

*Columbus Day 1996*

## The Front Cover

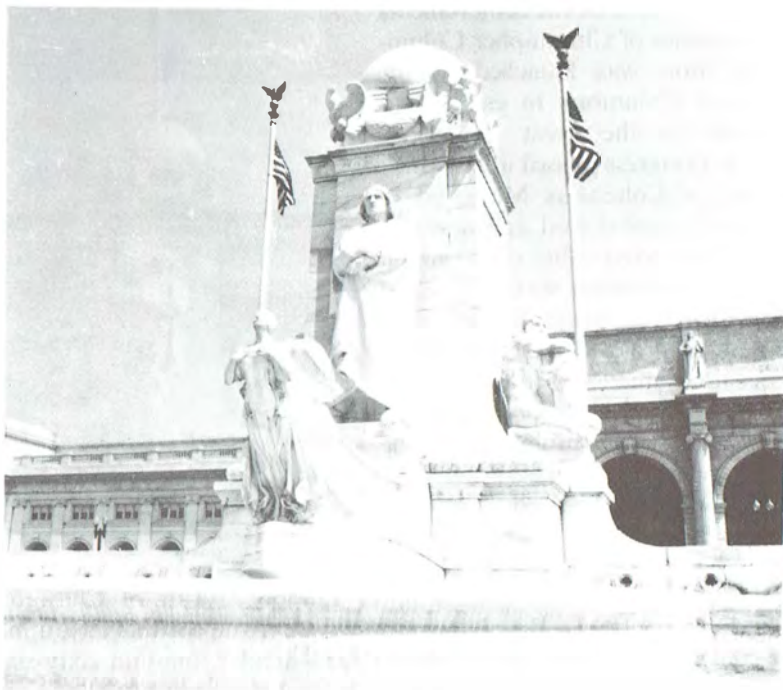
The dedication of the Columbus Memorial in the nation's capital on June 8, 1912, is said to have been the largest celebration in Washington since the victory celebration following the Civil War. As part of the three day celebration, the Knights of Columbus sponsored a banquet with 1,200 guests in attendance, including many notables, on the evening of the unveiling.

In recognition of the centennial of the establishment of the Knights of Columbus in the national capital area, our front cover is a full color reproduction the cover of the banquet program. The photograph was supplied by the Knights of Columbus Headquarters Museum in New Haven, Connecticut with authority for its reproduction. The words at the bottom of the banquet program cover are taken from the ode to Columbus sung by Knights on suitable occasions. The complete words are given below:

Sing ye his praises loud and long,  
And let the unenlightened know,  
In ev'ry echo of your song,  
The great deeds done, tho' long ago,  
By Columbus of the valiant soul,  
Who first old Neptune has control,  
Despite of envy, intrigue, gold,  
In the dim past of long ago.

With vessels three o'er stormy sea,  
He thrilled the world of long ago,  
While wisdom linked with destiny,  
In justice scales its weight did throw.  
We are his heirs; we wear his name;  
We boast his deeds; we spread his fame;  
Our Order is the shining flame,  
That lights the gloom of long ago.

THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
CELEBRATES 504 YEARS  
OF DISCOVERY



HONORING THE GREAT  
DISCOVERER  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 1996

THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL,  
COLUMBUS PLAZA

UNION STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

# CELEBRATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

## The Site

In the years following the great 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 U. S. Capitol and wrapped in a medieval mantle, stands in front of the pylon in the bow of a ship with its prow extending into the upper basin of the fountain terminating with a winged figurehead representing democracy. Flanking Columbus are two seated, allegorical figures: To his left representing the Old World is a patriarchal figure resting his arms upon a shield and grasping a crumpled map while to his right representing the New World is a pre-Columbian figure (American Indian) crouching behind his 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.



Daniel Burnham, who designed Union Station, was the major architect of the 1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Burnham's architecture was so well received in Chicago that it launched the "City Beautiful" movement, to transform major cities, especially our nation's capital 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 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 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

## COLUMBUS DAY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Public Resolution 21, Seventy-third Congress, approved April 30, 1934, provides:

"That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating October 12 of each year as Columbus Day and calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on said date and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies expressive of the public sentiment befitting the anniversary of the discovery of America.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the aforesaid public resolution, do by this proclamation designate October 12 of each year as Columbus Day and do direct that on that day the flag of the United States be displayed on all Government buildings; and, further, I do invite the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies in schools and churches, or other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-four,  
[SEAL] and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-ninth.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

By the President:

CORDELL HULL

*Secretary of State.*

[No. 2101]

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY: COLUMBUS DAY AS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY

By Dr. Edward M. Sullivan, Ph.D.

Twenty-five years ago this year Columbus Day was first celebrated as a federal "public holiday." Technically, there is no such thing as a "national holiday" in the U.S., since each state establishes its own. However, the Federal Government establishes holidays for its jurisdictions and employees, and the states usually follow its lead.

The Columbus Day story goes back many years. The first known celebration of Columbus Day in the U.S. took place just sixteen years after America declared independence. On October 12, 1792, the New York Society of Tammany, known also as the Columbian Order, celebrated the third centenary of Columbus' first landfall in the New World with a dinner and elaborate ceremonies. Probably the first memorial to Columbus in the U.S. was the temporary monument at its headquarters. The first permanent monument to him in the U.S. was erected in 1810 in Baltimore by one of Lafayette's former officers who settled there.

Over eighty years later, in connection with the four hundredth anniversary in 1892, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation urging citizen participation in commemorative services, and the organization of programs by schools. There were many local observances, but the centerpiece of the national celebration was the Columbian exposition in Chicago, which opened belatedly in 1893. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was written in honor of Columbus Day on the 400th anniversary. The first U.S. commemorative coins and stamps were also issued in connection with the event.

In 1905, the governor of Colorado issued a Columbus Day proclamation and in 1909 signed legislation passed without opposition making Columbus Day a state holiday. Before the year was out, ten states, mainly the larger ones, had followed suit, and within a decade two-thirds of the states, in all parts of the country, had done so.

Simultaneously with the movement to make Columbus Day state holidays was the drive to erect a national monument in the nation's capital, in both of which the Knights of Columbus played a very active role. (There were already monuments to Columbus in other cities in addition to Baltimore, such as Philadelphia, Boston, and Columbus, Ohio.) The latter drive bore fruit when President Taft on March 4, 1910 signed a bill introduced in the House in 1907 calling for the erection of such a monument. A scant two years later, on June 8, 1912, the unveiling took place.

Twenty-five years after the Colorado legislature acted to make Co-



lumbus Day a state holiday. Congress moved to give it national prominence. Although it was not the first presidential Columbus Day proclamation, Franklin Roosevelt's 1934 proclamation was the first of such annual actions by the president in compliance with a joint resolution of the Senate and House passed on April 30 of that year. By it Congress authorized and requested the president to "issue a proclamation designating October 12 of each year as Columbus Day" and calling for displaying the flag on all government buildings and inviting the people to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies.

It is believed that each year since the erection of the monument at Union Station in 1912, there had been such appropriate ceremonies at that location. Certainly, there were such ceremonies in 1934, as attested by the records of the Lido Club.

On October 12, 1963 following the civic ceremony in Columbus Plaza, 150 persons of Italian descent were invited to a Rose Garden party and White House reception. From this group was born the movement to make Columbus Day a federally-recognized holiday. A National Columbus Day Committee was formed. It sponsored the 1966 celebration, when Senator John Pastore was principal speaker and music was provided by the Marine Band.

The official Senate Report No. 1293 of June 21, 1968 noted that "A large number of proposals to establish Columbus Day as a national holiday were...introduced in past sessions of Congress," and public hearings were held by appropriate subcommittees of the Senate in August, 1964, and of the House in October, 1967. S.108, making Columbus Day a legal holiday, was favorably acted on by the Senate on August 15, 1964. H.R.15951 made refinements to the Monday observance of Federal holidays, and Public Law 90-363 was later passed by the House on April 4, 1968 and by the Senate on June 21 of that year. This was the "Monday Holiday Law," which, among other things, added Columbus Day to the list of federal "public holidays," to be observed on the second Monday of each October. The effective date of the new law was January 1, 1971.

"In recommending the observance of Columbus Day," the report said, "it is the committee's judgment that such a holiday would be, as has been suggested by Representative Rodino, 'an annual reaffirmation by the American people of their faith in the future, a declaration of willingness to face with confidence the imponderables of unknown tomorrow.' It is also the committee's judgment that the observance of Columbus Day is an appropriate means of recognizing the United States as a 'nation of immigrants' --as we were described by the late President Kennedy. By commemorating the voyage of Columbus to the New World, we would be honoring the courage and determination which enabled generation after generation of immigrants from every nation to broaden their horizons in search of new hopes and a renewed affirmation of freedom."

There was a Columbus Day ceremony at the White House in 1970, and in 1971 when Columbus Day was first observed as a federal holiday and transferred to a Monday, there was a three-day weekend celebration in Washington, billed as "The First National Columbus Day Celebration." It was under

the auspices of the National Columbus Day Committee, headed by Mariano A. Lucca of Buffalo, who had been a forceful proponent of the national holiday.

Festivities commenced with a reception Saturday evening, at the then-Statler Hilton, for governors and members of Congress. On Sunday there was an outdoor Mass and wreath-laying ceremony at noon at the Columbus monument, and a special Columbus Day concert in the evening at Constitution Hall, featuring the Navy Band and singers Frankie Lane and Maggie MacDonald. On Monday, the new public holiday itself, there was a mid-day parade on Constitution avenue, complete with floats depicting Columbus's landing; a gala concert at the Kennedy Center under the honorary patronage of Mrs. Richard M. Nixon; and a "Salute to Columbus" Victory Ball at the Washington Hilton.

Two thousand souvenir medallions depicting Columbus' landing on the obverse, and Queen Isabella on the reverse side, with suitable inscriptions, were minted and made available to participants of the celebration. The Washington Post reported with a journalistic chuckle that the American Airlines shipping costs coincidentally came to exactly \$14.92!

Interestingly enough, with the new Monday holiday in place, the following year the "Second National Christopher Columbus Day Celebration," as it was called, took place on Sunday Oct 8, rather than on the new holiday. It involved a 10:30 Mass at Holy Rosary Church; a parade to the statue for the civic ceremony and wreath-laying, with remarks by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe, Supreme Knight Dr. John K. McDevitt of the K of C, and Italian Ambassador Egidio Ortona; and a dinner and gala celebration in the evening. The celebration was sponsored by Amerito (an organization of American/Italian groups) and the K. of C. in cooperation with the National Park Service.

The 1973 celebration, billed as "The Third National Christopher Columbus Day Celebration," was held on Saturday, October 6, but followed the same pattern, with Mass at Holy Rosary, parade to the statue and the civic ceremony (at which the Army Band provided the music), and black tie dinner in the evening at the Sheraton Park Hotel. In 1974 and 1975 the religious and civic celebrations continued on Sunday, under the sponsorship of Amerito and the Knights of Columbus in cooperation with

the Park Service. The Holy Rosary Band provided the music.

In 1976, the U. S. bicentennial year, there was a dinner-dance on Sunday evening, but the focus of the celebration finally moved to the Monday holiday itself, under the sponsorship of the American Italian Bicentennial Commission, Inc., and the Knights of Columbus. That year

there was a special Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, then president of the Catholic bishops, as principal celebrant and homilist, and a number of out-of-town bishops of Italian descent concelebrating; a civic ceremony

featuring President Ford as a speaker and wreath-layer, with music by the Navy Band; and a "Festival of the Arts" from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. featuring Italian music.

The celebrations, featuring Mass, civic ceremony, and some kind of cultural event were on Sundays to 1980, when the religious event was held on Sunday and the civic event moved to the Monday holiday. Sponsorship was by Amerigo (starting in 1978) and the Knights of Columbus of the Metropolitan area in cooperation with the Park Service. The Sunday-Monday split of the religious and civic celebrations continued into the 1980s and set the pattern for the observance in the 1990s, with the exception of the major celebration in 1991 opening the year-long national K. of C. observance of the quincentenary. From 1986 to 1988, the Knights of Columbus were the principal organizer, in cooperation with the Park Service and with support of the American-Italian and Spanish organizations, the Italian and Spanish embassies, and in 1989 took the lead in establishing the Washington Columbus Celebration Association to sponsor the event in subsequent years.

Columbus Day today is celebrated throughout the U.S. Jane M. Hatch, in "The American Book of Days" (New York, 1978) gave some glimpses of the status of the holiday in the late 1970s. In Wisconsin it was called

Landing Day, and in North Dakota and Indiana, Discovery Day; in Florida it was celebrated in conjunction with Farmers' Day, and in Alabama, with Fraternal Day. New York City annually featured a great parade and a Columbus Day dinner. Boston's tradition included a special anniversary Mass, wreath-laying at Columbus' statue in Louisburg Square, and a four-mile parade. Asbury Park, New Jersey had an annual pageant of the

landing. Los Angeles would fly the Italian flag over city hall, raised by an Italian movie star; San Francisco would hold pageants, a waterfront cavalcade showing events from Columbus' life, a street fair, ceremonies at the Columbus statue on Telegraph Hill, a banquet, and a ball. Columbus, Ohio--to which Genoa presented a 20-foot-high, 7,000 statue of Columbus in 1954--had an annual four-day celebration, complete with parade, entertainments, and fireworks.

Columbus Day is also currently celebrated in many other countries, most commonly on October 12, the actual anniversary of his first landfall. That day is called Day of the Race in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Paraguay; America's Discovery Day in Honduras; Dia de la Hispanidad in Panama; and Hispanidad Day or Day of Spanish Consciousness in Spain.

Discovery Day is another popular name, but places using that title often observe a different date more appropriate to their own discovery or sighting. The following observe Discovery Day: the Bahama Islands (October 12), Cayman Islands (May 17), Haiti (December 5), Puerto Rico

(October 12, also commemorating sighting of Puerto Rico on November 19, 1493), and St. Vincent (January 22, when Columbus sighted St. Vincent in 1498).



## Columbus Day, 1971

*By the President of the United States of America*

### A Proclamation

On Columbus Day, 1971, we honor once more the memory of the great captain whose historic voyages led to the migration of peoples to the New World and brought fresh promises of liberty and freedom to the Old.

In this present age of epic journeys in space, we can appreciate more than ever the great achievements of Christopher Columbus. An intrepid explorer, a supreme navigator, but above all a man of unshakeable faith and courage, this son of Italy sailed in the service of the Spanish crown on a mission that forever broadened man's hopes and horizons.

We take pride in commemorating the vision and determination of Christopher Columbus, and carry forward his spirit of exploration as part of our national heritage.

In tribute to the achievements of Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), as modified by the Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as Columbus Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Monday, October 11, 1971, as Columbus Day; and I invite the people of this Nation to observe that day in schools, churches, and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies in honor of the great explorer.

I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in memory of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, this 31st day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-sixth.

The signature of Richard Nixon is written in cursive at the bottom of the page.



*National Society of the  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
and  
The National Italian American Foundation*  
are pleased to announce  
co-sponsorship in an  
*Essay Contest featuring Christopher Columbus*  
Contest is open to students  
of all ethnic and racial groups in Grades 9 and 10.

**TOPIC**

1996-1997 topic is "*Compare the Importance of the Voyages of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci.*"

**PRIZE**

The prize for the national winner is \$1,000, paid transportation to Washington, DC and housing for winner and parent or guardian, all financed by the National Italian American Foundation. The national winner ***must*** read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day 1997, during ceremonies conducted by the Washington Columbus Celebration Association.

**FORM**

Essay is to be typewritten with no more than 750 words. Essay must have a cover page which includes student's name, address, phone, school and sponsoring DAR chapter. ***Do not submit a photograph with entry.***

**NSDAR ADMINISTRATION OF CONTEST**

This contest will be administered by the NSDAR. Contact -  
*Mrs. Howard Holbrook*  
P. O. Box 2623, Lynnwood, Washington 98036-2623  
(206) 743-2227  
for further information.



# CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

By Daniel D. Lupini

Very few people in the history of the world have made a real difference as did Christopher Columbus. One of the greatest seamen and navigators of his time, he dared to cross over the limits of the known world and face the menacing oceans. Driven by the quest of searching for a new passage to the Orient, he ended up giving the world a more precious gift, a new continent called America.

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451, the son of a weaver. He was the oldest of five children. Since he was a little boy, Christopher loved the sea and was infatuated by it. He would spend hours contemplating the ships that took off to faraway places from the shores of his city, an important seaport. When he got older, he learned how to handle oars and sails. Christopher Columbus made many voyages to the Gold Coast of Africa in his youth. The study of maps and his own sailing experience led him to believe that Asia could be reached by heading west. Europeans wanted to be able to sail to the Indies, as Asia was called, to get gold, silk and spices. After being rejected by King John II of Portugal, Queen Elizabeth of Spain agreed to provide money for Columbus' expedition, and three ships sailed from Spain on August 3, 1492.

Christopher Columbus was definitely one of the most courageous navigators of his time who, not afraid of the unknown, took a great chance in order to fulfill his dream. He showed great courage by taking a direct sea passage without knowing how long the journey would take. He knew a lot about the skies, the oceans, and the winds. He was a man of vision because, although he might not have known where he was going, he never gave up on his dream to reach the Indies. Even after weeks and weeks of sailing without any sight of land, he never gave up hope. Columbus was also a man of great faith, who kept praying to the Lord throughout his hardships, truly believing that with the Lord's help he would reach his destination. It wasn't easy for him to convince his crew to carry on when everybody started to give up. It also took a lot of courage and strength to manage a group of people whose morale was going down. Just when everyone agreed to sail for three more days and then turn back, the island that Columbus named San Salvador, in the Bahamas, was finally sighted. He called the people on the island "Indians," believing that he had finally reached the Indies. Columbus gave clear directions to his men that the natives were to be treated with kindness and respect.

Christopher Columbus did not realize at the time the importance of his discovery. He had just opened up the new world, North and South America, to the rest of the known world. His arrival to the West Indies

helped develop contact between Europe and the Western Hemisphere. His discovery made it possible for others to follow him, on his first voyage alone. Columbus had discovered the best westward sea passage from Europe to North America and the best eastward passage back. Columbus later made three more voyages. He established settlements and discovered new islands each time. Columbus died poor and unhappy because troubles had started in the colonies.

There are some who try to minimize the role of Christopher Columbus in the discovery of America. They point to the Vikings as the first Europeans on the American continent. As written by Daniel J. Boorstin in his book The Discoverers, if in fact there had been a Viking settlement in North America, "it was an act of physical but not of spiritual courage....Was there ever so long a voyage that made so little difference?"

Christopher Columbus' discoveries started the exploration that changed the world. As a seaman, he was one of the greatest in history, and his discoveries are among history's most important events. His name lives on rivers, cities, and nations. We will always remember him as a great hero because he opened up the doors to the unknown with his courage, strength and faith in God.

This essay won first prize in the Order Sons of Italy in America national essay contest in 1995. It was presented at the Columbus Day celebration on October 9, 1995 by Daniel D. Lupini the contest winner. Daniel at that time was 13 years of age and was an eight grade student at Benizi Catholic School in Fullerton, California

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# CENTENNIAL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

By Dr. Edward M. Sullivan

☛ The Knights of Columbus were prime movers in the original erection of the Columbus monument at Union Station in 1912, in the annual ceremonies in ensuing years, and in the establishment of the Washington Columbus Celebration Association in 1989. Since the Knights this year are celebrating the 100th anniversary of their establishment in the Washington metropolitan area, the following will introduce this 114-year-old organization to the wider public.

## Origins.

☛ Each year the ceremonies at the Columbus monument are enhanced by the participation of the Knights of Columbus Color Corps in their colorful capes and chapeaux trimmed with matching ostrich feathers. These men are often called the "visible arm" of the Knights of Columbus. They are in fact the tip of an iceberg, a very small minority of the approximately 17,000 Knights in the national capital area.

☛ The Knights of Columbus describe themselves as a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization dedicated to the four basic principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. The order was founded in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut by young second-generation Irishmen as a means of mutual social, moral and financial support for themselves and their families at a time when both their ancestry and religion were severe impediments to financial and social advancement.

☛ When founded in 1882, with the celebration of the forthcoming quadricentennial of the discovery of America on the horizon a decade away, the young order espoused the manly virtues of chivalry, and chose as its patron and exemplar the man whose principal exploit was the seminal event that led to the great nation they knew and loved, their co-religionist who had first brought Christianity to the new world. The first council (local unit) was called, fittingly enough, San Salvador Council. From its beginnings, the order incorporated an insurance program to help its members and their survivors cope with the financial uncertainties and difficulties of the age. The order has been growing steadily for a good number of years, and today there are over 1.5 million Knights and over 10,000 councils throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as in the Philippines, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Spain, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and elsewhere.

## Knights of Columbus in the National Capital Area.

☛ In its first few years, the order was to be found only in Connecticut, as it spread out from New Haven. Then it expanded into nearby states, and to other areas of the country. It was fifteen years before it rooted itself in the area of the

national capital, with the chartering of Washington Council #224 on April 25, 1897. (Earlier that same year, on February 21, Baltimore Council #205 had been established in that city, the first one south of the Mason-Dixon line. It has since been renamed in honor of the late Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore.)

- In recognition of their centennial, members of Washington Council will lay a special wreath in today's ceremonies.

- From the taproot planted locally in 1897, the order expanded in the area, with establishment of two additional councils in Washington in 1898, another in 1899, and yet another in 1900. Meanwhile, it also spread to Virginia: in 1900, Fitzgerald Council #459 was established in Alexandria, although as early as 1898 a council had been established in Norfolk (Norfolk Council #367), along with one in Richmond and another in Portsmouth the following year. Establishment and growth took longer in the relatively sparse Maryland environs of Washington. The oldest Maryland councils in the metropolitan area date from 1920: Father Rosensteel #2169 in Silver Spring, and Patuxent #2203 in Laurel. (However, ten years earlier, St. Mary's Council #1470, had been established in Leonardtown in southern Maryland.)

- The basic structure of the order follows state lines, the local councils in each state jurisdiction collectively forming a state council. State councils were established in Maryland and the District of Columbia in 1899, and in Virginia in 1900. Each state jurisdiction is headed by a deputy to the Supreme Knight for that jurisdiction, called the state deputy. He is elected by his state council.

- Today, there are better than some 60 councils in the Washington metropolitan area, of which a good majority are in the Maryland suburbs, 17 in the District of Columbia, and the remainder in northern Virginia. There are full-fledged councils of student-members on the campuses of Catholic University, Georgetown University, and George Mason University in this area, as well as the more distant Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Some councils are formed out of, and are oriented toward serving, individual parishes; others draw upon and serve a wider area and in some cases have their own meeting hall. Most councils, however, do not have a hall.

- The youth organization of the Knights is the Columbian Squires, of which there are several local units or "squires circles" in the environs of D.C. and Virginia. Squires assist members of the college councils in performing usher services at the Columbus Day ceremonies.

#### The Fourth Degree.

- Like the Masonic Order, the Knights of Columbus established three main degrees, on completion of the third of which a man becomes a full-fledged Knight of Columbus. At popular request, a fourth, optional, degree was added in 1900, focusing on a fourth main principle of the Order--patriotism. Patriotism is understood to mean not only ceremonial and other displays of patriotic fervor when appropriate, but also active promotion of responsible citizenship and good government.

• The Fourth Degree is a separate organization within the Knights, with its own structure and hierarchy. Its units are called assemblies, and are organized into districts, each headed by a Master. The Archdiocese of Washington (the District of Columbia and five counties of Maryland) is one district. The rest of Maryland is another, and the entire state of Virginia another. The Fourth Degree is not to detract from the other activities of the Order, as its members must remain active members in their own councils in order to be in good standing in the Fourth Degree.

• The uniform for Fourth Degree members, worn on special ceremonial or social occasions, is a tuxedo along with the Fourth Degree lapel emblem and baldric (cloth belt or sash worn diagonally from right shoulder to left side) trimmed in red, white, and blue.

• The emblem consists of a dove (representing Columbus, whose last name means "dove") hovering over the western hemisphere, which surmounts a red crusader's cross (Cross of Isabella). The design symbolizes at one level Columbus's role in bringing Christianity to the western hemisphere (Christopher means "Christ-bearer"), and, at another level, the Trinitarian core of that faith (hemisphere: the creative role of the Father; cross: redemptive role of the Son; and dove: enlightening and inspirational role of the Holy Spirit).

#### The Color Corps.

• The Color Corps are volunteers from the Fourth Degree who add ceremonial pageantry and order to special events, both civic and religious. Color Corps members at today's ceremony come from assemblies in the Archdiocese of Washington District and the Virginia District. (A number from the former make the long trek each year from Southern Maryland for the Columbus Day events.)

• The colors of the capes and chapeaux which Color Corps members wear over the standard Fourth Degree uniform indicate organizational roles. Masters of Fourth Degree Districts (and former masters) wear gold. The Marshal of the District (commanding the combined Color Corps under the Master) wears green, the Color Corps commanders of the individual assemblies (local units within a district) wear purple. Rank-and-file members wear red. White denotes the head or former head of one of the local assemblies.

#### Charity, the basic principle.

• Charity--love of God and of neighbor--is the first and most basic principle of the Knights of Columbus. Last year, over 40 million manhours of service were devoted on the part of individual Knights throughout the order to church and community causes, and approximately \$100 million donated for such purposes by local councils and fourth degree assemblies, and the international headquarters in New Haven, the latter being proceeds from the insurance program. The total over the past decade approaches a billion dollars. While the specific charities supported by the local councils varies from area to area, one that is strongly identified with the Knights in most areas is help for the de-



velopmentally disabled.

.. Apart from the Columbus monument, in the erection and dedication of which the Knights played a key role, the other main architectural piece identified with the Knights in the nation's capital is the "Knights' Tower" of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (in Northeast Washington). The order donated the tower and carillon, among other major benefactions to the Shrine over the years. The Knights' first major national project, at the turn of the century had been to raise funds for a chair in American History at the adjoining Catholic University, presented in 1904. This was followed by the establishment of graduate fellowships in 1914, undergraduate scholarships in 1979, and a \$2,000,000 million gift to the University for special projects in 1989. The university's Columbus School of Law is an outgrowth of an evening school established and maintained by the Knights in downtown Washington after World War I. These are but some of many benefactions in the Washington area, some national and some local in source and scope.



Third Degree Emblem



Fourth Degree Emblem



Squires Circle Emblem

## THE PRAYER OF COLUMBUS

Last year, on July 6, 1995, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority unveiled in the entrance to the Archives-Navy Memorial Metro station a large wall sculpture that among other things honors the memory and faith of Columbus. Titled "Ocean Piece," it was donated by the Lisbon Subway system, the first permanent art donated to Metro by a foreign country. Ambassador of Portugal Fernando Andresen Guimaraes and the President of the Board of Metropolitano de Lisboa E.P., Jose Consiglieri Pedroso made the presentation. Sculptor Jorge Martins, also at the unveiling, is one of Portugal's leading sculptors. Portuguese sculpture can also be found in subway systems in Brussels, Tokyo and Sao Paolo, and is being installed in major cities in a number of other countries as well.

Intended to symbolize the ocean connecting Portugal and the United States, the huge wall piece is executed in gray-green Verde Viana, quarried in South Portugal, with a flowing horizontal bulge suggesting an ocean wave. The two cultures are represented by two poems: Walt Whitman's "Prayer of Columbus" engraved and gilded on the left (west) end and "Occident" by Fernando Pessoa on the east end of the sculpture.

Since only a small portion of the Whitman poem is reproduced in the art-work, we give below the complete text, along with the poet's own scenesetting note. The beautiful poem--indeed, prayer--is said to reflect Whitman's own desire to communicate with God: "I shouldn't wonder if I have unconsciously put a sort of autobiographical dash in it," he is reported to have said. He also gave considerable thought and reflection to it, reworking it twenty times.

As for the faith and piety of Columbus which the poem celebrates, an excellent source of information will be found in the "Libro de las Profecias" ("The Book of Prophecies"), Columbus's own notes and reflections on biblical passages supporting his understanding of his own vocation as the "Christ-bearer" ("Christopher") chosen and fitted by God for a special mission in the expansion and renewal of Christendom. (Throughout every period of his life his writings and book notations consistently show that he saw himself as missionary and crusader.) The material for the Book of Prophecies was collected and organized and the notes dictated by Columbus over several months at a monastery near Seville, where he was awaiting an audience with the monarchs to clear himself from the charges that had brought him back in chains in November, 1500 after his third voyage. The work was intended to be the means by which he explained himself to the king and queen, and appears to have been written between September 13, 1501 and March 23, 1502. (However, notes were added later, such as relating to the lunar eclipse on February 29, 1504, while he was marooned on Jamaica, the setting for Whitman's poem. Apparently there was also an earlier, smaller version of the work dating to 1481.)

He called it a "Notebook of authorities, statements, opinions and prophecies on the subject of the recovery of God's holy city and mountain of Zion, and on the discovery and evangelization of the islands of the Indies and of all other peoples and nations." It was his intention, never realized, to use this notebook to prepare an apocalyptic poem to present to their majesties. (The title, "Libro de las Profecias," is the abbreviated name librarians and scholars have adopted. An en face edition, containing the original text--almost entirely Latin--and the first complete English translation, with an excellent introduction and commentary by the translators, Delno C. West and August Kling, was published by the University Presses of Florida as part of their Quincentennial Series in 1991.)



## PRAYER OF COLUMBUS

By Walt Whitman

It was near the close of his indomitable and pious life--on his last voyage when nearly 70 years of age--that Columbus, to save his two remaining ships from foundering in the Caribbean Sea in a terrible storm, had to run them ashore on the Island of Jamaica--where, laid up for a long and miserable year--1503--he was taken very sick, had several relapses, his men revolted and death seem'd daily imminent; though he was eventually rescued, and sent home to Spain to die, unrecognized, neglected and in want.....It is only ask'd, as preparation and atmosphere for the following lines, that the bare authentic facts be recall'd and realized, and nothing contributed by the fancy. See, the Antillean Island, with its florid skies and rich foliage and scenery, the waves beating the solitary sands, and the hulls of the ships in the distance. See, the figure of the great Admiral, walking the beach, as a stage, in this sublimest tragedy--for what tragedy, what poem, so piteous and majestic as the real scene?--and hear him uttering--as his mystical and religious soul surely utter'd, the ideas following--perhaps, in their equivalents, the very words."

*A batter'd, wreck'd old man,  
Thrown on this savage shore, far, far from home,  
Pent by the sea and dark rebellious brows, twelve dreary months,  
Sore, stiff with many toils, sicken'd and nigh to death,  
I take my way along the island's edge,  
Venting a heavy heart.*

*I am too full of woe!  
Haply I may not live another day;  
I cannot rest O God, I cannot eat or drink or sleep,  
Till I put forth myself, my prayer, once more to Thee,  
Breathe, bathe myself once more in Thee, commune with Thee,  
Report myself once more to Thee.*

*Thou knowest my years entire, my life,  
My long and crowded life of active work, not adoration merely;  
Thou knowest the prayers and vigils of my youth,  
Thou knowest my manhood's solemn and visionary meditations,  
Thou knowest how before I commenced I devoted all to come to Thee,  
Thou knowest I have in age ratified all those vows and strictly kept them,  
In shackles, prison'd, in disgrace, repining not,  
Accepting all from Thee, as duly come from Thee.*

*All my emprises have been fill'd with Thee,  
My speculations, plans, begun and carried on in thoughts of Thee,  
Sailing the deep or journeying the land for Thee;  
Intentions, purports, aspirations mine, leaving results to Thee.*

*O I am sure they really came from Thee,  
The urge, the ardor, the unconquerable will,  
The potent, felt, interior command, stronger than words,  
A message from the Heavens whispering to me even in sleep,  
These sped me on.*

*By me and these the work so far accomplish'd,  
By me earth's elder cloy'd and stifled lands uncloy'd, unloos'd,  
By me the hemispheres rounded and tied, the unknown to the known.*

*The end I know not, it is all in Thee,  
Or small or great I know not--haply what broad fields, what lands,  
Haply the brutish measureless human undergrowth I know,  
Transplanted there may rise to stature, knowledge worthy Thee,  
Haply the words I know may there indeed be turn'd to reaping-tools,  
Haply the lifeless cross I know, Europe's dead cross, may bud and blossom  
there.*

*One effort more, my altar this bleak sand;  
That Thou O God my life hast lighted,  
With ray of light, steady, ineffable, vouchsafed of Thee,  
Light rare untellable, lighting the very light,  
Beyond all signs, descriptions, languages  
For that O God, be it my latest word, here on my knees,  
Old, poor, and paralyzed, I think Thee.*

*My terminus near,  
The clouds already closing in upon me,  
The voyage balk'd, the course disputed, lost,  
I yield my ships to Thee.  
My hands, my limbs grow nerveless,  
My brain feels rack'd bewilder'd,  
Let the old timbers part, I will not part,  
I will cling fast to Thee, O God, though the waves buffet me.  
Thee, Thee at least I know.*

*Is it the prophet's thought I speak, or am I raving?  
What do I know of life? what of myself?  
I know not even my own work past or present,  
Dim ever-shifting guesses of it spread before me  
Of newer better worlds, their mighty parturition,  
Mocking, perplexing me.*

*And these things I see suddenly, what mean they?  
As if some miracle, some hand divine unseal'd my eyes,  
Shadowy vast shapes smile through the air and sky,  
And on the distant waves and countless ships,  
And anthems in new tongues I hear saluting me.*

--Sculley Bradley, Harold W. Blodgett, Arthur Golden, William White, Eds., *Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass: A Textual Variorum of the Printed Poems*, Vol III, pp 661 to 664, New York University Press, 1980.



## With Grateful Thanks

"Few words can fully express what this man has singularly done for furthering the recognition and celebration of Christopher Columbus in the nation's capital. For decades he has guided the forces, sometimes on uncharted waters --similar to the man he was seeking to honor-- to insure that Columbus Day would be remembered in its historical perspective. It has brought him almost to legendary status. It is with great pleasure, and on behalf of the Directors of WCCA, I present you with this specially crafted Founding Chairman Emeritus Medal as only a small token of our appreciation for all that you have done and are still doing for the cause we celebrate today. Our best to you. Mr. John C. Moore."



COLUMBUS DAY 1995  
John C. Moore  
Chairman Emeritus, WCCA  
Past State Deputy, DC  
Knights of Columbus

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RELIGIOUS CEREMONY -- OCTOBER 13, 1996

# Holy Rosary Church

*Italian Parish*

595 Third Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001



## 12 Noon Christopher Columbus Memorial Mass

Celebrant and Homilist Msgr. Roger C. Rosench,

*Chaplain, D. C. State Council, K. of C.*

Concelebrant, Rev. Charles Zanon, C.S.

Deacon, Rev. Mr. Bernard Johnson

Lectors:

Carl Anderson, *State Deputy, D.C. State Council, K. of C.*

Paul E. Bicocchi, *President, Lido Civic Club of Washington*

Gift Bearers:

Dr. David R. Curfman, *President, WCCA*

Mrs. David R. Curfman

Servers from Holy Rosary Parish

Organist

Maria Marigliano

Color Corps and Honor Guard

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus

Archdiocese of Washington District

George Hanna, PSD, Master

Calvin Lynch, PGK, Marshall

## Ceremony at the Christopher Columbus Statue Church Courtyard



This statue of Christopher Columbus was erected at Holy Rosary Church and dedicated on September 17, 1992. It is a gift to the community from the members of the LIDO CIVIC CLUB of Washington D.C. in celebration of the Quincentennial Anniversary of the discovery of America.

### PROGRAM

The National Anthem

Welcome - Rev. Charles Zaroni, *Pastor, Holy Rosary Church*

Address - Mr. Paul Bicocchi, *President, Lido Civic Club of Washington*

Remarks - Dr. David R. Curfman, *President,  
Washington Columbus Celebration Association*

Salve Regina

Washington Archdiocese District Fourth Degree  
Knights of Columbus

J. Kemp Cook, PSD - John Park

Edward M. Sullivan, PSD - Gustav S. Weber, PSD

# CIVIC CEREMONY

co-sponsored by  
WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION  
and

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Monday - October 14, 1996

COLUMBUS PLAZA -- UNION STATION

**10:45 a.m.**

**Musical Prelude** - Bishop McNamara Symphonic Band  
Mr. Michael Lee Hunt, 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  
Districts of Washington Archdiocese, Maryland and Virginia

**Procession of Wreath Presenters** - Led by the bearer of the  
Columbus Expeditionary Banner

**National Anthems** - United States of America  
Italy  
Spain  
Commonwealth of The Bahamas

**Pledge of Allegiance** - George Hanna, Master 4th Deg. KofC

**Invocation** - Rev. Robert G. Amey, Archdiocese of Washington

## **Retiring of the Colors**

**Welcome** - Dr. David R. Curfman, President, WCCA  
Mr. Robert G. Stanton - Field Director, NPS

## **Remarks by Diplomatic Corps**

## **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 Youth speaker**

Mrs. Stephanie L. Razzano,  
Regional Vicepresident, Capital Area,  
The National Italian American Foundation

**Presentation by** Elizabeth Salamone, Oakton, Virginia.

**Announcement** - Inauguration of the National Essay Contest  
sponsored jointly by the National Society of the Daughters of the  
American Revolution and the National Italian American Foundation







## **Columbus Day Address**

Dr. James Patrick Kiernan

Historian, Organization American States

## **Band Anthem "Christopher Columbus March"**

By Charles T. Gabriele

## **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

Washington Council No. 224, Knights of Columbus  
(celebrating 100 years)

Lido Civic Club

George Washington Lodge, O.S.I.A.

Roma Lodge, O.S.I.A.

Catholic War Veterans

Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency

U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

Cultural Hispanic Organization of Maryland

Americans of Royal Descent

Jamestowne Society of 1607

Society of Mayflower Descendants  
in the District of Columbia

District of Columbia Branch, National Society of the Sons  
and Daughters of the Pilgrims

National Society, Sons of Colonial New England

National Society, Sons of the American Colonists

National Society, Daughters of the American Colonists

Hereditary Order of the Descendants of the Loyalists and  
Patriots of the American Revolution

National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

District of Columbia Society, Daughters of the American  
Revolution

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

District of Columbia Society, Sons of the American Revolution

The Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation

National Society, Children of the American Revolution

The District of Columbia Society, Children of the American  
Revolution

Boys Scouts of America - Girl Scouts of America

Campfire Girls - Cub Scouts

# COLUMBIA, THE GEM OF THE OCEAN

27

By  
DAVID I. SHAW and  
THOMAS A. BECKET

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight lines of music with corresponding lyrics. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points: G, D7, G, C, G, D, A7, D, G, Em, A7, D, D7, G, D, G, C, Am, D7, G, D7, G, D7, G, and D. S. al Fine. The lyrics are: O Co - lum - bia! the gem of the o - cean, The home of the brave and the free, The shrine of each pa - triot's de - vo - tion, A world of - fers hom - age to thee, Thy man - dates make he - roes as - sem - ble, When Lib - er - ty's form stands in view; Thy ban - ners make tyr - an - ny trem - ble, When borne by the red, white and blue! When borne by the red white and blue! When borne by the red white and blue! Thy

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## BIOGRAPHIES

DR. DAVID R. CURFMAN, a native of Ohio and a neurosurgeon in private practice in Washington, D.C. is serving his second year as president of the Washington Columbus Celebration Association. His devoted interest in Christopher Columbus goes back over several decades and in 1992 during the quincenatary of the great explorer's discovery was an invited guest accompanied by his wife for ceremonies in Spain, Italy and later in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Dr. Curfman has held numerous professional and civic leadership positions in both the metropolitan area and at the national level. He is a biographee in WHO'S WHO in MEDICINE and HEALTH-CARE, WHO'S WHO in AMERICA, WHO'S WHO in the EAST, WHO'S WHO in SCIENCE and ENGINEERING, WHO'S WHO OF EMERGING LEADERS IN AMERICA, WHO WHO'S in the WORLD and WHO'S WHO (International) in MUSIC and MUSICIANS' DIRECTORY (Cambridge, England).

DR. JAMES PATRICK KIERNAN, historian of the Organization of American States and publisher of its award winning bimonthly magazine AMERICAS, is an international lecturer and professor of Latin American Social History. After attending Bates College (Maine) he did graduate work at the University of Southern California and the Louisiana State University specializing in the areas of modern European and colonial Latin America. He has held faculty appointments at Essex College, University of New Hampshire, University of Windsor and American University. From 1985 through 1992 he served as director of the O.A.S. office for activities and ceremonial events commemorating the quincenatennial of the Discovery of America and participated in the exposition of Seville, Spain and Genoa, Italy.

ELIZABETH A. SALAMONE is the twelve year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Salamone, Oakton, Virginia and is an honor student in the seventh grade at Frost Intermediate School, Fairfax County. Miss Salamone has been the recipient of numerous awards, is a member of the student council, band and cheer leading squad and also finds time to participate in community activities helping its citizens.

BISHOP McNAMARA HIGH SCHOOL., Forestville Maryland was established in 1964 by the Brothers of the Holy Cross (founders of Notre Dame University) and is currently a co-educational institution. The Symphonic Band under the direction of Mr. Michael Lee Hunt has been awarded outstanding recognition (Silver Medals) in International festivals held in Chicago and Orlando and superior ratings in Prince George's County competitions. As director of bands at the school, Mr. Hunt holds a BM degree from Columbia College (Georgia) and MM degree from Duqueane University and was the principal horn player for the Albany Symphony (Georgia) before his appointment at Bishop McNamara in 1992.

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

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

Bishop McNamara High School administration for providing the symphonic band for the ceremony; President, Mrs. Heather Gossart and Principal, Mr. Matthew Goyette.

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

Mr. George Hanna, Master, Archdiocese of Washington District, and Mr. James P. Wilson, Master, Virginia District for providing the Fourth Degree, K of C Color Corps.

Mr. Francis X. Smith, Knights of Columbus, for providing photographic services. The Columbian Squires, St. Dominic Savio Circle and CUA Council 9542, K of C, for providing the ushers.

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 facilities 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.

## WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION



The most prominent commemorative figure of Christopher Columbus in the nation's capital, the only U.S. jurisdiction named for Columbus, stands in a marble fountain setting in a plaza in front of one of the great landmark buildings in the city-- Union Station-- opposite the U.S. Capitol. Dedicated in 1912 before a crowd of nearly 20,000 individuals including President Taft and cabinet members, Supreme Court justices, members of the U.S. Congress, thousands of Knights of Columbus, and others, it has been a focal point for annual celebrations to honor the great navigator and discoverer. Over the decades the celebrations were held by various organizations. In 1934 Congress authorized and requested the President to issue an annual Columbus Day proclamation, and in 1968 declared Columbus Day a public holiday, commencing in 1971.

After that time there was a gradual evolution of planning, which involved the Knights of Columbus, Italian-American organizations, U.S. military organizations, the

The WCCA welcomes submission of articles, preferably original research, which would be of interest to those who have a firm commitment to honor Christopher Columbus for his great accomplishments. Such articles will be considered for publication in the program book published for the annual celebration in Washington, D.C. Articles may be forwarded to, or further information may be obtained from, Gustav S. Weber, 2101 Owens Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.



The District of Columbia State Council  
Knights of Columbus

Sends Greetings  
on the  
504th Anniversary  
of the  
Discovery of the New World

**DISCOVER A WORLD OF  
GOOD THINGS IN  
THE K OF C!**

Msgr. Roger C. Roensch  
Carl A. Anderson  
Harry T. Jackson Jr  
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Frank R. Shaw  
Joseph B. Melkovitz  
George Hanna

Chaplain  
State Deputy  
State Secretary  
State Advocate  
State Treasurer  
State Warden  
Immediate PSD



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

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