

1492



1995



*Discovery of the Antilles -
a drawing attributed to Columbus*

**THE MULTICOLOR COVER OF THIS CELEBRATION PROGRAM,
DEPICTING A SOUVENIR RIBBON FROM 1892, HAS BEEN
GENEROUSLY PROVIDED IN RECOGNITION OF THE
GREAT EXPLORER CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
BY
DR. AND MRS. DAVID R. CURFMAN**

THE NATION'S CAPITAL
CELEBRATES 503 YEARS
OF DISCOVERY



HONORING THE GREAT
DISCOVERER
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

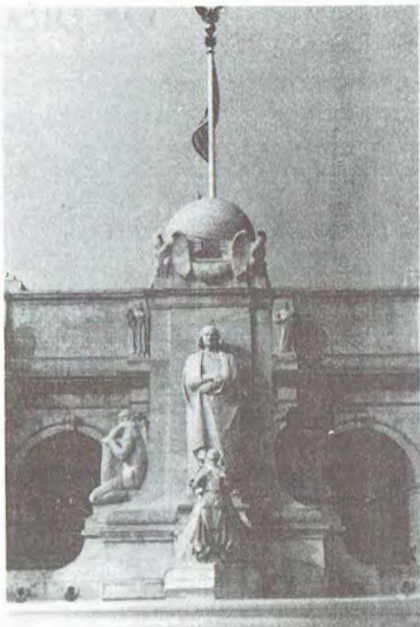
MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 1995
THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL
COLUMBUS PLAZA
UNION STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

THE COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

The Site

In the years following the great quadricentennial (400th anniversary) celebration in 1892 of the achievements and discoveries of Christopher Columbus, an effort was launched by the Knights of Columbus to establish a monument to the great discoverer. 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 newly completed Union Railroad Station in 1907, plans focused toward locating the memorial on the plaza in front of this great edifice.



After a series of competitions, sculptor Lorado Z. Taft of Chicago was awarded the contract. 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 garland. A fifteen foot statue of Columbus, facing the nation'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 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 crumbled map while to his right representing the New World is a pre-Columbian figure (American Indian) crouching behind his rude shield 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 flank behind the monument representing the historic ships of 1492 the *Nina*, 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. The dedication of the majestic tribute to Columbus occurred on June 8, 1912 with many thousands attending. It was the prelude to and the focal point for the annual Columbus Day celebrations since.

IDaniel 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 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 recent years Union Station has been rejuvenated as a lively commercial space while still serving as a train terminal. As a major artistic remnant of the Exposition, the statue, fountain and edifice rightly serve as the focal point for the annual Columbus Day Celebration.

The Ceremony

Throughout the years there have been many fraternal, civic and cultural organizations who have provided the leadership for the ceremony each year. The appearances of the U.S. Military Honor Guard, the service bands, and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps, add to the pageantry. Addresses by national and international dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, especially representing Spain, Italy and the Bahamas, Organization of American States, have added interest to the occasion; and along with the audience all have joined in the festivities. In an effort to perpetuate a more unified event, in 1989 the Washington Columbus Celebration Association (WCCA) was formed and in co-sponsorship with the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, plans the yearly ceremony which is open to the public free of charge. In addition to the highlights of the program already described in this history, the ceremony closes with wreath presentations representing many national and local fraternal, civic, patriotic and cultural societies.



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 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.
- 1493 Returns to Palos on March 15 and receives a special audience at the Spanish court in Barcelona; second voyage leaves Cadiz with 17 ships and 1000 crewmen on September 25
- 1494 Columbus has life threatening illness on arrival at New World Capital - Isabella - September through February.
- 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

THE SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS LIVES ON



Columbus arrives in
the Bahamas 1492



Colonel Aldrin
on Moon 1969

Almost 500 years after Christopher Columbus left the coast of Europe and crossed the unknown sea, and encountered an unknown world, the astronauts have landed on the moon and now stare out into the vast ocean of space, dreaming of new worlds which they hope to find.

One perhaps can say that space exploration is at the point where ocean navigation was some 500 years ago. The science of navigation today has advanced greatly since the time of Columbus. But where Columbus lacked in technology, he had vision and an abundance of faith, courage, perseverance and hope. These same qualities are also essential for the astronauts to reach the shores of their new worlds in the endless reaches of space. Thus, today Columbus continues to be a model and an inspiration for the future space explorers. Leonard Durso.

First Crossing of the Atlantic

Columbus had no chip log or other method of measuring the speed of his vessels. He and the watch officers merely estimated it and noted it down. He made an average of 9 per cent overestimate of his distance. This did not prevent his finding the way home, because the mistake was constant, and time and course were correct. It only resulted in Columbus placing the islands of his discovery farther west than they really were.

The speed of his vessels is surprising. Ships of that day were expected to make 3 to 5 knots in a light breeze, up to 9 1/2 is a strong, fair gale, and at times to be capable of 12 knots. In October 1492, on the outward passage, the Columbus fleet made an average of 142 miles per day for five consecutive days, and the best day's run, 182 miles, averaged 8 knots. On the homeward passage, in February 1493, *Nina* and *Pinta* covered 198 miles one day, and at times hit it up to 11 knots. Any yachtsman today would be proud to make the records that the great Admiral did on some of his transatlantic crossings in the fifteenth century.

One reason Columbus always wanted two or more vessels was to have someone to rescue survivors in case of sinking. He made an unusual record for that era by never losing a ship at sea, unless we count the *Santa Maria*, grounded without loss of life. Comforts and conveniences were almost totally lacking. Cooking was done on the deck over a bed of sand in a wooden firebox protected from the wind by a hood. The diet was a monotonous one of salt meat, hardtack and dried peas. For drink they had wine, while it lasted, and water in casks, which often went bad. Only the Captain General and the ships' captains had cabins with bunks; the others slept where they could, in their clothes.

In those days, sailors were the most religious of laymen. On each vessel a boy was charged with singing a ditty at day break. After sunset, and before the first night watch was set, all hands were called to evening prayers. All hands said the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ave Maria, and concluded by singing the *Salve Regina*.

So much for the sea ritual that went on every day, whatever the weather. Now for the events of the voyage.

On September 9, the day he dropped the last land below the horizon, Columbus decided to keep a true reckoning of his course for his own use and a false one to give out to the people, so that they would not be frightened at sailing so far from land. But, owing to his overestimate of speed, the "false" reckoning was more nearly correct than the "true"!

During the first ten days (September 9 to 18), the easterly trade wind blew steadily, and the fleet made 1163 nautical miles westward. This was the honeymoon of the voyage. "What a delight was the savor of the mornings!" wrote Columbus in his Journal. That entry speaks to the heart of anyone who has sailed in the trades. The sea was smooth, and the air, remarked the Captain General in his Journal, was "like April in Andalusia; the only thing wanting was to hear the song of the nightingale." There were plenty of other birds following the ships: The little Mother Carey's chick-

ens, dabbling for plankton in the bow waves and wakes; the boatswain bird, so called because it carries a marlinspike in its tail; the man-of-war or frigate bird, and when the fleet passed beyond the range of these birds, the big Jaeger gulls gave it a call. During the period the fleet encountered its first field of sargassum or gulfweed and found that it was no hindrance to navigation. "Saw plenty weed" was an almost daily notation in the Captain General's log. The gulfweed bothered him much less than observing a westerly variation of the compass, for in European waters the variation is always easterly.

On September 19, only ten days out from Ferro, the fleet temporarily ran into an area of variable winds and rain. It was near the point on Columbus's chart where the fabled island of Antilia should have been, and all hands expected to sight land. The Captain General even had the deep-sea lead hove, and found no bottom at 200 fathoms; no wonder, since the ocean is about 2300 fathoms deep at the point he had reached. The seamen who, on the tenth day of the northeast trades, were beginning to wonder whether they could ever beat back home were cheered by the change of wind.

During the next five days only 234 miles were made good. During this spell of moderate weather it was easy to converse from ship to ship and to talk about this or that island. In the middle of one of these colloquies, a seaman of the *Pinta* gave the "Land Ho!" and everyone thought he saw an island against the setting sun. Columbus fell on his knees to thank God, ordered *Gloria in excelsis Deo* to be sung by all hands, and set a course for the island. But at dawn no island was visible; there was none. It was simply a cloud bank above the western horizon resembling land. Martin Alonso Pinzon apparently wished to beat about and search for this island, but Columbus refused, because, he said, "his object was to reach the Indies, and if he delayed, it would not have made sense."

During the next six days September 26 to October 1, the fleet made only 382 miles. The people began to mutter and grumble. Three weeks was probably more than they had ever been outside of land before. They were all getting on each other's nerves. There was nothing for the men to do in the light wind except to follow the ship's routine, and troll for fish. Grievances, real and imaginary, were blown up; cliques were formed; Spain was farther away every minute, and what lay ahead? Probably nothing, except in the eye of that cursed Genoese. Let's make him turn back, or throw him overboard!

On the first day of October the wind increased, and in five days (October 2 to 6) the fleet made 710 miles. On the sixth, when they had passed longitude 65 degrees West and actually lay directly north of Puerto Rico, Martin Alonso Pinzon shot his agile *Pinta* under the flagship's stern and shouted, "Alter course, sir, to southwest by west . . . Japan!" Columbus did not understand whether Martin Alonso meant that he thought they had missed Japan and should steer southwest by west for China, or that Japan lay in that direction; but he knew and Pinzon knew that the fleet had sailed more than the 2400 miles which, according to their calculations, lay between

the Canaries and Japan. Naturally Columbus was uneasy, but he held to the west course magnetic, which, owing to the variation for which he did not allow, was about west by south, true.

On October 7, great flocks of birds passed over the ships, flying west-southwest; this was the autumn migration from eastern North America to the West Indies. Columbus decided that he had better follow the birds rather than his chart, and changed course accordingly that evening. That was "good joss"; it was his shortest course to the nearest land. Now, every night, the men were heartened by seeing against the moon (full on October 5) flocks of birds flying their way. But by the tenth, mutiny flared up again. No land for thirty-one days. Enough of this nonsense, sailing west to nowhere; let the Captain General turn back or else--! Columbus, says the record, "cheered them as best he could, holding out hope of the advantages they might gain; and, he added, it was useless to complain, *since he had come to go to the Indies, and so had to continue until he found them, with Our Lord's help.*"

That was typical of Columbus's determination. Yet even he, could not have kept on indefinitely without the support of his captains and officers. It was Columbus alone who persuaded the Pinzons and La Cosa to sail on, with the promise that if land were not found within three days, he would turn back. The Captain General's promise to his captains was made on October 9. Next day the trade wind blew fresher, sending the fleet along at 7 knots; it so continued on the eleventh, with a heavy following sea. But signs of land, such as branches of trees with green leaves, became so frequent that the people were content with their Captain General's decision, and the mutinous mutterings died.

As the sun set under a clear horizon October 11, the northeast trade breezed up to gale force, and the three ships tore along at 9 knots. Columbus refused to shorten sail, since his promised time was running out. He signaled everyone to keep a particularly sharp watch, and offered extra rewards for first landfall in addition to the year's pay promised by the Sovereigns. That night of destiny was clear and beautiful with a late rising moon, but the sea was the roughest of the entire passage. The men were tense and expectant, the officers testy and anxious, the Captain General serene in his confidence that presently God would reveal to him the promised Indies.

At 10 p.m., an hour before moonrise, Columbus and a seaman, almost simultaneously, thought they saw a light "like a little wax candle rising and falling." After a few minutes it disappeared.

On rush the ships, pitching, rolling, throwing spray--white waves at their bows and white wakes reflecting in the moon. *Pinta* is perhaps half a mile in the lead, *Santa Maria* on her port quarter, *Nina* on the other side. Now one, now another forges ahead, but they are all making the greatest speed of which they are capable. With the sixth glass of the night watch, the last sands are running out of an era that began with the dawn of history. A few minutes now and destiny will turn up a glass the flow of whose sands we are still watching. Not since the birth of Christ has there been a night so

full of meaning from the human race.

At 2 a.m., October 12, Rodrigo de Triana, a lookout on *Pinta*, sees something like a white cliff shining in the moonlight, and sings out, *Tierra! tierra!* Land! land! Captain Pinzon verifies the landfall, fires a gun as agreed, and shortens sail to allow the flagship to catch up. As *Santa Maria* approaches, the Captain General shouts across the rushing waters, "Senor Martin Alonso, you *did* find land! Five thousand maravedis for you as a bonus!"

Yes, land it was this time, a little island of the Bahamas group. The fleet was headed for the sand cliffs on its windward side and would have been wrecked had it held course. But these seamen were too expert to allow that to happen. The Captain General ordered sail to be shortened and the fleet to jog off and on until daylight. At dawn they made full sail, passed the southern point of the island and sought an opening on the west coast, through the barrier reef. Before noon they found it, sailed into the shallow bay now called Long or Fernandez, and anchored in the lee of the land, in five fathoms.

Here on a gleaming beach of white coral occurred the famous first landing of Columbus. The Captain General (now by general consent called Admiral) went ashore in the flagship's boat with the royal standard of Castile displayed, the two Captains Pinzon in their boats, flying the banner of the Expedition—the green crowned cross on a white field. "And, all having rendered thanks to Our Lord, kneeling on the ground, embracing it with tears of joy for the immeasurable mercy of having reached it, the Admiral rose and gave this island the name *San Salvador*"—Holy Saviour.

This story of Christopher Columbus's first crossing of the Atlantic is an excerpt of *Christopher Columbus, Mariner* by Samuel Eliot Morison to whom we are deeply indebted for his beautiful and graphic description of this great voyage.



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 Amerigo, 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) was established as the coordinating unit for all further celebrations.

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 Federal 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 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. The morning ceremony was sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. This was followed by the first of two musical performances by the Filarmonica Sestrese Genoa Concert Band, Maestro Gianluca Silvano, Conductor and Maestro Charles Gabriele, Guest Conductor. The WCCA 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 Nach Tanz. The two principal speakers were the Honorable Joseph DiGenova, former United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, 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 artifacts in the Nation's Capitol. Mr. Anderson spoke of 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.

The 1994 (83rd) ceremony featured the stirring messages of Judges Lawrence Margolis and Angelo Castelli and Robert B. Blancato, the White House Director of the conference on Aging. Each message, although delivered from a different perspective, left no doubt that Christopher and his discoveries still inspire, affect and shape our lives and the world. Miss Zulima Espinel, a college student and the 1991 Columbus essay contest winner, gave her insight of Columbus and added a youthful flavor to the festivities. In attendance were members of the Embassies of Italy and Spain. The National Capital Region, U.S. Park Service, represented by Director Robert B. Stanton, continued its tradition of cooperative sponsorship. The Knights of Columbus Color Corps added its colorful presence to the activities. A goodly number of wreaths were presented by the association members and other civic minded groups. The successful program concluded with the *Pledge of Allegiance* and the singing of *God Bless America* by the audience.

The subject of fallen heroes has been in the news a lot recently. The example of the O. J. Simpson trial comes to mind. O. J. Simpson has been termed a "fallen hero" because he stood as a symbol of the honesty, integrity, and wholesomeness that we think of as American values. Now that symbol has been shattered. And the debate rages on about whether or not O. J. Simpson has always been, in fact, the antithesis of these values, or whether he is the victim, wrongfully accused by a racist America.

In the 90s, all Americans have become more sensitive to issues of race and culture as we struggle to become more respectful of all of our different cultures, and at the same time still unite together as one people, as Americans.

Now that America is doing some soul-searching, we realize that we need to become more aware of all of the complex and varying cultures that make up America, and in this wake of sensitivity, Christopher Columbus has been condemned by some.

In this often harsh light that we cast upon all of our actions, beliefs, and cultures to try and come up with some kind of standard to judge who and what is morally right and morally wrong, Christopher Columbus has been categorized and subsequently vilified by some as an oppressor of races and cultures. Long a symbol of courage and vision, he is now held up by some as symbol of oppression and aggression. Christopher Columbus has become, in the eyes of politically correct America, a fallen hero.

So who now, if we cannot return to past examples like Columbus, represents American values? Whom can we look to as a representation of achievement and as an inspiration for the value of hard work and perseverance?-

As a student in my first year at Barnard College of Columbia University, I am surrounded by young people, myself included, who are forming their goals, and beginning to pursue their dreams. We are all starting to look around us and wonder, "Where are the heroes?"

All heroes and symbols today have been scrutinized so intensely for every flaw, or human weakness, until finally there are very few heroes or symbols left intact. So where, with all our problems and concerns, do we turn?

Some of us turn to religion for solace and guidance, because the only perfection we can find is in God. And yet, we are human beings, and therefore it is crucial that we find among ourselves the personification of those values that we live our lives by. We need to have human symbols of perseverance, faith, loyalty, and truth.

Now we face a problem. If today we scrutinize every figure until he or she is known more for their weaknesses than for their strengths, how then do we choose whom to admire? Whom to pattern our lives after? What heroes remain? As our society continues to emphasize, the negative aspects of every public figure, we continue to deprive ourselves of potential heroes.

I suggest that Christopher Columbus should remain a hero and a symbol for today. Christopher Columbus is a hero because he had the determination to set a goal, and the tenacity to pursue it. He remains a symbol because he represents the beginning of America. He was responsible for the start of the nation that we who call ourselves Americans live in today. And we can hold him up as a symbol of the people we are.

Of course, it's easy to blame Columbus. Our country has a history as full of pain and oppression as it has with courage and strength. And Christopher Columbus was not a perfect man. He was not, perhaps, a gentle man. But he was a strong man and a courageous one. And if nothing else, Christopher Columbus pursued his dream. That remains an accomplishment, for any age.

Now, as a student at Columbia University, I am surrounded by people from every race and culture in the world. But we all have something in common. We all have decided to pursue our dreams in America, the "land of opportunity." Each one of us is beginning our journey like Christopher Columbus did, excited, scared, enthusiastic, and full of hope. As we reach out for some figure who can inspire us to realize our dreams, I believe we can look to Christopher Columbus.

One of his log entries exemplifies his determination and courage in his vision when he wrote: "I myself, in spite of fatiguing opposition, felt sure that the enterprise would, nevertheless prosper, and continue equally confident of it to this day." It is strength like that makes Columbus an example we can reach for.

As a student, unsure of my future but full of dreams, I feel his struggle and I take inspiration from his accomplishments. Christopher Columbus is the starting point of our beginning as a nation. Because truly we are a nation unlike any other ever formed in history. We are a culture made up of every shade of skin color, with every possible accent, and with every kind of human experience. And we are not European, we are not South American, we are not Native American, we are not African, we are not Asian, we are Americans. And we carry that title with all its glory, pain, weakness, and strength, for good or for bad, because of one man who decided that he had a dream, and who had the guts to go after it.

As a young person with hopes, goals, and dreams of my own, and as a young person who calls herself an American, I look back to Christopher Columbus as a symbol of the beginning of America, and as our first and still standing hero.

As Americans today, rather than always focusing on the pain of the past, let us take our diversity as a people to make us strong. Let us use the assets of our heroes like Christopher Columbus. Let us take his vision, and his courage, to fuel us as one people, as Americans to a brighter future, where we all dream together.

Zulima Espinel is a student at Columbia University and was the winner of the 1991 Columbus Essay Contest in the District of Columbia. The above is taken from a speech she gave on October 10, 1994 at the 1994 Columbus Day celebration where she appeared as a guest speaker.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

In Spanish - Cristoval Colon; in Italian - Cristoforo Colombo (which is his real name), was born in Genoese territory about 1446; died in Valladolid, Spain in 1506. His father, Domenico Colombo, a poor wool-comber, gave his a careful education.

PRE-DISCOVERY

Columbus appears to have gone to sea at an early age and to have navigated all parts of the Mediterranean, and some of the coasts beyond the Straits of Gibraltar. In 1470 we find him in Lisbon where he married the daughter of Bartolommeo de Perestrello, a distinguished navigator.

Columbus had gradually come to the conclusion that there were unknown lands belonging to Eastern Asia separated from Europe by the Atlantic. While the Portuguese were seeking to reach India by a southeast course around Africa, he was convinced that there must be a shorter way by the west. He applied in vain to Genoa for assistance, and equally fruitless were his endeavors to interest John II of Portugal. He then determined to apply to the Spanish court. After many disappointments he induced Ferdinand and Isabella to equip and man three vessels for a voyage of discovery.

THE DISCOVERY

It was early in the morning of Friday, August 3, 1492, that Columbus set sail from the port of Palos. After sailing for two months the expedition narrowly escaped failure. The variation of the needle so alarmed the crews that they were on the point of breaking out into open mutiny. Columbus was obliged to promise that he would turn back in three days if there were no discovery. On the third day, October 12, 1492, the island of Guanahani of San Salvador was sighted. Columbus believed this land to belong to Eastern Asia and be connected with India—a belief he carried with him to his grave. Hence the mistaken name of *Indians* applied to the natives of America, and that of *West Indies* applied to the group of islands of which Guanahani forms one.

On landing Columbus threw himself upon his knees and kissed the earth, returning thanks to God. The natives collected around him in silent astonishment, and his men, ashamed of their disobedience and distrust, threw themselves at his feet begging his forgiveness. Columbus, drawing his sword planted the royal standard, and in the name of his sovereigns took possession of the country, which in memory of his preservation, he called San Salvador. He then sailed in search of other lands and discovered Cuba, Santo Domingo, and several other of the West Indies Islands.

COLONIZATION

Being so far successful, he built a fort at Hispaniola, Hayti. He left some men there and set out on his return to Europe where he was received with almost royal honors. In 1493 he set out on his second great voyage from Cadiz with three large ships of heavy burden and fourteen caravels, carrying 1500 men. He discovered the island of Dominica and afterwards, Mariegalante, Guadaloupe and Porto Rico, and at length arrived at Hispaniola. Finding the colony destroyed, he built a fortified town, which he called,

in honor of the queen, *Isabella*. He then left the island in order to make new discoveries. He visited Jamaica and after five months, worn down with fatigue, found to his great joy that his brother Bartolommeo had arrived at Isabella with provisions and other supplies for the colony.

Meanwhile a general dissatisfaction had broken out among his companions, who, instead of the expected treasures, had found hardship and labor. This situation and news of calumnies being set on foot against him at home induced him to return to Spain. His presence there, and probably also the treasures he brought, silenced his enemies.

In May, 1498, he sailed with six vessels on his third voyage. He sent three of his vessels directly to Hispaniola. With the other three, he took a more southerly direction and discovered Trinidad and the continent of America. He then returned to Hispaniola. On his orders, his colony had been removed previously from Isabella to the other side of the island where a new fortress had been erected which was called Santa Domingo. Columbus found the colony in a state of confusion, but soon restored tranquillity.

His enemies, in the meantime, endeavored to convince his sovereigns that Columbus's plan was to make himself independent. They were successful in that Columbus was not only displaced, but Francisco de Bobadilla, a new governor who had come from Spain, returned Columbus to Spain in chains.

On his arrival in Spain in 1500, orders were sent directing that Columbus be set at liberty. He was invited to the court, but he never received redress for his injurious treatment though great promises were made.

The Last Voyage

Columbus set out on his last voyage in 1502 with four slender vessels supplied by the court. In this expedition he was accompanied by his brother Bartolommeo and his son Fernando. He encountered every imaginable disaster from storms and shipwreck. He returned to Spain, sick and exhausted, in 1504.

The death of the queen soon followed. He urged King Ferdinand to fulfill his promises; but after two years of illness, humiliations and despondency, Columbus died at Valladolid. His remains were transported, according to his will, to the city of St. Domingo, but on the cession of Hispaniola to the French, they were moved in 1796 to the Cathedral of Havana in Cuba. In 1899 they were moved, with much ceremony, to Granada, Spain.

There are sources, however, that claim the remains moved to Spain were not actually the remains of Columbus, and that his remains were in the chapel of the Cathedral of Santo Domingo. On October 6, 1992, the remains at the Cathedral were transferred to the Columbus Lighthouse--*El Faro a Colon*--in the Dominican Republic. This monument is built in the shape of a cross. It is 688 feet long, 131 feet wide and 109 feet tall at its highest point.

It is most fitting that Christopher Columbus now lies in this cross shaped monument lighting the skies with the Sign of the Cross, the emblem of Christianity, this his historic expedition first brought to the Americas.

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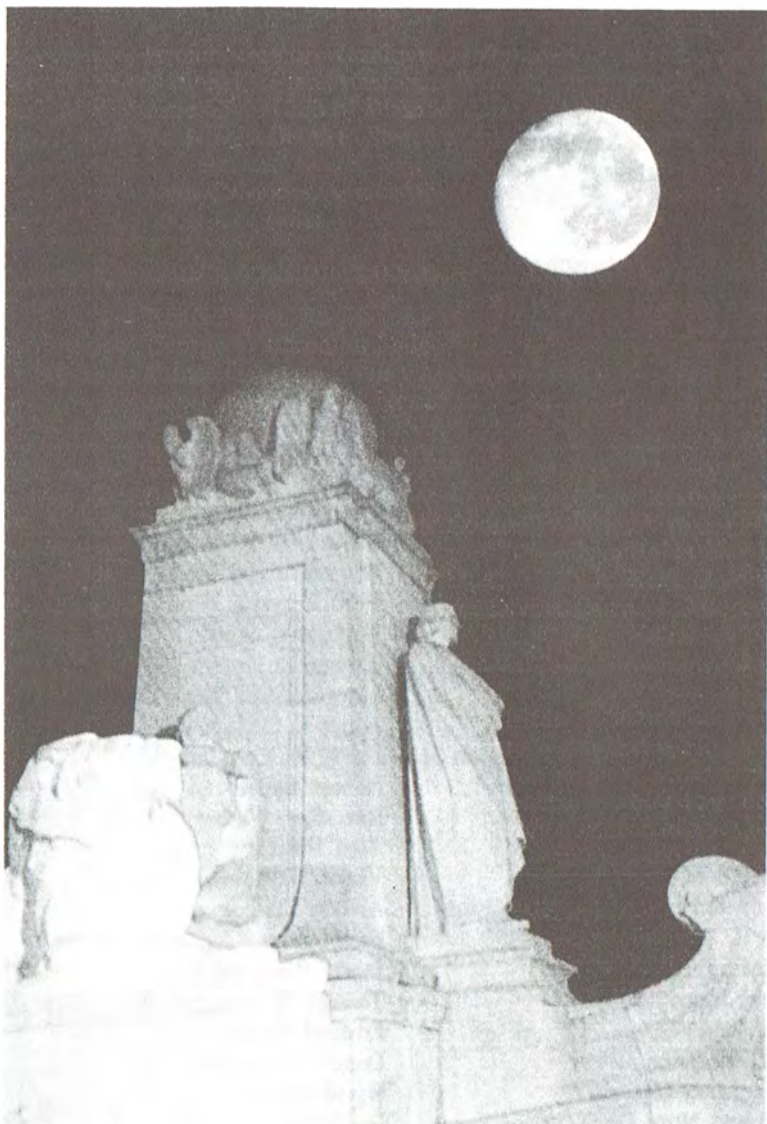


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Monday - October 9, 1995

COLUMBUS PLAZA - UNION STATION

10:45 a.m.

**Musical Prelude - DeMatha High School Band
Mr. John Mitchell, Director**

11:00 a.m.

Posting of the Colors

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

**Knights of Columbus Color Corps
Calvert Province**

**District of Washington Archdiocese
District of Maryland
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Procession of Wreath Presenters led by

**Columbus Expeditionary Banner/Coat of Arms
Heraldic Standard**

National Anthems - United States of America

Italy

Spain

Commonwealth of the Bahamas

Pledge of Allegiance -

Mr. Phillip L. Nelson Master 4th Degree KofC

Invocation - Rev. Robert G. Amey,

Archdiocesan Representative to WCCA

Retiring of the Colors

Welcome - Dr. David R. Curfman, President, WCCA

Remarks - Mr. Robert G. Stanton - Regional Director, NPS

Reading of Proclamations

**From the President of the United States of
America -**

From the Mayor of the District of Columbia

Mr. Reginald D. Bush, Vice-President, WCCA

Introduction of the student winner of the National

Essay Contest on Columbus sponsored by the

Order Sons of Italy in America - Mr. Leonard M. Durso

Essay presentation by Daniel D. Lupini, Fullerton CA





Presentation of Founding Chairman Emeritus Medal
to Mr. John C. Moore

U. S. Navy Sea Chanters
Master Chief Chuck Yates, Director

Columbus Day Address
Dr. Jose' Luis Restrepo, Special Advisor to the
Secretary General, Organization of American States

Presentation of Memorial Wreaths

Washington 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
Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus
District of Columbia State Council, KofC
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The Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation
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National Hymn — AMERICA (Audience)

My country 'tis of thee	God bless our native land,
Sweet land of liberty	Firm may she ever stand
Of thee I sing,	Through storm and night!
Land where my fathers died!	When the wild tempests rave,
Land of the Pilgrim's pride!	Ruler of wind and wave,
From every mountain side,	Do thou our country save,
Let freedom ring!	By thy great might!

Dismissal

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Washington Columbus Celebration Association expresses its sincere gratitude to the following for their timely efforts, both physical and financial, for the success of this celebration.

Rev. Robert G. Amey and St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church for publicity.
Mr. Carl Anderson, Vice President for Public Policy, Knights of Columbus, and the Kengle Flag Company for the flags used in the ceremony.

Mr. Leonard M. Durso for transportation arrangements for the essay contest winner.

Mr. Cornelius W. Heine for his assistance with arrangements.

Mr. Gustav S. Weber for production of the souvenir ceremony booklet.

Mr. Paul E. Biciochi for providing hotel accommodations for the essay contest winner.

Mr. Robert Maurer, Director of Marketing for LaSalle Management for use of the facilities in Union Station.

Mr. John Moylan, Principal, DeMatha Catholic High School, for use of the school band.

Mr. Mark Murray, Division of Ceremonies, Military District of Washington, for the honor guard and Sea Chanters.

Musician First Class Alison A. Turk for arranging for the concert portion of the Sea Chanters.

Dr. Alfred M. Rotondaro, Executive Director of the National Italian American Foundation, and Mr. Richard J. Higgins, Director of International Affairs, for their most generous support of this ceremony.

The National Park Service for preparing the site and for their support. Mr. Richard Merryman, Chief of Public Events; Donna Donaldson, Chief Visitors Service; Mr. Terry J. Adams, Photographer; and Sgt. Joseph Cox, U.S. Park Police.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Jose' Luis Restrepo is the Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States. He is a citizen of Columbia and is an attorney holding a M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. While residing in Columbia he was director of the national budget and Dean of the School of Business Administration at the University. He has been affiliated with the Organization of American States since 1962; first serving as an economist and then in various posts until appointed to his present position. Dr. Restrepo is married and his wife teaches in the Washington metropolitan area.

BIOGRAPHIES (cont'd)

DeMatha Catholic High School was founded in 1946 and is located in Hyattsville, MD. The school has an enrollment of 840 students in grades 9 through 12. Although DeMatha is well known for its champion basketball and football teams, it is also renowned for its high academic standards and an outstanding musical program which was founded in 1970 by John Mitchell. About 150 students play in the school's seven bands. The Wind Ensemble has been named the nation's top Catholic High School Band in 13 of the past 15 years. DeMatha performing groups have received 16 Gold Medals at International Festivals in Chicago, Toronto, Orlando, Atlanta, Nashville and Daytona Beach.

The United States Navy Band Sea Chanters, a 17-voice chorus, was organized in 1956 as an all-male chorus specializing in songs of the sea. Later, female voices were added and the chorus' repertoire expanded. The Sea Chanters appear throughout the United States and provided music at the funerals of former President Nixon at Yorba Linda, Calif., and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at Arlington National Cemetery. The chorus performed at the Kennedy Center Honors for Bob Hope, and appeared with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Virginia Symphony, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

Daniel D. Lupini is the first prize winner of the Order Sons of Italy in America national Columbus essay contest. Daniel is 13 years of age and was born in Fullerton, California. He is in the 8th grade at Benizi Catholic School. He is a typical American boy, he has played soccer since he was five years old, plays the piano and is on the Honor Roll at school. In a special SAT given by UC Irvine he scored at the level of a high school graduate. Daniel has an older brother Steve and a younger sister Cristina.

WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION



There has been an annual celebration at the Columbus Statue in front of Union Station ever since the Congress declared Columbus Day, October 12, a Federal holiday in 1971. In 1989 organizations and individuals interested in this cause established the WCCA to plan and sponsor the annual celebration in coordination with the National Park Service

The Association seeks to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievements but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and his trials; his faith in God, the courage of his convictions, dedication to purpose, perseverance in effort, professional excellence, and boldness in facing the unknown.

The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with our purpose to join with us to preserve this great annual tradition. You may write to WCCA 2301 Lakawana St., Adelphi MD 20783 or telephone 301-434-2332

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Some significant achievements of the Council:

- (a) Christmas party with presents for the children with Brother Nathaniel Randolph acting as Santa Claus as is his custom.
- (b) Trip to Atlantic City, ably arranged by Brother Aumoura D. Carroll.
- (c) Numerous exemplifications of the First Degree, including one with 20 candidates most of whom were entering the newly formed Nigerian Council.
- (d) Participation in the drive for handicapped children (colloquially known as the "Tootsie Roll Drive").

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is the major advocate in Washington, DC for the nation's estimated 26 million Italian Americans, the country's fifth largest ethnic group.

Its mission is to help Italian Americans preserve the values of their heritage, and to ensure that the American media and public are aware of the contributions that Italians and their descendants have made to the United States throughout its history.

TO DO THIS, THE NIAF WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE CONGRESS, AND THE WHITE HOUSE ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN ITALIAN AMERICANS.

THE NIAF ALSO:

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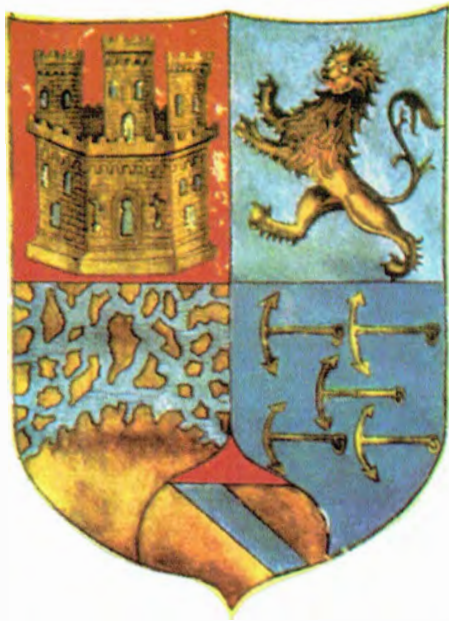
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