



Columbus Day
1998

THE NATION'S CAPITAL
CELEBRATES 505 YEARS
OF DISCOVERY



HONORING THE GREAT
DISCOVERER

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 1998

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 crude 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

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 Perestrello living in Porto Santo
- 1480 Son Diego is born
- 1484 Columbus approaches King John II of Portugal with a 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's 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 123 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 in 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

From Our 1997 Celebration:

A Queen and an Explorer Meet

by Ana Maria Snell

This was the major address delivered at last year's ceremonies. October 13, 1997. Ana Maria Snell, PhD, teaches Spanish literature and history at Johns Hopkins University and coordinates the undergraduate program in Spanish in the Division of Spanish and Italian Studies.

The visitor to the building of the organization of American States is greeted by a tall statue of Queen Isabella of Castile which presides over the entrance garden. The queen, as in an offering, carries in her hands a lush pomegranate. Inside the building, in the beautiful courtyard designed to highlight New World materials and artistic motifs, a central plaque honors Christopher Columbus, who set in motion the process which the building so appropriately symbolizes. Columbus needed a patron, an enabler. That patron had to be a person of special gifts, with a largeness of spirit responsive to Columbus' vision and the economic wherewithal to fund his enterprise. That patron was Isabella of Castile, the great queen who, together with her husband Ferdinand of Aragon, had transformed Spain from a weak, strife-ridden array of divided kingdoms into a strong, peaceful country about to complete its reconquest of the last Moorish outpost in its territory.

The year was 1492. The month, January. The place, Granada. A disappointed Columbus had just left that city on his way to France, after having seen his proposal yet again rejected by the Queen's Royal Council, when he was recalled by Queen Isabella. Obeying the royal summons he "walked back to Granada and into the pages of history".*

Columbus had first approached the monarchs eight long years before. At the time of their first meeting, Columbus and Isabella were exactly the same age (34), of similar physical type and alike in their religious depth and sense of mission. The queen was a sharp judge of character, and Columbus's passion and conviction must have had an effect on her. When she finally made up her mind —against the Royal Council's recommendation— she never wavered in her support.

Columbus is a much better known figure in this country than Queen Isabella. From the very foundation of the United States as an independent nation, Americans have taken Columbus as one of their national heroes, "a symbol of everything they admired in themselves as a nation."* As the country expanded westward, scores of cities and towns were named after him. In the 19th century, he was identified with the spirit of the frontier. His life was seen as a "challenge to outmoded tradition and repressive authority"* or as a misunderstood genius ahead of his time, fighting against the obsolete notions of a repressive establishment. This larger-than-life Columbus has, inevitably, become fodder for the revisionists, who have striven to cut his figure down to size. And yet, when seen through the objective lens of dispassionate scholarship, the Columbus who emerges from all this deconstruction remains a remarkable human being.

To have an accurate understanding of Columbus and the historic event he protagonized, it is imperative to look at him in his historic context. That places Queen Isabella in the forefront, as a figure to be examined along with the man whose journeys she sponsored. The scrutiny will reveal two extraordinary people.

Columbus first. There is no question about the man's remarkable qualities. He was endowed with vision, imagination, energy and perseverance. He added to

them knowledge, which he had acquired on his own, in an effort to clarify his vision. Yes, he was ambitious for fame, status and gold, and yes, he remained mistaken about the true nature of the lands he had encountered. But he was also brave, determined, disciplined and long-suffering, a deeply religious man who trusted the God who had inspired his vision. A number of facts about his life are well known: he was born in Genoa into a modest family of wool weavers, the oldest survivor of three brothers and a sister. Physically, he was of good stature, strongly built, red-headed, and with a fair complexion. Although he had almost no formal education, he acquired early on a passion for the sea, and an interest in geography and cosmography. He eventually learned Latin in order to read the classics on those disciplines. He was deeply respectful of the authority of ancient texts, but he was not afraid of using his critical sense to correct their notions in accordance with his own observations. His sojourn in Lisbon -- at that time, the center of the most advanced ideas on navigation -- served to increase his knowledge and foster his desire for exploration. His unwavering faith sustained him through the adversities he suffered in the course of his life and travels.

As we'll see, he had more than a few traits in common with Queen Isabella, allowing for the obvious differences between the explorer and his patroness. In Europe, Queen Isabella's reputation was extraordinary during her life and beyond. It was said of her a few years after her death: "Unless all Spaniards, men and women, rich and poor, have conspired to tell lies in her honor, there hasn't been in our days in the whole world a brighter example of goodness, greatness of spirit, wisdom, faith, honor, courtesy, liberality and, in summary, of every virtue, than this Queen Isabella". These words are found in one of the most famous treatises of the Renaissance, *Il Cortigiano* (*The Courtier*, L.3) by the Italian Baldesar Castiglione.

Physically, Isabella was a strikingly handsome woman. Like Columbus, she was rather tall and well-proportioned, with auburn hair and blue eyes. She valued physical exercise and was an accomplished horsewoman. She must have enjoyed remarkably good health considering the times she traveled hundreds of miles on horseback (often many months pregnant) to be with her husband, as she had done during the long siege of Granada. It is said that her very presence was enough to energize her soldiers and inspire them to feats of valor.

Again, like Columbus, Isabella possessed high natural intelligence, although her formal education as a child had been very limited. Her love of learning led her to join her own children in their humanistic education. Like Columbus, she undertook the study of Latin as an adult. The importance she attached to education is revealed in her patronage of the arts, and the increase of universities and other centers of learning during her reign.

Isabella was a profoundly religious woman. Yet again like Columbus, she had a burning faith and a sense of destiny which gave impulse and meaning to all her undertakings. That same faith that presided over her ventures sustained Queen Isabella in the trials of which she had a fair share.

She was a formidable woman. A nordic traveler, Niccolaus von Poppelau, who visited the Monarchs in Seville in 1484, mentions her implacable sense of Justice: her subjects trembled, he says, at the mere mention of her name. That quality was probably necessary at a time when the country was emerging from the terrible anarchy of the previous reign. In pursuit of their vision of a Spain united in terms of politics and religion, Ferdinand and Isabella carried the *reconquista* to

its logical conclusion: the expulsion of Jews and Moors from Spanish territory. These actions, although consistent with the monarchical theories of the time, sully the reputation of a reign notable for its accomplishments.

Isabella was the first renaissance queen. She evolved from an obscure princess, with a precarious claim on the throne, into a sovereign with an absolutely clear vision of what the art of governing entails. With her husband's assistance, she created a solid and unified nation out of what had been an aggregate of dispersed fiefdoms, setting, in the process, the basis for the greatest empire of early modern Europe.

Fortitude, strength, piety, generosity, prudence and vision -- these are qualities that Isabella possessed in abundance. She seems to have managed a rare kind of discretion or "mesura": the capacity to discern the necessary course of action in each juncture; the sagacity to act appropriately in critical or contested circumstances. Considering that these are the circumstances of a woman who was at the same time queen, captain of the Castilian army, judge and supreme overseer of that kingdom, wife of the king of Aragon and mother of future monarchs, Isabella had a job not cut to the measure of every person. But there is no doubt that she rose magnificently to the task. She sought, and seems to have found, a rare equilibrium of body, mind, and spirit.

Isabella strove to be a fair monarch to her new subjects in the discovered lands. She was concerned for their instruction in the faith, initiated just laws for their welfare, and condemned unequivocally practices like slavery, which had crept into the system. Her testament is a powerful witness to the high moral ground that this remarkable queen trod. In the shadow of her death, she wrote: "I entreat the King my lord most affectionately, and I charge and order the said Princess my daughter and the said Prince her husband ... that they do not consent nor give occasion for the Indian natives and inhabitants of the said Indies and mainland, won and to be won, to receive any injury in their persons and property; and I order that they may be well and justly treated. And if they have received any injury that it be remedied and seen to."

Columbus died in 1506, two years after the queen he always regarded as his protector. It could be said without hyperbole that the consequence of their fateful meeting in 1492 was the ushering in of the modern world. In the aftermath of Columbus's journeys, profound changes occurred in all aspects of human society. The encounter with the new world resulted in the discovery of new plants and animals, development of new trade and monetary systems, changes in government, laws and religion--these were all unalterably affected. For the first time in history, contact between the then known world and the newly encountered one was never to be lost. Truly, "A single world has been woven together and placed in the path of global interdependence, with enormous consequences for all the people who inhabit it."*

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COLUMBUS IMPROVES PIZZA??????

Pesky's Corner [*The NIAF News*, vol. 14, no. 3, Summer 1998, p 16]

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

Americans consume 23 pounds of pizza per person annually. Since Gennaro Lombardi opened the first pizzeria in New York in 1905, pizza has become a favorite throughout the country. Pizza was invented by the Greeks and perfected by the Italians. But it was 200 years after Columbus brought the tomoto to Italy from the New World before Italians would use it as a pizza topping. They thought tomatoes were poisonous.

From Our 1993 Celebration:
Columbus & the U.S. Capitol
By Cornelius W. Heine
October 11, 1993

Five years ago, in 1993, the United States Capitol observed the 200th anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone by President George Washington on September 17, 1893. In that anniversary year, a featured speaker at the Columbus Day celebration at the Columbus Memorial and fountain was Cornelius W. Heine, Executive Director of the United States Capitol Historical Association, whose remarks are reproduced below. Further information about Columbus in the Capitol can be found in the attractively illustrated booklet "Columbus in the Capitol, Commemorative Quincentenary Edition," published in 1992 by the Government Printing Office pursuant to a resolution introduced by Representative Frank Annunzio of Illinois and unanimously approved by the House and Senate.

Amid foaming waves and nature's might, one man stood alone among other men in 1492. Around him, were fearful and discouraged souls, behind him possible disgrace and ruin, before him the unpenetrated veil of the unknown.

The silent strength of Christopher Columbus was known but to God. His religious faith had made his nature brave. And this Admiral of the Ocean Seas II gave to mankind a new world.

In America the memory of Columbus is honored by many great works of art. This Christopher Columbus Memorial by Sculptor Lorado Taft is one of the most famous. But little known to many --just blocks to the South in the Capitol Building, the memory of Christopher Columbus is enshrined by six major works of art and these are achievements of some of America's greatest sculptors and painters.

The earliest Capitol work is a portrait of Columbus in bas relief by the Italian-American Sculptor Francisco Iardella on the sandstone wall of the Rotunda, dating from 1828.

The second--one of the most famous of all Columbus paintings--is "The Landing of Columbus on the Island of Guanahani in 1492" by John Vanderlyn. This 12' x 18' painting was placed on the Rotunda wall in 1847. Working in Paris, Vanderlyn took 10 years to complete this masterpiece. It has been represented on postage stamps and currency. And throughout 1992, the Knights of Columbus made use of this historic image in their national program to call attention to the achievement of Christopher Columbus.

The third art work is one of finest of all portraits of Columbus and it graces the President's room in the Capitol. It is the work of another son of Italy--Constantino Brumidi--"The Michelangelo of the Capitol." Since 1859, this portrait of Columbus as the navigator has been viewed by Presidents, Senators, and discerning art critics. Brumidi used his finest skills in fresco art.

Without doubt the most extensive and monumental work of Capitol art honoring Columbus is the Bronze Ornamental Doors, which grace the Central Entrance to the Capitol. These magnificent doors, 17' x 10' feet, were sculpted in Rome by Randolph Rogers and were cast by Frederick von Miller in the Royal Bavarian Foundry in Munich. Commissioned by Mont. Meigs to do this work, Rogers chose Columbus for this unique honor because the American Artist said "Columbus was a benefactor of the human race, and his genius is acknowledged by the whole world." At the pinnacle of the doors is a bust of Columbus. On the

panels of the doors are depicted eight scenes in the life of Columbus, beginning at the lower left panel. On the lunette above the door is the scene of the Landing on San Salvador. The panels include:

- Columbus's Departure from the Convent of La Rabida
- Audience at the Court of Ferdinand and Isabella
- Departure of Columbus from Palos, August 3, 1492
- Columbus's first encounter with the Native Americans and erecting a cross on island of Hispaniola
- Triumphal entry of Columbus in to Barcelona 1493
- Columbus in chains being returned after his 3rd voyage "I will wear them as a memento of the gratitude of princes" (his honor and titles were restored; and he made a 4th voyage)
- Death of Columbus at Valladolid May 20, 1506

The Columbus Doors were first installed in the entrance to the House Wing from Statuary Hall in 1863--the same year the Statue of Freedom was lifted atop the Capitol. In 1871 they were moved to the Central Entrance of the Capitol just below the portico. Through these doors have passed all the Presidents since U. S. Grant to take their oath of office, and millions upon millions of people from all over the world.

The fifth work of Capitol art honoring Columbus is the creation of Constantino Brumidi in 1875. It shows Columbus and an Indian Maiden in the painting, which is located in the far West Corridor of the Senate Wing. The artist Brumidi has garbed the maiden in a sari--the traditional garment of India, symbolic of the fact that Columbus had been in search of the passage to India.

The sixth major piece of Columbus art is again by Constantino Brumidi and it is at the beginning of the nine foot high border frieze which encircles the upper walls of the Rotunda. The frieze portrays Columbus and his landing in the new world and shows the great explorer walking down a gang plank. Brumidi completed this scene in 1878 not long before his fateful fall from the Rotunda scaffolding, as he was working on a later scene of William Penn in 1879. Brumidi's character in the field of art was something like that of Columbus in the field of exploration.

In all of these works of art in the Capitol, individual artists' portrayal of Columbus succeeded in varying degrees in capturizing the faith and the indomitable courage of Columbus, as did Lorado Taft in the Columbus Memorial before us. They also strove to symbolize in art his unconquerable desire to explore and his skill as a navigator, as Brumidi captured so well in his portrait of Columbus in the President's Room.

It is hoped that you and many of our fellow Americans will visit the Capitol--the Center of our system of Democratic government--with a new interest to see and to study in detail the paintings, sculpture, and bronzes that honor Columbus. As you do, it is hoped that you will reflect upon Columbus the man - what monumental accomplishment he achieved, when he brought back knowledge to the then known world in 1492, the existence of a new world.

The world he discovered 501 years ago is the world we live in today. As he faced the unknowns of his time, may we face the unknowns of our world and our time, with a faith and a courage reminiscent of that displayed by Christopher Columbus five centuries ago.

CONGRATULATIONS

COLUMBUS DAY 1998

ILSE AND DICK HIGGINS

**Richard J. Higgins
United States Consul General in Genoa
1984-1988**

Columbus Monument Graces New York Harbor

The monument, La Vela di Colombo, the Sail of Columbus, was unveiled October 9, in Liberty State Park. It is located in the park's Friendship Plaza, overlooking New York Harbor and a commanding view of the Manhattan skyline.

"This tribute to a great navigator completes the triad with the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island," said NIAF National Vice Chairman Frank I. Guarini. "It is fitting that a major monument be dedicated to the achievements of the Genoese genius whose courage changed the course of history." Guarini is a chair of the Christopher Columbus Monument Committee, which is raising \$500,000 to erect the monument.

The NIAF spearheaded these efforts in collaboration with the Columbus Citizens Foundation in New York, which honors the achievements of the Intrepid Navigator.

The "Vela"

The bronze monument, called "La Vela di Colombo" (Columbus' Sail), commemorates Columbus' four voyages to the New World. It rests on a travertine marble representation of Columbus' three ships and is divided into six sails, each bearing bas-reliefs of episodes from history on one side, and Columbus' own life on the other. It was commissioned from acclaimed Italian sculptor Gino Giannetti by the Italian government as a gift to the U.S. that represents the enduring friendship between the two nations.

The NIAF played a leading role in establishing Friendship Plaza in Liberty State Park, New Jersey as the monument's permanent home. The park, which draws three million visitors annually, is undergoing a \$10 million redevelopment.

A gift of the government of Italy to the people of the United States, the monument is the work of the noted Italian sculptor, Gino Giannetti.

[Excerpts from *The NIAF News*, "Columbus Monument to Grace New York Harbor," vol. 14, no. 3, Summer 1998.]



The Weekend Celebration of the Dedication of the Columbus Memorial

Material in the Washingtoniana Collection of the Martin Luther King Library provides details on the three-day celebration accompanying the unveiling of the Columbus memorial in 1912. The following information is summarized, or in some cases quoted, from a small card (approx. 3-1/2" x 6") apparently made available to the thousands participating in the weekend celebration events.

Fri Jun 7

- 7 p.m. Illumination and floral parade on Pennsylvania Avenue
- 8 p.m. Reception by the Citizens Reception Committee of DC for visiting Knights of Columbus and their ladies at the National Museum [now the National Museum of Natural History]

Sat Jun 8

- 3 p.m. Parade - 17th and Pennsylvania east to 2nd St., North to F St., E to the Union Station platform for the unveiling.
- 2:30-3 p.m. Concert by the Marine Band
Upon arrival by the parade at the platform, the unveiling ceremony commences. Following the ceremony, the parade proceeds to Stanton Square past the reviewing stand, thence south on 4th St. to E. Capitol St., where it disbands. Coupons, available at the K. of C. Hall for \$1.00 or \$1.50 each, are required for the reserved seating in the reviewing stand directly opposite the President's stand.
- 8 p.m. Banquet in the Convention Hall at \$10 each. "The President, his Cabinet, Foreign Ambassadors, and other dignitaries will be present."
- 8:30 p.m. Another illumination of Pennsylvania Avenue, and fireworks at the Washington Monument grounds.

Sun Jun 9

- 4 p.m. Solemn vespers at the Franciscan Monastery, followed by receptions at Catholic University and Trinity College.
- 8 p.m. Marine Band concert in Convention Hall. Tickets 50c each.

Mon Jun 10

- 3:30 p.m. Annual Charity Baseball Game between the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Knights of Columbus at American League Park. Proceeds to St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum. Tickets 25 cents and 50 cents.
- 8 p.m. Reception by the D.C. Knights of Columbus to His Excellency, Msgr. John Bonzano, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., in the K. of C. Hall.



The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation
is pleased to participate in the
86th Anniversary of the
Dedication of the Columbus Memorial

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation is an independent Federal government agency established by Congress in 1992 to encourage new discoveries in the visionary spirit of Christopher Columbus.

The Foundation has developed a three-tiered *Frontiers of Discovery--Past, Present and Future* program that awards fellowships to individuals who have made or have the potential to make new discoveries.

In both the *Past* and *Present* programs the Foundation awards **\$100,000** for innovations through competitions. The *Future* program encourages student creativity, and a **\$25,000** grant is awarded to a four-person team for solving a community problem.

For more information on the Columbus Foundation's programs, please call (703) 305-7700, e-mail: 105621-1575@compuserve.com or visit the website: www.columbusfdn.org.

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

Playing America’s Music for 200 Year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Prize-winning Essay:
The Legacy of Christopher Columbus
Ryan A Stoner

The following is the winning essay read at today's program. This national contest sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Italian American Foundation in collaboration with the Washington Columbus Celebration Association. There were 1790 entries from 388 schools in this second year of the contest.

At the end of the fifteenth century in Europe, major cultural and social changes labeled the "Renaissance" were underway. There was increasing discontent with the dominant Catholic Church which had been reunited under one Pope, while at the same time trade and commerce within Europe were growing. However, Europe was still isolated from most of the world. The Ming Dynasty ruled in China, a powerful Shogunate controlled Japan, the Inca Empire dominated much of South America, and powerful Muslim Caliphates controlled Central Asia and the Middle East. At this time, Christopher Columbus successfully promoted himself and found support from Queen Isabel and King Fernando of Spain (after being unsuccessful in Portugal) for his enterprise to find a western route across the Atlantic Ocean to the West Indies. He had studied considerable geographical and theological literature and had extensive practical experience of a long and varied maritime career. The report on his first voyage in 1492 was widely read throughout Europe and helped him to find funding for three more voyages, as well as to obtain honors like the title Admiral of the Seas, and to achieve enough wealth to live comfortably. From a broad long-term perspective, the historical legacy of Christopher Columbus continues to be debated. The importance of his legacy can be best understood if viewed under three general headings: scientific exploration, international business, and political ambition.

Christopher Columbus led great discoveries in scientific exploration. Through his studies he postulated the size of the world and set off on a journey to prove his theory. His journey showed he had underestimated the size of the earth by one-fourth. Nonetheless, the journey provided important scientific and geographic information through his detailed observations and logs. He also improved navigation techniques called deduced (or dead) reckoning, whereby the navigator finds his position by measuring the course and distance sailed from some known point. Columbus left an important legacy of scientific exploration. Many Europeans and Americans would continue to explore unknown parts of the globe and eventually of outer space following in the footsteps of Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus obtained financial backing for his voyage from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand by promising to return to them riches from the new world. He in return would get ten per cent of any new wealth. Thus, his trip was financed as an international business deal. He found some gold which was of immediate value, but he also discovered tobacco, which would prove to be an extremely important commercial crop in the new world. Exploration and later colonization as an international business enterprise were an important legacy of Christopher Columbus.

Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand expected to extend their political power to new lands through the conquests of Columbus. Centuries later, the accomplishments of Columbus were reinvented to meet the political needs of a young American nation. The Americans portrayed Columbus as a mythical figure who challenged the unknown sea, making him a perfect hero for a new nation which faced the dangers and promises of its own wilderness frontier to the west. In the eyes of many Americans, Columbus became the first real "founding father". He was the symbol of American success. His American political legacy is that he came to represent the explorer and discoverer. He was the man of dreams and of daring and the hero who faced challenges to change history.

The legacy of Christopher Columbus is very broad with important scientific, economic, and political dimensions. In order to do justice to the scope of this legacy, only the major aspects of each dimension has been presented. This legacy has shaped the American character. We pride ourselves first, on our scientific approaches to problems; second, on our international business success; and third, on our independent democratic government. These are all, at least in part, the legacy of Christopher Columbus.

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

TOPIC

1998-1999 topic is "How would western civilization be different if Christopher Columbus had not discovered America?"

PRIZE

The prize for the national winner is \$1,000, paid transportation to Washington, DC and housing for winner and one parent, 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 (October 11, 1999), 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 title page which includes student's full name, address, phone number, school, grade level, name of sponsoring DAR chapter and number of words in essay. Do not submit a photograph with entry.

NSDAR ADMINISTRATION OF CONTEST

This contest will be administered by the NSDAR.

For further information contact – Mrs. Robert K. Middleton
National Vice Chairman in Charge of the Christopher Columbus Essay
1514 Moss Avenue, Peoria, IL 61606-1638
(309) 676-6115



National Society
Daughters of the American Revolution
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006-5392

The DAR is a women's volunteer service organization made up of approximately 175,000 members with over 3,000 chapters. These chapters are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

On October 11, 1890, 18 women met to officially organize the NSDAR for historic, educational and patriotic purposes and it is now in its second century of service to the nation. Over 780,000 members have been admitted to membership since 1890. Through the years these members have represented a wide spectrum of vocations. In the early days of the organization, the members stated that "We want a Society founded on service." This emphasis continues today.

Its National Headquarters occupies an entire city block near the White House in our Nation's Capital and is the largest group of buildings in the world owned and maintained exclusively by women. *Memorial Continental Hall*—the original building erected by the DAR—was the first private building of national scope to rise in the vicinity of the White House and faces 17th Street. It contains: (1) The DAR Genealogical Library, one of the finest in the country: a reference library containing over 115,000 books including unpublished genealogy typescripts and genealogical periodicals. There is a small fee for non-members. (2) State Rooms which represent particular historic periods or regions, including an 18th century tavern, a mid-19th century kitchen, an attic filled with children's toys.

The Library and the State Rooms are open to the public Monday through Friday and Sundays from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Docents are available for tours.

THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION (NIAF) is a non-profit organization in Washington, DC that is dedicated to preserving the heritage of an estimated 20 million Americans of Italian descent, the nation's fifth largest ethnic group.

The NIAF funds scholarships, internships, conferences and other programs, and promotes closer cultural and economic ties with Italy. It also publishes *AMBASSADOR Magazine*, the only national cultural magazine for Italian Americans.

For a free copy of *AMBASSADOR Magazine*, call or write:

The National Italian American Foundation
1860 Nineteenth Street, NW
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Telephone: 202/387-0600



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 diplomatic corps--especially Italy, Spain, and The Bahamas--and the National Park Service. In 1989 these efforts culminated in the organization of The Washington Columbus Celebration Association, which has been responsible since then for the yearly Columbus Day event. The Association is governed by a board of directors elected by its general membership, with officers chosen annually by the board.

The Association seeks to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievement in linking the Old World and the New, but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and trials. These virtues--his faith, the courage of his convictions, dedication to purpose, perseverance in effort, professional excellence, and boldness in facing the unknown--are as appropriate today as they were in his time. The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with these purposes to join the membership.

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RELIGIOUS CEREMONY—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1998

Holy Rosary Church

Italian Parish
595 Third Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001



12:00 noon. Christopher Columbus Memorial Mass

Celebrant and Homilist Rev. Gerald Hargrove, State Chaplain

Concelebrant Rev. Charles Zanoni, C.S.

Deacon, Rev. Mr. Bernard Johnson

Lectors:

Harry T. Jackson, Jr., *State Deputy, D.C. State Council, K. of C.*

Thomas V. Caruso, *President Lido Club*

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Color Corps and Honor Guard

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Archdiocese of Washington District

George Hanna, PSD, Master

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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 Zanoni, *Pastor, Holy Rosary Church*
Address - Thomas V. Caruso, *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 - Edward M. Sullivan, PSD
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America the Beautiful

CIVIC CEREMONY

co-sponsored by

WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

and

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

Monday - October 12, 1998

COLUMBUS PLAZA -- UNION STATION

10:45 a.m.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN"

United States Marine Band

Lieutenant Timothy W. Foley, Director

Captain Michael J. Colburn Conducting

11:00 a.m.

POSTING OF THE COLORS

U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard - Military District of Washington
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Corps - Calvert Province
- Districts of Washington Archdiocese, Maryland and Virginia

PROCESSION OF WREATH PRESENTERS

Led by the bearer of the Columbus Expeditionary Banner

NATIONAL ANTHEMS - United States of America

Italy

Spain

Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. George Hanna, Master 4th Deg. K of C

INVOCATION - The Rev. Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie

Chaplain, United States Senate

RETIRING OF THE COLORS

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

Ranger Robbin M. Owen, Office of Park Programs, NPS

Remarks - Ambassadors of Diplomatic Corps

Representative, Organization of American States

READING OF PROCLAMATIONS

From the President of the United States of America

From the Mayor of the District of Columbia

INTRODUCTION - NATIONAL YOUTH COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST

WINNER - SPONSORED JOINTLY BY:

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

and the National Italian American Foundation

Mrs. Dale Kelly Love, President General, D.A.R.

Dr. A. Kenneth Ciongoli, President, N.I.A.F.

Ryan A. Stoner of Fairfax, Virginia

"The Legacy of Christopher Columbus"



PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL WREATHS

Washington Columbus Celebration Association
National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
Embassy of Italy
Embassy of Spain

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Organization of American States

Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

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

National Society Sons of Colonial New England

National Society of the Sons of the American Colonists

National Society Children of the American Colonists

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

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

District of Columbia D.A.R.

Maryland State Society D.A.R.

Virginia State Society D.A.R.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

District of Columbia Society S.A.R.

National Society Children of the American Revolution

The District of Columbia Society C.A.R.

Boy and Girl Scouts of America and Campfire Youth

Archdiocese of Washington



Closing Song [AUDIENCE]

THIS IS MY COUNTRY

WORDS BY DON RAYE

MUSIC BY AL JACOBS

What difference if I hail from North or South or from the East or West?
My heart is filled with love for all of these -
I only know I swell with pride and deep within my breast
I thrill to see "Old Glory" paint the breeze!

[REFRAIN]

THIS IS MY COUNTRY! Land of my birth (choice)
THIS IS MY COUNTRY! Grandest on earth!
I pledge thee my allegiance, America the bold.
For THIS IS MY COUNTRY, To have and to hold!

With hand upon my heart I thank the Lord for this my native land,
For all I love is here within her gates,
My soul is rooted deeply in the soil in which I stand,
For these are mine, My own United States!

*Words used by permission, Lic. No. A0916SP, Shawnee Press, inc., Delaware Water Gap,
PA 18327*

DISMISSAL

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE - The United States Marine Band
"The President's Own"**



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.

• GUSTAV S. WEBER, P. K. WEBER HAWKINS, CHRISTINA WEBER SPRINGER for production of the souvenir ceremony program book.

• GEORGE HANNA, Master, Archdiocese of Washington District, and WILLIAM M. MULVIHILL, Master, Virginia District, for providing the Fourth Degree Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus.

• MARK MURRAY, Division of Ceremonies, Military District of Washington for the Honor guard and planning arrangements for the United States Army Band.

• ROBERT H. MAURER, Director of Marketing for LaSalle Management for use of the facilities in Union Station.

• THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE for preparing the site and for their support. RICHARD MERRYMAN, Chief of Public Events; DONNA DONALDSON, Chief, Visitors Service; and JOSEPH COX, Lieutenant, U.S. Park Police.

• Ushers services provided by GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY Council No. 6375 and CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA Council No. 9542, Knights of Columbus and the COLUMBIAN SQUIRES, St. Dominic Savio Circle No. 4218, CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS AND CAMPFIRE YOUTH.

• D. MICHAEL RESSLER, MGS, United States Marine Band, Chief, Music Librarian, for his assistance in repertoire planning.

• The National Italian American Foundation, DR. A. KENNETH CIONGOLI, President; DR. ALFRED M. ROTONDARO, Executive Director, and RICHARD J. HIGGINS, Esquire, Director of International Affairs, for their most generous support of both this ceremony and the National Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.

• National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, (Officers, 1995-1998) MRS. CHARLES KEIL KEMPER, President General; MRS. ROBERT PAUL REHL, Historian General; MRS. DONALD L. BOLINGER, National American History Chairman along with MRS. HOWARD HOLBROOK, National Vice-Chairman, Christopher Columbus Essay Contest and MRS. JANICE T. FITZGERALD, Executive Assistant for their devoted administrative leadership and management of the second National Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.

• TOURMOBILE, CARLA BELL, Assistant Sales Director, for their generosity in providing transportation for the winner of the Columbus Essay Contest and his family.

• TERRY J. ADAMS, National Park Service, and RAYMOND HONDA, Knights of Columbus, for providing photographic services.

BIOGRAPHIES

• DR. DAVID R. CURFMAN, a native of Ohio and a neurosurgeon in private practice in Washington, D.C. is serving his fourth 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 quinqucentenary of the great explorer's discovery was an invited guest accompanied by his wife for embarkation anniversary ceremonies in Spain

and other commemoration events in 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'S WHO in the WORLD, and WHO'S WHO (International) in MUSIC and MUSICIANS' DIRECTORY (Cambridge, England).

• *THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND* "The President's Own" is proudly celebrating the two-hundredth year (bicentennial) of their founding. A full commentary on its illustrative history is contained in an article printed on page *** in this souvenir ceremony booklet.

• *CAPT MICHAEL J. COLBURN*, a native of St. Alban's, Vermont, was appointed assistant director of the United States Marine Band in 1996. He began his interest in music at age 10 and after graduating from Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans in 1982, he attended the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York (Potsdam) where he studied euphonium. He received his bachelor's degree in music performance in 1986 from Arizona State University (Tempe) studying euphonium with Daniel Perantoni. In 1991 he earned his master's degree in conducting from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. After joining the band in 1987 he quickly became the featured euphonium soloist presenting recitals and clinics at numerous national and international brass conferences. In 1997 Capt. Colburn conducted the seventieth annual New England Music Festival Band in Colchester, Vermont.

• *RYAN A. STONER*, the second annual winner of the national essay contest on a theme of Christopher Columbus, was born in Washington, D.C. He is the son of Mr. Benjamin A. Stoner and Mrs. Patricia Daly Stoner and is currently a junior at George Mason High School, Falls Church, Virginia. Although he currently resides in Fairfax, Virginia with his parents and one sister, his father's State Department career has taken him to many other lands for residence throughout his sixteen years. He is a member of "Around the World in a Lifetime" (AWAL), an organization for young people who have lived in other countries while American citizens. His current interests include journalism and basketball. Mr. Stoner is the chief editor of the school's newspaper "The Lasso." He has been selected by his school to attend the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Conference which represents all schools in Virginia.

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**District of Columbia State Council
Knights of Columbus**

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on the
506th Anniversary
of the
Discovery of the New World**

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GOOD THINGS IN
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Columbus Day 1998

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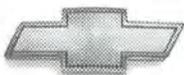
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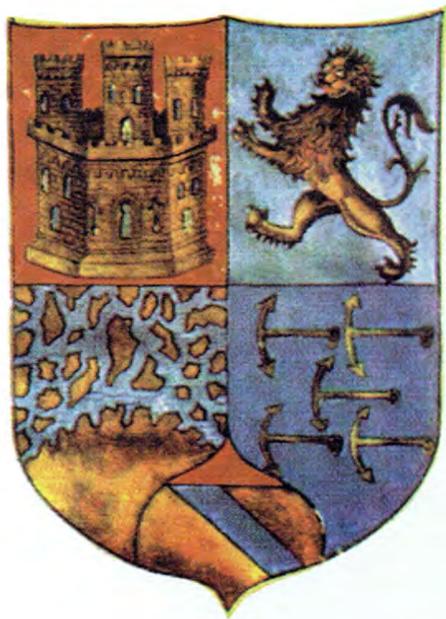
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woodcut of Columbus's discovery of the Island of Trinidad and mainland of South America during his third voyage with six caravels and three hundred men

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