



## 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 this same year)
- 1465 First sea voyages to Corsica
- 1477 Sails to England, Iceland and possibly near the Artic Circle
- 1479 Marries Felipa Moniz Perestrello 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 Perestrello 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.
- 1493 Returns to Palos on March 15 and receives a special audience at the Spanish count in Barcelona; 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

#### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS - PRE 1492

Christopher Columbus was the eldest son of Domenico Colombo and Suzanna Fontanarossa, probably born at Genoa, the exact date uncertain. According to the *Life of Columbus* by his son Ferdinand, young Christopher was sent to the University of Pavia, where he studied astronomy, geometry and cosmography. Yet, according to the admiral's own statement, he became a sailor at 14. In 1470-73 he was engaged in trade at Genoa, following the family business of weaving and residing at the neighbouring Savona. In 1474-75 he appears to have visited Chios, returning to Genoa perhaps early in 1476. He again set out on a voyage in the summer of 1476, perhaps bound for England; on Aug. 13, 1476, the four Genoese vessels he accompanied were attacked off Cape St. Vincent by a privateer, one Guillaume de Casenove; two of the four ships escaped, with Christopher, to Lisbon. In Dec. 1476, they resumed their voyage to England, probably carrying with them Columbus, who claims to have made a voyage in the northern seas, and even to have visited Iceland about Feb. 1477. This last pretension is disputed, but is perhaps not to be rejected, and we may also trace the Genoese about this time at Bristol, at Galway, and probably among the islands west and north of Scotland. Soon after this he returned to Portugal, where he married Felipa Moniz de Perestrello, daughter of Bartholomew Perestrello, a captain in the service of Prince Henry the Navigator, and one of the early colonists and first governor of Porto Santo.

About 1479 Columbus visited Porto Santo where he pored over the logs and papers of his deceased father-in-law, and talked with old seamen of their voyages, and of the mystery of the western seas. He seems step by step to have conceived that design of reaching Asia by sailing west which was to result in the discovery of America. In 1474 he is said to have corresponded with Paolo Toscanelli, The Florentine physician and cosmographer, and to have received from him valuable suggestions for such a Western enterprise. (This incident has been disputed by some recent critics.) He had perhaps already begun his studies in a number of works, especially the Book of Marco Polo and the Immago Mundi of Pierre d'Ailly, by which his cosmographical and geographical conceptions were largely moulded. His views, as presented to the courts of Portugal and Spain, were supported by three principal lines of argument, derived from natural reasons, from the theories of geographers, and from the reports and traditions of mariners. He believed the world to be a sphere; he underestimated its size; he overestimated the size of the Asiatic continent. And the farther that continent extended towards the east, the nearer it came towards Spain. Nor were these theories the only supports of his idea. Martin Vicente, a Portuguese pilot, was said to have found, 400 leagues to the westward of Cape St. Vincent, and after a westerly gale of many days' duration, a piece of strange wood, wrought, but not with iron; Pedro Correa, Columbus's own brother-in-law, was said to have seen another such waif at Porto Santo, with great canes capable of holding four quarts of wine between joint and joint, and to have heard of two men being washed up at Flores "very broad-faced, and differing in aspect from Christians." West of Europe, now and then, men fancied there have in sight the mysterious islands of St. Brenden, of Brazil, of Antillia or of the Seven Citics. In his northern journey, too, some vague and formless traditions may have reached the explorer's ear of the voyages of Leif Ericson and Thorfinn Karlsefne, and of the coasts of Markland and Vinland. All were hints and rumours to bid the bold mariner sail towards the setting sun, and this he at length determined to do.

(Copied from the Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1961. "Columbus, Christopher (c. 1446 or 1451-1506) (in Spanish, Cristobal Colon)."

## 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.

## THE HARD TASK OF COLONIZATION

When Christopher Columbus and his crew set sal for Spain and home in the Caribbean winter of 1493, they were filled with the excitement of success and New World adventure. Leaving behind a small garrison on a still-unexplored frontier, they were carrying to Europe the first word of totally new places and people and of opportunities so great that they could hardly be measured.

But Columbus also felt the hand of hardship and disappointment amid his triumphs. After cautiously exploring the Bahamas, the coast of Cuba, nd Hispaniola, his proud flagship, the *Santa Maria*, had grounded and broken up on a coral reef on Christmas Day, 1492 -- its wood and timbers then salvaged for the fort called La Navidad, the Nativity.

The captain and crew of the *Pinta* had deliberately sailed away from Columbus for three weeks. Then when the *Nina* and *Pinta* joined together for the voyage home on Jan. 16, 1493, they spent almost two months coping with dangerous seas and fretful, unfamiliar winds. Finally, Columbus was forced by coastal storms to drop anchor near Lisbon, risking hostile action by the King of Portugal, who vied with Spain for everything new beyond the horizon.

But the king was cordial to the discoverer, helping him to move on and one March 15, 1493 the first Columbus voyage ended at Palos, Spain, where it had begun 32 weeks earlier.

After eight months of of constant risk and rumor -- and remarkable sailoring -- the *Nina* and the *Pinta* and their crews were home again. Far away in Barcelona, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were notified of the homecoming by letter from Columbus.

In mid-April, at their invitation, Columbus completed a triumphant journey across Spain to Barcelona -- officers, six native peoples in native dress, caged parrots, servants, all on colorful parade. Every village and town along the 800-mile route cheered the explorer on his way.

Columbus was received with further cheers and honors by Ferdinand and Isabella in their fortress-palace, the Alcazar. He was seated beside them and their young prince in the throne room as the grandest of Spain's nobility gathered round. After the first solemn reception and interrogation by his sovereigns and their counselors, Columbus and the entire court moved to the royal chapel where the Te Deum was chanted and prayers of thanks and joy were said. It was a magnificent welcome home.

But in a world where his success made exploration the immediate goal of every king and country, the rulers of Spain needed to take firm hold of the new lands. On May 20, 1493, only two months after returning to Europe, Columbus was appointed captain general of a second expedition. It boasted 17 vessels, some freight caravels, some light and small for shallow harbors in the New World.

The purpose of the armada was the conversion of the natives of the Indies and the establishment of a trading colony for Spain. About 1,200 men were rallied to the crews. After a personal pilgrimage to a shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the devout Columbus and hiss new fleet lifted sail in Seville on Sept. 25.

Once again Columbus moved south in the Atlantic to the Canary Islands. The ships were provisioned. Then, once again, the Admiral of the Ocean Sea put land behind him. He fleet left the Canaries on Oct. 13, 1493. And, still confident, he showed the way again to the New World without m sfortune.

This momentous journey was to last three years. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas and most of the other important places in the Caribbean were repeatedly examined and explored. The patterns of Spanish colonization were set down in writing and applied in action by Christopher Columbus and the agents sent with him by Ferdinand and Isabella. The interchange of cultures in languages, music, and informed arts, and in goods -- minerals, metals, wood, vegetables and fruits -- was begun. And the Old World's diseases, its possessive impulses, its harsh way with enemies started to change the less structured and less aggressive life in the New World's people.

Toward the end of November, Columbus reached La Navidad. He found it burned and devastated, its garrison all dead – the victims, said friendly natives, of a cannibal tribe they all feared. But thuggery by the colonists may have hastened their demise.

Columbus set up a new colony at La Isabela on the north central coast of Hispaniola and from that time in the last autumn of 1493 until the spring of 1496 struggled with being a colonizer -- mapping the islands, searching endlessly for gold, jewels and silver. But easy riches never were found. Columbus still thought Asia and Japan were not far off -- speculating that interior Cuba or Puerto Rico might lead him, eventually, the the Orient's mainland and its wealth.

Cargos from Spain brought seeds and implements. Farms were worked. Eventually Columbus established a new and lasting capital for Hispaniola, the city of Santo Domingo, which still stands. But most colonists were gold-seakers, home sick always for Spain and dispirited when great fortunes eluded them. So on March 10, 1496 Columbus started back to Spain to reorganize the whole exploratory enterprise. He commanded two old ships, one the *Nina* with a new name. Carrying 225 Christians eager to reach Europe and 30 native peoples confused and uncertain about their role in the crowded life of Spain, the small craft had a rough journey.

They were at sea for three months. All landed undernourished; some landed disillusioned, at Cadiz, Spain, on June 11, 1496. The excitement and glory of the first return home was replaced with businesslike reporting, analysis and discussion of ways to develop the new lands. The Admiral of the Ocean Sea had lost none of his discoverer's prestige, but he was challenged, now, to seek a practical payoff in the prize that had created so much hope and envy and pride when it was first claimed. That task would not be e sy.

Taken from an article in the COLUMBIA, April 1992, written by Robert Leeney.

Editor Emeritus of the New Haven Register, Robert Leeney is a public relations consultant to the Supreme Council.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. KEEP COLUMBUS IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF ALL PEOPLE.

### Here lies Columbus, and here, and here...

Christopher Columbus left many mysteries behind him and none is more challenging today than the question of his final resting place.

The Spanish historical tradition, deep on scholarship and the high pride of Spain's royal court, says that the Admiral of the Ocean Sea rests today in Seville's stately cathedral.

The claim in the Caribbean is that the true, fragmentary remains of Columbus stayed where they were brought by his daughter-in-law in 1541 --beneath the tiled arches of the cathedral at Santo Domingo in the New World community Columbus governed.

When he died on May 20, 1506, Columbus had already been pushed from history's center stage. The New World colonies were thriving. After Queen Isabella's death, King Ferdinand had little time for the ill and aging sailor who endlessly pursued the court's favors and hiss expectations of New World wealth. Following the king, Columbus had moved in failing health from Segovia, to Salamanca, to Valladolid. When he died in Valladolid he was buried there -- with almost no recognition of his work for the Spanish crown and with no expression of his place in history.

In 1509, responding late to the final pleas of old Columbus, King Ferdinand made Don Diego, the admiral's son, governor of the Indies. At that point the second Admiral of the Ocean Sea, who had married a cousin of the king and bettered his own position, had the body of Christopher Columbus transferred from Valladolid to the monastery of Las Cuevas in Seville. It rested that for three decades,

Don Diego Columbus and his wife, Dona Maria de Colon y Toledo, spent years thereafter in the governor's citadel in Santo Domingo. Neither of them, however, were enthusiastic colonists. When Don Diego died in 1526, only 20 years after his father, he, too, was first buried in Spain. Then in 1541, the widow -- now Vice Reine of the Indies in her own right -- decided that the family ties to the New World could be strengthened. She took the remains of Christopher Columbus and Diego Columbus from Seville to Santo Domingo. Father and so were given a place of honor in Hispaniola's cathedral.

It was after this that she decided to give up the governing role and the New World titles to her young son, Luis -- and decided to relinquish them so the youth could become the Duke of Veragua and Spain and they both could put aside the burdens of empire building.

Christopher Columbus and his first son, Diego, were at peace in Santo Domingo Cathedral for 250 years. Then, awash in the tides of history, Spain surrendered Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic) to France in 1795. The Columbus remains, father and son, were officially removed to the Spanish cathedral in Havana. For another full century they were honored there.

Then, in 1898, after the Spanish-American War, Cuba won its independence. The remains in the Havana Cathedral again become a symbol of receding Spanish power. The graves of Christopher and Diego were once again changed. A grand sarcophagus was installed in the Cathedral of Seville, Spain. There, say insistent Spanish historians, the two New World governors rest together in the ancient seat of power for Ferdinand and Isabella. Such rest is deserved.

But, 20 years before that transfer from Havana to Spain, when the Santo Domingo cathedral was being repaired in 1877, a small vault was discovered beneath the ancient paving. It contained a lead box marked C C A (Christopher Columbus Admiral). The underside of the lid was inscribed in old Spanish abbreviated form: "The Illustrious and Excellent man, Don Cristobal Colon." In the box were a few fragments of bone, dust, a small lead ball, and a thin silver plate in the same shortened Spanish style which seems to read: "The last part of the remains of the first Admiral, Don Cristobal Colon, the Discoverer."

Spanish scholars say the remains in Spain are authentic. Others conclude that Don Diego rests in Seville Cathedral and that his father. Christopher Columbus, the Admiral of the Ocean Sea, rests still in the cathedral at Santo Domingo.

At the Knights of Columbus convention in New York in August (1992) the contemporary Cristobal Colon, the Duke of Veragua, 20th direct descendant of Columbus, said that the resting place of his illustrious ancestor is a complicated historical matter that he could not answer definitively and that he leaves it to the scholars.

On October 1992, on the 500th anniversary of the Columbus landfall, a great lighthouse and monument facing east toward Spain from the New World was dedicated in the name of Christopher Columbus. Its centerpiece -- in another restless move for the old sailor -- is the hallowed remains from the cathedral at Santo Domingo placed in a new setting.

Visitors to the lighthouse and the new burial site will have, perhaps finally, a view of the sea Columbus crossed with so much constant change, for the world and for himself, as its result.

Taken from an article in the COLUMBIA, September 1992, written by Robert Leeney. Editor emeritus of the New Haven Register, Robert Leeney is a public relations consultant wo the Supreme Coun il.

We invite your attention to the back cover showing the lighthouse with its powerful rays and depiction of the cross in the sky. The inside back cover has a story of the lighthouse.



### 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.

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. In 1991 the ceremony was the focus for the launching of the 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.

In 1992 the ceremony marked the quincentenary of Christopher Columbus' voyage. It started on October 11th with a Memorial Mass at Holy Rosary Church celebrated by Msgr. Roger C. Roensch, Pilgrimage Director at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On Columbus Day, a Civic Ceremony was held at the statue of Columbus in Columbus Plaza at Union Station. The morning ceremony was sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. This was followed by the first of two musical erformances by the Filarmonica Sestrese Genoa Concert Band, Maestro Gianluca Silvano, Conductor and Maestro Charles Gabriele, Guest Conductor. The Washington Columbus Celebration Association program followed with an observance of the 100th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance by Louis Koerber, President of the National Flag Day Foundation, remarks by the Regional Director of the National Park Service, and dance selections performed by Nachtanz. The two principal speakers were the Honorable Joseph DiGenova, former United States Attorney for the District of Columbus, who spoke eloquently about the "Courage of Christopher Columbus," and Dr. Christopher Kauffman, author of Faith and Fraternalism who spoke on "Culture and Religion: A Quincentennial Reflection." The ceremony closed with the laying of wreaths, the pledge of allegiance, and singing of God Bless America.

The 1993 ceremony followed the familiar pattern of the previous ceremonies. It was highlighted by the talks of Gonzalo de Ojeda, Consul General of Spain; Cornelius W. Heine, Executive Secretary of the U. S. Capitol Historical Society and Carl A. Anderson, Vice President for Public Policy, Knights of Columbus. Consul Ojeda spoke of "The Return of Columbus to the New World." Mr. Heine's talk centered on the many and history of the Columbus and the Immigrant, His (Columbus) Impact! The presentation of 16 wreaths and the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the singing of God Bless America by the audience concluded the ceremonies.



## YOUTH AND COLUMBUS

The Columbus Day celebration in 1991 was the focus for the launching of the Quincentennial Celebration of Columbus' discovery. As an adjunct to the inauguration celebration, the Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus, sponsored an essay contest for the local area as a forerunner to a contest for the United States and Canada in 1992. The contest, which focused on "Columbus: Role Model for Today's Youth," was open to both male and female students in grades 10-12 in public and private schools in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. U. S. Savings Bonds in the amount of \$2,500.00 were awarded as prizes to the three top winners in each of the three jurisdictions. The first prize winner from each jurisdiction was: Zulima Espinel from the District of Columbia, Brian Elieson from Maryland, and Stephanie Crewe from Virginia. Miss Espinel has been invited to speak at this celebration, and her winning essay follows.

#### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: MAN WITH A MISSION

"Take courage, do not abandon to sadness and fear, I will provide." These were the words that the Lord spoke to Columbus as he endured the perils and opposition of one of the most famous journeys in history. Christopher Columbus is one of history's most widely known and admired figures. This is because his discoveries not only altered the course of the world's history, but also because all people, especially the young, can relate to his strife and fearless struggle.

Youth today face a multitude of problems: drugs, peer pressure, the environment, and violence of all sorts. Although Columbus lived over 500 years ago, and many of these issues did not exist, his perseverance, faith, courage, and loyalty prove him to be an exceptional role model for arming us against these problems. Columbus' faith was probably the most important trait he had. It

Columbus' faith was probably the most important trait he had. It fueled his perseverance and motivated him to keep pressing for support of his journey, while people mocked him and questioned his goals. According to Paul Ford "for weary years Christopher Columbus endured the snubs of the Spanish grandees." The admiral's faith aided him in never giving up hope even in times of desperation, for "always in his dreams were the far off lands of spices; always in his ears sounded the call of the sea." Finally, it kept him pressing on throughout his travels, when his crew wanted to turn back, and emboldened him so that "I myself, in spite of fatiguing opposition felt sure that the enterprise would, nevertheless, prosper, and continue equally confident of it to this day."

His constant faith in **God gave** him the strength to brave being "..upon that dangerous coast suffering from a severe fever and worn with fatigue." He heard a voice from God tell him, "From thine infancy he has kept thee under his constant and watchful care." These words inspired him to persist and go forward.

Courage was also an essential element in his character. According to his diary written at sea, "I myself had fallen sick and was many times at the point of death, but from a little cabin on deck I directed our course." This valiance combined with unceasing faith resulted in a will which "...determined on keeping the sea in spite of the weather, and my vessel was on the very point of sinking when our Lord miraculously brought us upon land."

Young people should remember that although Columbus was a brave and courageous man, he also experienced great fear and anxiety. In the midst of a violent storm in February, 1493, his log reveals that he feared for the lives of all aboard his vessel and for the well being of his two sons. Columbus was fearful, as we all are at times, yet he found strength and courage in his faith in God to persevere and to succeed.

Christopher Columbus was a man who was loyal and loving, both to his family and his fellow man. In his log, Columbus described his interactions with the Indians in San Salvador, saying, "I want the natives to develop a friendly attitude toward us because I know that they are a people who can be made free and converted to out hold faith more by love than by force." It was this kind of respect for all kinds of people that earned Columbus the respect he has today.

Columbus was also a man of great determination. He endured years of poverty and isolation earning a meager living drawing maps, yet his determination never wavered. "The man with the coat full of holes" as people like to call him, was committed to his dream and determined to fulfill it. Each of us has his own dream and we can take inspiration from Columbus' example.

All too often today the young find their role models in the glamorous characters that movie stars portray. Unfortunately, we sometimes forget that wealth and power do not constitute real success in life. In order to find real role models, who will give us examples of how to solve real problems, many times we have to re-examine the lives of those who have served as past examples. Christopher Columbus embodies the virtues of faith, determination, courage and love, and it is these virtues which make him a real hero who continues to inspire us half a millennium later.



## THE COURAGE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Excerpts from a speech by the Hon. Joseph E. diGenova at the Columbus Day celebration October 12, 1992

We gather here today on this beautiful occasion. We gather at a time when the name Christopher Columbus and his legacy is the subject of come considerable controversy. I am here today to celebrate Christopher Columbus and not to denigrate hi . To the question that has recently been asked, "Was Christopher Columbus hero or villain?", the answer if simple; he was a hero and nothing less. We are here today to celebrate him, not to canonize him or to deify him or to find him the perfect being and reflection of the Good Lord. He was none of those things. He was a reflection of his times, a reflection of an age of discovery, exploration, bravery, cruelty, misunderstanding, ignorance, and enlightenment.

Everything that you can conceive of that is part of the human spirit that drives us to explore and to learn is what he is. He was good; he was bad. He was excellent; he was horrible. He was a hero because he was all those things. He reflected his age when he came to this part of the world. He reflected the s andards of the 15th century. He found what he had brought. He found imperfection. He found slavery in existence. He brought slavery with him. He took slavery back. He left slavery. He brought cruelty. He took cruelty. He brought enlightenment. He took enlightenment. If we are to view every one of our heros as perfect, we will have no heros.

We a know about the history of our own country. If we look at Thomas Jefferson, we understand he was a man of great enlightenment, a man of great dignity, a man of letters, a man of science. He was also a slave owner. Yet, we do not denigrate Thomas Jefferson. We seek to understand him. He is no less a great hero of the United States because he foolishly pursued the common understandings and traits of his time and, in so doing, committed and inhumane act and continued to do so for the remainder of his life, although he said he regretted it. That does not make him any less worthy of our admiration, our respect and our study.

The same must be said of Christopher Columbus. Can you imagine 1492? Imagine what it would be like to cross an ocean, not to know what was on the other side, not to know that it was an ocean, that there was an other side. Put yourselves in their shoes. Put yourself in his shoes. Think of us as we watched the first astronauts put into orbit and then arriving on the moon. We had an advantage. We were all watching electronically the astronauts who went aloft. We saw them; we listened to them. Every act of the astronauts was recorded as it occurred. If something were to go wrong, we would know instantaneously. When Christopher Columbus set sail in three small caravels to cross the Atlantic to what he thought would be the Indies, there was no one to watch. Indeed, there were very few to care. What was to happen to Christopher Columbus and his crew no one knew. What did happen was a discovery of such momentous import that it in fact changed the world.

We do not celebrate perfection today. We celebrate exploration. We celebrate discovery. We celebrate courage and fortitude. We celebrate the assumption of risk, great risk -- personal and otherwise. We celebrate a country, Spain, which took a risk for a great exploration after some considerable debate within its own councils. We celebrate Queen Isabella, who, as a woman, knew more than he male counterparts about what exploration was about. Remember that crossing the Atlantic was like going to Mars. It was not what you and I perceive as we do today -- a rocket being shot into space that we track every moment of its venture.

It is very, very typically American to revise our history, to revise our heros and to question their values. Christopher Columbus is strong enough to withstand that type of scrutiny. He will survive and his legacy of discovery and adventure will survive for the simple reason that he was a great man with a great vision which he was not afraid to pursue. He was a navigator. He was a mariner. He was a sailor. He was a person who understood, quite simply, that the only way to reach the other side was to cross -- and he did.

Some who say that when he came here he brought a view of Christianity inconsistent with modern concepts and indeed he probably did. But we must not condemn Christopher Columbus and his great accomplishments because 20th century notions of civility and humanity have long since outpaced even Renaissance thinking of the time. The people of that time had much to be ashamed of and, needless to say, so do we.

The people of the 20th century are not perfect. If we look around the world and look at Bosnia and Somalia, we know today, as surely as we sit here in front of the statue of Christopher Columbus, that we are imperfect and therefore we should not visit upon Christopher Columbus any judgment of history that we would not visit upon ourselves.

Christopher was a man -- he was not a God. He was someone who was audacious. The audacity of what a single man did -- and to convince a foreign government that there was merit in his proposal -- if we look at it in the context of the times -- is a miraculous accomplishment. We can hindsight regret certain things which occurred while he was here and in the Indies, or what he called the Indies. But we must remember that those were times which were full of cruelty, full of misunderstanding and full of acts which we today consider to be beyond the pale of human tolerance. These characteristics were the tenor of those times; they were a part of the spirit of exploration. We as realists can accept that at the same time as we accept the greatness of the effort that it took to undertake such a voyage with such risks. And so we celebrate Christopher Columbus's daring, his courage, and, again, his audacity.

Perfection has never been the standard of historical importance, and it should not be. We, of course, are a very young culture. It is natural for us to revise and to revisit -- and we should do that. We should do it regularly. We even do it with our Presidents from time to time -- sitting Presidents -we revisit and we revise.

And so, we celebrate today the consummate sailor, the consummate mariner, the consummate explorer, the consummate discoverer. As John Noble Wilford said, "Samuel Eliot Morrison's Columbus was no saint by he could sail a ship and possessed the will and courage to go where no one had presumably gone before." Are we burdening him with more quilt that any one man of woman should have to shoulder? The answer is yes. Should not the quilt be more broadly shared, if there is any? The answer is yes. If we are to judge Christopher Columbus by any standard, it must be by the standard of his time. And by that standard, Christopher Columbus was in fact a hero. We all know that what he accomplished in his time and for his time was unprecedented. We know that others went before him. There is considerable evidence that Norsemen and others traversed the Atlantic or at least tried to, and that other tribes did so. That is no less a tribute to what he did.

What Columbus accomplished was the equivalent in his time of walking on the moon. We must never forget that as we look in hindsight and seek to make perfect that which is imperfect. Just remember, if the District of Columbia becomes a state, it will be the state of New Columbia, named after Christopher Columbus. It appears that Chris still has currency, even in an age of sometime doubts, sometime second-guessing of a monumental nature. And so I say to you today, he changed the course of history. He courage is unquestioned. He was a noble servant of history. He was a genius. He was a sailor. He was a hero.

## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS - PATRON

# Why the Knights of Columbus chose Christopher Columbus as its patron

The iconography of Columbus is as varied as te knowledge of his life is vague and incomplete. However, the symbolism evoked by Columbus as the first American hero served as a catalyst and inspiration for the founder and incorporators of the Knights of Columbus as they strove to maintain their Catholic legitimacy in a sometimes hostile environment.

On the North American continent, Columbus fist emerged as a popular hero during the period of the American Revolution, when patriots of the new republic were struggling for identify and independence. The female personification of America. "Columbia," was a term coined by Phillis Wheatley, freed slave and black poetess from Boston, when she inserted it into print in her poem *His Excellency General Washington*, in 1775. Writers such as Connecticut poet and diplomat, Joel Barlow, with his epic poem *The Vision of Columbus*, 1787 and Jeremy Belknap's *A Discourse, Intended to Commemorate the Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus*, 1792, among others, laid the foundation for a patriotic vision of the Admiral, adding the aura of fame surrounding his adventurous encounters in the New World. This patriotic vision was later expounded upon by Washington Irving and other 19th century writers who contributed to the romantic image of Columbus, while the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago expressed the embodiment of all these ideals.

In 1882 the founding Knights chose Christopher Columbus as their patron to declare themselves in the mainstream of American Society. Their struggling immigrant families were linked to the patriotic ideals of this new republic in the New World by boldness, the perseverance, and most of all the Catholicity that they shared with the great discoverer. Just as the heirs of the Pilgrims associated themselves with the Mayflower, the Protestant symbol of their identity as early Americans, so Knights evoked the Santa Maria as the symbol of their self-understanding as Catholic citizens. Columbus became the symbol of the Catholic contribution to American culture and life of a developing nation.

They felt that the name of the new organization should relate to the fact that Catholics discovered, explored and colonized vast areas of the Americas, and that it should embody Knightly ideals of service to Church, country and fellow man. Consequently, after an original proposal "Sons of Columbus," the title "Knights of Columbus" was adopted.

Source: Supreme Office, Knights of Columbus.

Best Wishes to All of Our Brother Knights at Our Annual Columbus Day Celebration

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## WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION (WCCA)

The Washington Columbus Celebration Association was established in 1989 to commemorate the historic discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus. Through its annual celebration, the Association reaffirms its commitment to the Judeo-Christian faith and fervent belief in the inherent dignity of the human person. Members of the Association are pledged to the principles for which Christopher Columbus was characterized; faith, persistence, conviction, and the courage to explore the unknown - essential traits to the fulfillment of the "American dream."

The Association functions as a coordinated entity for the organization in the Greater Metropolitan Washington area that share a common interest in the heroic achievements of Christopher Columbus. With a current membership of 42 businesses, individuals and civic and fraternal organizations, the Association is committed to fostering community leadership and involvement among all ages to ensure that the opportunities inherent to the American way of life are never diminished due to neglect of indifference.

Among the activities sponsored by the Washington Columbus Celebration Association is an annual Columbus Day commemorative ceremony at the statue of Christopher Columbus located in the Union Station Plaza.

The Association seeks, above all, to promote a fervent commitment to forging new paths of opportunity, respect for the principles upon which our nation was founded, and responsibility for creating an even better way of life for all Americans.

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

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### **PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES**

## WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES - OCTOBER 9, 1994 (AT HOLY ROSARY CHURCH - 595 3rd. St., N.W.)

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

> Ceremony at the Christopher Columbus statue in the Church Courtyard Welcome - Rev. Terry Bagatin, Pastor Address - Mr. Gino Marinucci, President, Lido Civic Club

CIVIC CEREMONIES - OCTOBER 10, 1994 (AT COLUMBUS PLAZA, UNION STATION)

- 10:30 AM Musical Prelude Commonwealth Ensemble
- 11:00 AM Posting of the Colors Knights of Columbus Color Corps Calvert Province - Districts of Washington Archdiocese, Maryland, and Virginia

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

Invocation - Rev. Terry Bagatin, Pastor, Holy Rosary Church

Welcome - John C. Moore, General Chairman WCCA

Master of Ceremonies - Honorable Joseph A. DePaul

Introduction of Guests

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

The Embassies - Italy, Spain,

- Reading of Proclamations -From the President of the U. S.-From the Mayor of District of Columbia -
- Remarks Miss Zulima Espinel, Winner 1991 Columbus Essay Contest

Address - Judge Angelo Castrlli, Orphans Court, Prince George's County

Musical Selections - Commonwealth Ensemble

Address - Judge Lawrence S. Margolis, U.S. Circuit Court of Federal Clains

Musical Selections - Commonwealth Ensemble

Address - Mr. Robert B. Blancato, Executive Director, White House Conference on Aging

Presentation of Wreaths -Embassies and Association Members

12:30 PM Conclusion - "Pledge of Allegiance" - Audience

"God Bless America" - Audience

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

JUDGE ANGELO I. CASTELLI resides in Oxon Hill with his wife and has four children. He was elected to a four-year term to the Board of Edu ation in November 1978, to a second four-year term in 1982 and a third four-year term in 1986. In 1990 he was elected as a judge to the orphan's Court in Prince George's County. He received a Bachelor's Degree with honors from the University of Rhode Island and a Juris Doctorate from the Columbus S hool of Law at Catholic University of America. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. Mr. Castelli retired from the Department of Justice where he served as a Senior Trial Attorney and the Director of the Office of Legal Training in the Tax Division. He is now in private practice in Prince George's County and serves as a Judge on the Orphan's Court. He has been admitted to practice before the United States, and in the States of Maryland and Virginia. He is a member of the Oxon Hill Democratic Club, Knights of Columbus, St. C lumba Parish and many other fraternal organizations including the Sons of Italy. He served as the Chairman of the Prince George's County Board of Education in 1985 and as the Vi - Chairman in 1982 and also in 1984.

JUDGE LAWRENCE S. MARGOLIS is a Judge with the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. He was appointed to the court in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan. Judge Margolis received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1957 from Drexel University in Philadelphia and his J.D. from George Washington University in 1961. He served as a patent examiner from 1957 to 1962 and the Naval Ordinance Laboratory in White Oak from 1962-63. From 1963 to 1966, he served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia and conducted a private civil practice. In 1966, we was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and Special Assistant United States Attorney until appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Columbia in 1971.

ROBERT B. BLANCATO was appointed at Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging by President Clinton, Mr. Blancato served as Staff Director of the House Select Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Human Services from 1977 to 1988. Mr. Blancato has served at Director of Institutes and Public Policy for the National Italian American Foundation, as President of the National Meals of Wheels Foundation and as First Vi e President of the National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse. He was also Chairman of the 1991 and 1993 Governor's Conference on Aging in Virginia. In 1982 he was in Vienna as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the World Assembly on Aging. Mr Blan ato holds a B.A. from Georgetown University and an M.P.A. from American University.

# In Memoriam

## Mariano A. Lucca 1901 - 1994

Mariano A. Lucca, born along Buffalo's Canal Street on October 28, 1901 during the Pan American Exposition, was a life long champion of the people. He was married to the former Clara L. Gugino in June, 1924.

In the late 1930's, Mr. Lucca brought about a true ecumenical spirit among the dozens of ethnic groups in Buffalo by staging annual all nations Mardi gras pageants depicting the cultural achievements of these men, women and children who made up the melting pot of a vibrant city.

In 1933 he went to Italy where he wrote a series of articles. During Mariano's tour of Italy he interviewed such great public and spiritual figures as Pope Pius XI, the Papal Secretary of State, Eugenio Pacelli, later to become Pope Pius XII, Italy's King Victor Emmanuel, Premier Benito Mussolini and Italo Balbo.

In 1935 he was sent to Germany at which time he interviewed Adolph Hitler and his top subordinates.

Mr. Lucca's greatest accomplishment came in 1966 when he opened headquarters in Washington, D.C. for his newly formed National Columbus Day Committee to bring about legislation in the Congress of the United States to make Columbus Day a legal Federal holiday.

The fruition of his dreams followed years of untiring and dedicated campaigns sparked by his persistent persuasions on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill. In 1968 the Congress formerly enacted legislation which made Columbus Day a Federal holiday starting in October 1971. In Memory of Cecelia

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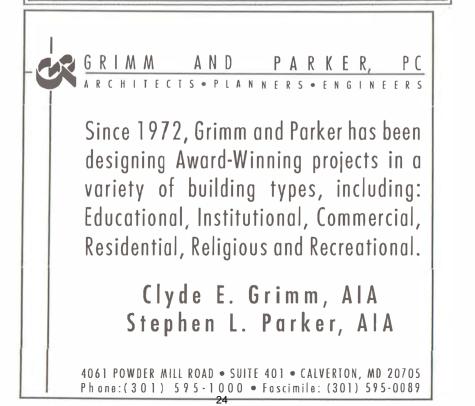
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# NIAF and the Columbus Day Celebration

As President of the National Italian American Foundation, I invite you to join me and NIAF in commemorating 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.



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. Columbus Day 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 Columbus Day 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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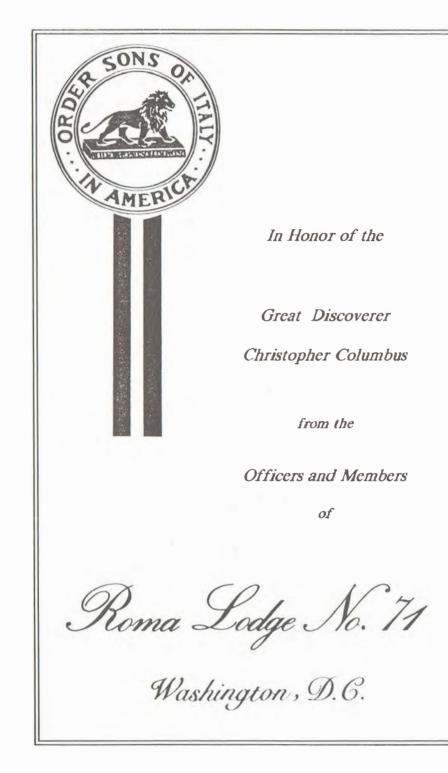


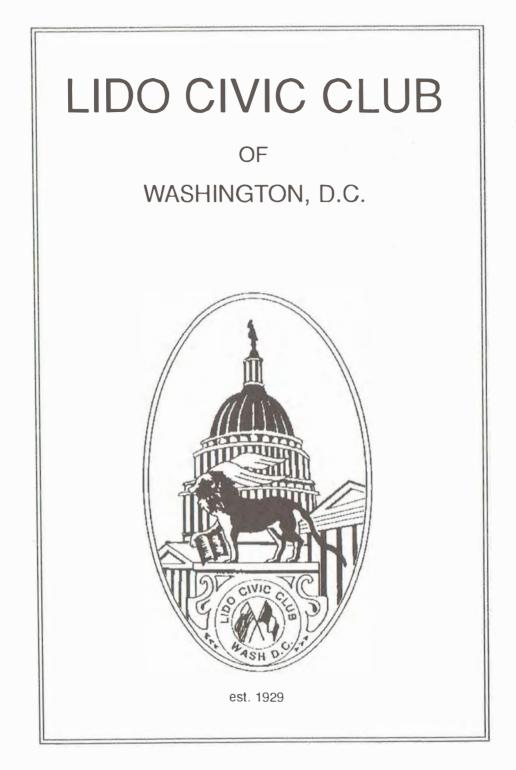
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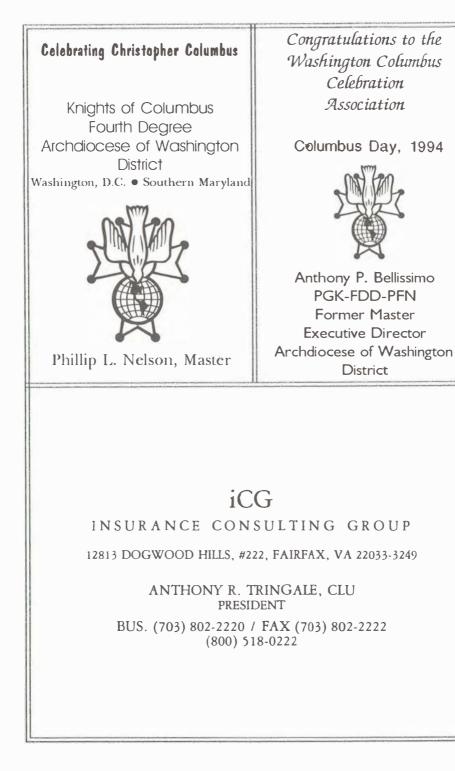
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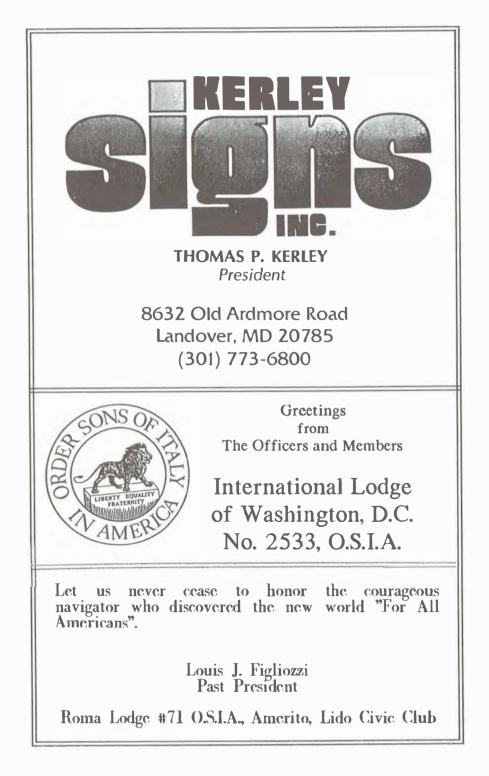
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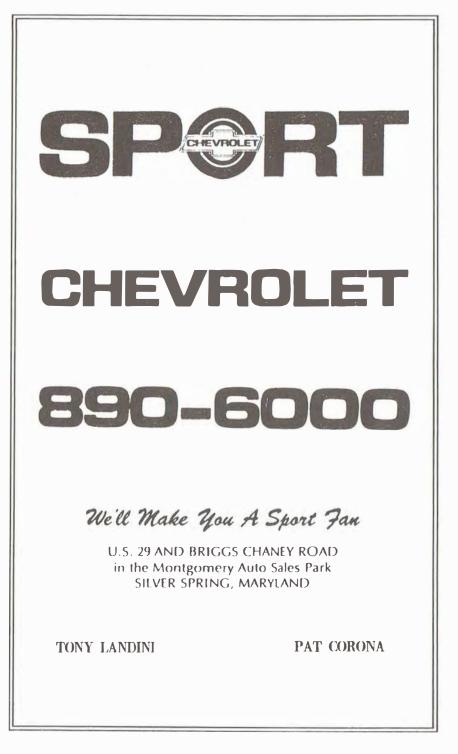
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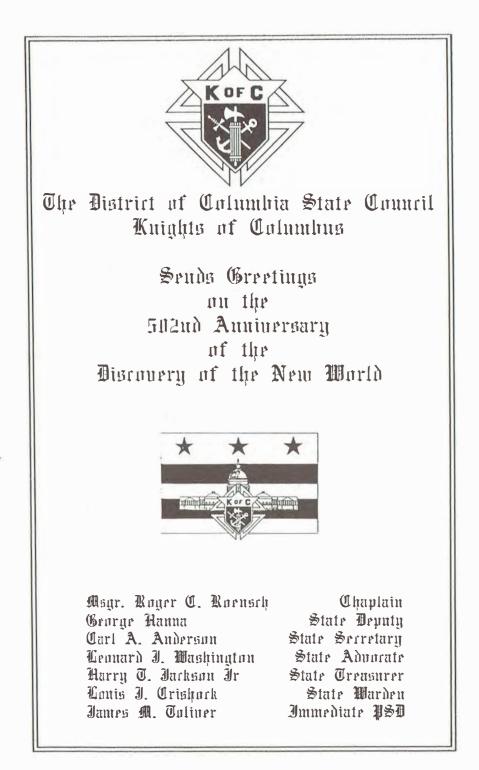
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## FINAL DESTINATION OF COLUMBUS IN AMERICA THE COLUMBUS LIGHTHOUSE (EL FARO A COLON)

When Columbus discovered America some 500 years ago, he chose Dominicana (the Dominican Republic) and its capital of Santo Domingo as the base for Spanish exploration of the New World. Five centuries later, with the cooperation of the governments and people of the Americas and other nations of the world, a lighthouse monument in the shape of a pyramid cross was erected in honor of Christopher Columbus in Santo Domingo.

While the idea of memorial dates back to 1852 (142 years ago), the monument did not start becoming a reality until 1923, when at the Fifth International American Conference in Santiago, Chile, it was recommended that the memory of Christopher Columbus, as the Discoverer of America, be honored with the construction of a lighthouse in Santo Domingo.

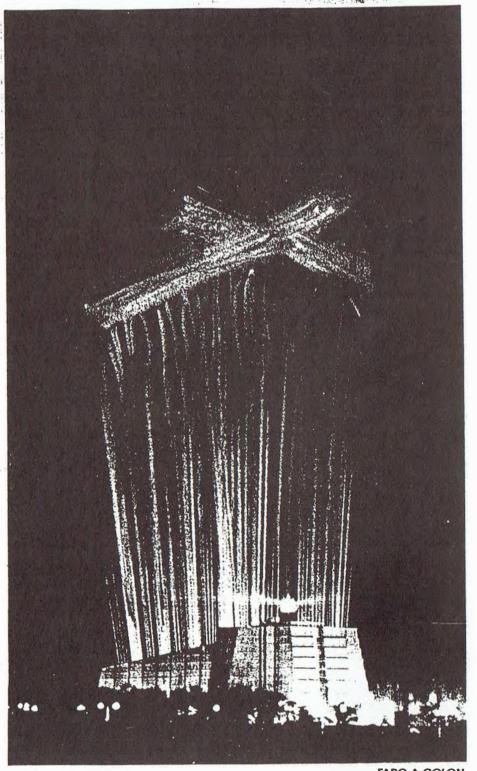
The Columbus Lighthouse was inaugurated on October 6, 1992, on which day Columbus' remains were transferred there from the Cathedral of Santo Domingo. the oldest in the Americas. The lighthouse monument, built in the shape of a cross, is 688' long (greater=eater that the Washington Monument) and 131' wide; and it slopes from a height of 109' at it head to 56' at its foot. In addition to a chapel, the countries having exhibits there are the United States, Japan, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom and Israel.

The most outstanding and unique feature of the lighthouse monument is the lighting system composed of 149 Skytrack search lights and a 780 kilowatt beam that circles out for nearly 44 miles. When Illuminated, the lights project a gigantic cross in the shy which can be seem for miles, even as far as Puerto Rico.

It is most fitting that Christopher Columbus now lies entombed in this cross-shaped monument, lighting up the skies with the sign of the Cross that his historic expedition first brought to Americans

This article written by Leonard M. Durso is based on information obtained from the Dominican Republic Embassy.

A depiction of the lighthouse and its lighting system is shown on the back cover.



FARO A COLON