



# Columbus Day 2022







**[ChristopherColumbus.org](http://ChristopherColumbus.org)**

Cover Image:

*The Recall of Columbus*

Augustus Goodyear Heaton (1844 - 1930) | U.S. Senate Collection

THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
CELEBRATES  
*530 Years of Discovery*



HONORING THE GREAT DISCOVERER

*Christopher Columbus*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022  
THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL  
COLUMBUS PLAZA - UNION STATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPONSORED BY THE  
NATIONAL CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ASSOCIATION

# CELEBRATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

## IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

### THE SITE

In the years following the great 1892 quadricentennial (400<sup>th</sup> anniversary) celebration of the achievements and discoveries of Christopher Columbus, an effort was launched by the Knights of Columbus in the District of Columbia to establish a monument in the nation's capital to the great discoverer. At their urging, Congress passed a law mandating a memorial, appropriating \$100,000 to cover 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 new Union Station completed in 1907, plans focused on putting the memorial in the plaza in front of this great edifice.

After a series of competitions, sculptor Lorado Z. Taft of Chicago was commissioned. His plan gave us what you see today: a monument of Georgia marble, a semi-circular fountain 66 feet by 44 feet, and in the center a pylon crowned with a globe supported by four eagles connected by a garland. A 15-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 and 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 and 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 rise behind the monument representing the historic ships of 1492, the Niña, 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.

**D**aniel Burnham, who designed Union Station, had been the major coordinating architect of the 1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His work launched the "City Beautiful" movement, to transform major cities, especially our nation's capital, into a series of well-landscaped neo-classical places, expressing confidence in our Republic during the 1890 period. The Columbus Fountain and Taft's Columbus statue were influenced in part by Frederick MacMonnies' fountain at the World's Columbian Exhibition.

Dedication of the new memorial took place on June 8, 1912 in the presence of President Taft and was accompanied by an elaborate three-day celebration organized by the Knights of Columbus that brought a reported 47,000 Knights and their families and others to the capital—115,000 in all. The photo on our title page shows the monument in its gleaming whiteness. The unveiling ceremonies were followed by a mammoth three-mile-long parade, viewed by 300,000 people according to newspaper accounts.

## TODAY'S CEREMONY

**T**hroughout the years, fraternal, civic and cultural organizations provided leadership for an annual Columbus Day ceremony at the site. For some years now, in collaboration with the National Park Service, the ceremony has been organized each year by the National Christopher Columbus Association (NCCA), established in 1989 to plan the celebration in the Quincentenary and subsequent years. It brings in many attendees from other parts of the country each year. Appearances of the U.S. Military Honor Guard, the Marine Band, and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps add to the pageantry.

Reading of the annual presidential proclamation, remarks by members of the diplomatic corps, the awarding of a national essay contest prize (sponsored by NIAF and NCCA), reading of the essay by the winner, and wreath-laying by embassies and many national and local patriotic groups constitute the program, which is open to the public free of charge.

## **A Summary of the Marine Band's History**

For more than two centuries, the United States Marine Band has been part of the events that have shaped our nation. As "The President's Own," its omnipresent role has made it an important thread in the fabric of American life.

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Its primary mission is unique: to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut on New Year's Day, 1801, in the then-unfinished Executive Mansion.

It is believed 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 and is credited with 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. Each fall, the band travels through a region of the United States during its concert tour, a century-old tradition initiated by John Philip Sousa, the band's legendary 17th Director.

As Director from 1880-92, 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."



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The National Christopher Columbus Association expresses its gratitude to the following for their timely efforts, for the success of this celebration:**

**The Lido Club of Washington** for their very generous contribution.

Vice Supreme Master **Michael Thumm**, of the Calvert Province, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, for his support in making the National Columbus Day Celebration a Provincial event; **Guillermo Giandoni**, Master, Virginia District; **Joseph Feakes**, Master, Archdiocese of Washington District; and **James Duryee**, Master of the Maryland District.

**Keith Amburzey** and the **Honor America Corps** for the appearance of the 27 historical official American flags.

**Mr. Ron McLendon II and Mr. Jeremy Kern**, Community Relations, Director of Public Affairs, U. S. Army Military District of Washington, for participation by the Marines Color Guard, and planning arrangements for the appearance of the U.S. Marine Band, by **Vadya Dillon**, Marine Band Branch, Public Affairs, Pentagon.

**The National Park Service** for their coordination and support.

**Officers and staff of the U.S. Park Police.**

**D.C. College Councils of the Knights of Columbus**, especially The Catholic University of America Council 9542, for serving as ushers at the ceremony.

**The National Italian American Foundation** for its generous support to the National Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.

**Duane J. Lomis** for archival videography.

**Joseph Scafetta, Jr.** for writing this year's Featured Article and reviewing the program book.

**Amanda's Arrangements** for supplying the wreathes for today's presentation.

**The Knights of Columbus Office of Communications** in New Haven, CT for the printing of this book and for providing photographic services.



# CIVIC CEREMONY PROGRAM

Sponsored by  
NATIONAL CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ASSOCIATION  
in cooperation with the  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL MALL & MEMORIAL PARKS  
Monday, October 10, 2022  
COLUMBUS PLAZA — UNION STATION

MUSICAL PRELUDE 10:45 a.m.

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band

POSTING OF THE COLORS 11:00 a.m.

U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard, *Military District of Washington*  
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Corps  
*Calvert Province Districts of Washington Archdiocese, Maryland, and Virginia*  
*Columbus Expeditionary Banner, with Christopher Columbus*

NATIONAL ANTHEMS Spain, Italy,  
United States of America

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE J.P. McCusker  
*President, NCCA*

INVOCATION

RETIRING OF THE COLORS U.S. ARMED FORCES COLOR  
GUARD

WELCOME Timothy Saccoccia  
*Board Member, NCCA*

REMARKS Members of Diplomatic Corps

## READING OF PROCLAMATION

From the President of the United States of America

## INTRODUCTION

National Youth Columbus Essay Contest Winner

John Hill, The Woodlands, TX

*Essay Contest Co-Sponsored By*

THE NATIONAL CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ASSOCIATION &  
THE NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

*"America, the Beautiful"*

*Samuel Augustus Ward, lyrics by Katherine Lee Bates*

## PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL WREATHES

National Christopher Columbus Association  
National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Embassy of Spain  
Embassy of Italy  
National Italian American Foundation  
Supreme Council Knights of Columbus  
Lido Civic Club of Washington, DC  
National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution  
District of Columbia State Society, Daughters of the American  
Revolution  
Maryland State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution  
Virginia State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution

District of Columbia State Council, Knights of Columbus  
Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus  
Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus  
Washington Council #224, Knights of Columbus  
Roma Lodge #71, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax #2517, Order Sons and Daughters of  
Italy in America  
National Council for the Promotion of Italian Language and Culture in  
America  
National Society Daughters of the American Colonists  
National Society Children of the American Colonists  
District of Columbia Children of the American Colonists  
Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Committee on Scouting

#### CLOSING HYMN (AUDIENCE)

“God Bless America”

*Irving Berlin*

GOD BLESS AMERICA, Land that I love,  
Stand beside her, and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans, white with foam,  
GOD BLESS AMERICA, My home sweet home.

#### MUSICAL POSTLUDE

“The Stars and Stripes Forever”

*John Philip Sousa*



## Call for Entries

### 2022 – 2023 Essay Contest



*The National Christopher Columbus Association  
along with*

*The National Italian American Foundation*

are pleased to announce co-sponsorship of an essay contest featuring  
Christopher Columbus open to all students in grades 9 through 12.

#### **2022-2023 TOPIC**

**When reflecting on Columbus's legacy, we tend to think about his impact in America. What were the effects of the discovery of America on Italy? How did Columbus's voyages serve as the starting point for Italian-American relations?**

One essay is selected as the national winner. Second and third place winners are also selected. Judging at the national level is conducted by the National Italian American Foundation.

The **national winner** will receive \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October 2023 for the winner and one parent or guardian. The national winner must read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day (October 9, 2023). The second-place winner will receive \$500, and the third-place winner will receive \$300.

#### **FORM**

Essay must be submitted in a typed format using black type in non-script 12 point font. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: Title of essay, the contestant's full name and address, telephone number (with area code), email address, school name and grade level, and the number of words in the essay. A bibliography of sources used in preparing the essay should be attached. Published, scholarly references are preferred. This contest is administered by the National Italian American Foundation.

#### **For further information about this contest contact:**

Julia Streisfeld Kennedy  
Director of Scholarships, Grants and Youth Engagement

The National Italian American Foundation  
1860 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Phone: (202) 939-3114 | Email: [Jstreisfeld@niaf.org](mailto:Jstreisfeld@niaf.org)

# WINNING ESSAY



**John Hill**  
*The Woodlands, TX*

## **Christopher Columbus: The Man of the New World**

“In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.” The memorable mnemonic device is proof of the long-lasting effect that Christopher Columbus impressed upon the world of the fifteenth century and today. Without the expeditions of Christopher Columbus, the whole world, and in particular the Americas, would have been quite different. It was only after Columbus’ discoveries that a slew of explorers began to chase the setting sun across the ocean. As a result, Europeans were given the hopeful chance to immigrate to a new country in search of new freedom and better opportunities. Christopher Columbus initiated an age of expedition, which, both in his day and in modern times, globally affected the transmission of culture and the shaping of Western Civilization.

Christopher Columbus, an Italian from Genoa, sought assistance for his grand voyage from European monarchs. Portugal rejected his idea, but with the end of the Spanish Reconquista, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, inspired by Columbus’ zeal, invested a grandiose amount of wealth and resources into his voyage. Columbus hoped to please his patrons with the discovery of a speedy trade route to India (knowing that such a route would bring about an even greater exchange between Europe and Asia) and the conversion of the indigenous peoples. The king and queen heartily believed in the mission of the courageous explorer, “for Columbus was a man born and driven to discover a new world, and such a discovery was bound to bring transcendent glory, power and wealth to whatever nation made it” (Carroll, Warren H. *The Glory of Christendom: A History of Christendom* 633). At one time, trade was only possible by the Silk Road, the long journey by land from Europe to distant Asian lands. Portugal then established a shipping route by simply sailing around the southern tip of Africa. To surpass the Portuguese, Columbus had to do what no navigator ever dared to

do before: to “set off directly across a broad, unknown sea with no specific knowledge of how far it extended or what lay on the other side” (Carroll, Warren H, “Honoring Christopher Columbus” 1). Columbus revolutionized navigation by sailing into the unknown. He did not find Asia; rather, Columbus made an entirely new discovery— the discovery of a new continent, the discovery of a New World.

Columbus’ 70-day journey across the Atlantic Ocean gave him evidence of a landmass between Europe and Asia. There, he made contact with the natives of the Bahamas, who were a kind people. The first meeting of the two cultures took place, and an informal and subtle exchange began as both noted the talents and manners of each other. Even when his crew tried to exploit the natives, Columbus piously forbade the unfair exchange of their riches for European trinkets. Rather, he hoped to trade with them justly. By creating a mutual trust, the natives then gave advice to help the great explorer discover Cuba and Hispaniola. Christopher Columbus and his European crew left a mark on these “East Indies”, as Columbus referred to them, which changed the way the natives lived forever, giving them the benefits of Christianity, trade, and Western Civilization, as no explorer had done before. While Columbus’ physical discoveries may have been limited to the several islands on which he landed, it was, as one author stated, “not only Hispaniola that Columbus’ great discovery opened up, [but] everything from Point Barrow, Alaska to Cape Horn—a new world. It brought rescue and liberation for the fifteen million Indians of Mexico... [and] it offered new homelands for the peoples of Europe, including the United States of America,” the country which rose up to put down some of the greatest evils of history, such as the German Nazis and the Soviet Communists (Carroll, Warren H. *Isabel of Spain: The Catholic Queen* 230). Columbus himself even “felt that his discovery would influence the destiny of nations” (Deferrari et al. 1). And so, with this first pivotal journey of the famed navigator completed (along with the success of his return voyage to recall the details of his adventure), the seeds of a global cultural revolution were sown, and Columbus’ work paved the way for other explorations and the development of newly discovered lands and societies.

With the groundwork laid for a global change, scores of explorers, such as Amerigo Vespucci and Juan Ponce de Leon, followed the path of Columbus and explored more parts of the New World (Carroll, Anne W. *Christ and the Americas* 13). Because of Christopher Columbus, these explorers embarked on their quests, meaning Columbus’ relatively small but crucial discovery had the impetus to provide for a multitude of other

geographical discoveries. By exploring the New World, European culture, most clearly materialized by language and religion, was transmitted to the Americas and is still detectable today. For example, Columbus and his Spanish crew explored some of Latin America, and, even today, those countries still largely speak Spanish and practice Christianity. This link between the “Old World” and the “New World” of today proves that Columbus’ initial discovery was a cultural catalyst of the most significant proportions.

Unfortunately, many modern thinkers tend to deemphasize the greatness of Christopher Columbus. However, by gathering more accurate information, such myths have been debunked (Ortiz), and Columbus’ historical legacy rests on his navigational expertise, his undaunted courage, and his fervent saintliness. The admirable admiral gained the attention of Spain as a holy missionary, but won support from Spain due to his bold assurance of discovery. Correspondingly, Columbus wrote that the King and Queen of Spain “resolved to send [him]... with a view that [the Indians] might be converted to [Spain’s] holy faith; and... that [he] should go by way of the west, whither up to [his] day, [men did] not know for certain that any one [had] gone” (Columbus 16). The qualities comprising this monumental seafarer destined him to help, quite literally, shape the globe. Nevertheless, an all too large number of historians tend to discredit any discoveries Columbus “made”, and transfer the credit to those Vikings and Islanders who reached a part of the Americas years before Columbus was born. As for the Vikings, Europeans of Columbus’ time held that “Vinland [the Viking settlement on Greenland] existed only in myths” (Davidson 37). While Columbus’ brave new journey gave Europe tangible information confirming the westward land, only his expeditions opened the door for the spread of Western Civilization. Moreover, “discovery is made when an individual or a nation finds something or someone or some people or some places of special importance, not previously known to them” (Carroll, Warren H. “Honoring Christopher Columbus” 1). It is clear, then, that Columbus was truly the “discoverer” of the Americas, because people were uncertain of any land actually existing across the Atlantic Ocean before Columbus’ adventures. Consequently, the discoverer of the New World ought to be praised and remembered by generations after him for his illustrious feats in spite of nearly impossible odds.

It is with this praise in mind that all Italians, all Europeans, all Americans, and all people should look to Christopher Columbus as a legendary figure, remembering that his great accomplishments revolutionized the Old World and opened up a great New World.



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# The National Christopher Columbus Association



Annual Columbus Day celebrations have been held at the Columbus Memorial and Fountain at Columbus Plaza in Washington, D.C. ever since it was unveiled in 1912.

In 1989, a permanent organization, the Washington Columbus Celebration Association, was formed in order to plan the observance of the forthcoming Quincentenary anniversary in 1992, and to put the annual ceremonies on a firmer footing with permanent sponsorship.

Ten years later, the name of the organization was changed to the National Columbus Celebration Association.

In August of 2013, a proposal to change the organization's name to the **National Christopher Columbus Association** was approved and the new name became effective in 2014. The change reflects a decision to broaden the organization's focus in the areas of education and scholarship, taking its involvement beyond the annual Columbus Day activities in the nation's capital.

The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with its purposes to become members, and an application may be found elsewhere in this booklet. The bylaws of the NCCA state that "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 him in his efforts and trials."

# Become a member of the NCCA

The Association seeks to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievements in linking the Old World and the New, but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and his trials. Those virtues - faith in God, the courage of his convictions, dedication to purpose, perseverance in effort, professional excellence, and boldness in facing the unknown - are vitally important and worthy of emulation in every era.

The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with our purposes to join with us by filling out the application below and sending it to the address given. You may also fill out a membership application on our website, at **[www.christophercolumbus.org](http://www.christophercolumbus.org)**. Members receive a gold-plated membership pin, a membership certificate suitable for framing, an invitation to the annual meeting with the right to vote, minutes, and their names are listed in the program book published for the annual celebration. National Patrons will be listed in the annual program book and will be sent a copy of the program book on request.

## Annual dues (please check the appropriate box):

- ☐ Organizational Member      **\$75.00**  
*(business, professional, nonprofit, patriotic or fraternal)*
- ☐ Individual Member      **\$25.00**

**Please print your name exactly as you wish it to appear on the certificate:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your completed application with payment to:

**National Christopher Columbus Association**  
*Attn: Steven J. Upton, Secretary*  
5034 Wisconsin Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20015-4125

*The NCCA is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and is qualified to receive tax deductible contributions, bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under IRS Code Sections 170, 2055, 2106, or 2522.*

## BIOGRAPHIES

**John Hill** is from The Woodlands, TX, and he graduated from Seton Home Study School. He also simultaneously completed over fifty college credit hours as a dual credit student with Lone Star College and Holy Apostles College and Seminary. John worked as a summer camp coach at Spring's BEST Kids Summer Camp and interned with Verso l'Alto Financing. He has volunteered for many organizations, with his favorites being the Tomball Little League Challenger Division, HHA Basketball Spring Skills Training Camp, and the Elite Wranglers Dance Team.

Through high school, John was very involved in athletics, playing football, basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, and soccer. In football, John was a 1st Team Academic All-State athlete and a 2nd Team All-State cornerback, and his team, the Tomball Christian Warriors, placed 2nd in the National Homeschool Football Championship. He was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International College Honor Society, the National Home School Honor Society, and the 4H Photography Club. John is also very involved with his church, Regina Caeli Catholic Parish, where he altar-served and volunteered for several camps. John currently attends Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, where he plans to declare a double major in Philosophy and Political Science/Economics.

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**James P. McCusker**, President of the NCCA, was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania; joined the Navy after High School and became a Hospital Corpsman, serving on both ships and at Naval hospitals. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Benjamin Franklin University in Washington, DC and a Master's Degree in Contract Law and Program Management from George Washington University. During his career in the Federal Government, he served in the Pentagon Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus, ultimately having served as State Deputy for Virginia, District Master for Virginia, and then Membership and Programs Consultant for the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus.

In addition to serving as President and member of the Board of Directors of the National Christopher Columbus Association he also serves on the Board of Directors of Medical Missionaries, supporting the medical needs of the poor.

## Col. Thomas J. Hogan (1933-2021)

COL. Thomas J. Hogan, 88, U.S. Army (Ret), passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his Fairfax, Virginia home on November 5, 2021, after a nineteen-month battle with cancer.

Tom was a well-decorated veteran of 27 years but is best known as a caring family man guided by a solid Christian compass. Tom was the second eldest of 9 children and was predeceased by his parents, John and Maryann , and sons Stephen and Edward. He is survived by his wife of 68 years Florence, children Michael, Daniel, Amy Paratore, Timothy, Karen White, Julie, 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Tom was born in Cleveland, Ohio on July 27, 1933. The family moved to Akron, Ohio in 1938 and to Randolph, Ohio in 1943. A young man of many talents, he was a star football player, thespian, and beloved member of his community. It is in Randolph that he met Florence, his high school sweetheart, who he married in 1953 and who remained his steadfast partner in the years to follow. During his college years Tom was employed by Goodyear Aerospace Corp. in Akron, Ohio as an aircraft parts inspector building YH-21 helicopters, US Navy N-Ship blimps, and aircraft. In 1956 Tom earned a BA in Pre-Law from Kent State University while in its ROTC program and was commissioned a 2nd Lt, US Army Infantry.

Some of his extensive military career included assignments at Ft. Holabird, Baltimore, Maryland 1967, Danang, Vietnam 1967-1968, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas 1968-1969, Berlin, Germany 1973-1976, Misawa, Japan 1977-1978, and Washington, DC 1978-1983. After retiring in 1983, Tom was a Senior Staff Scientist and Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Board at Science Applications International Corporation for over 10 years, developing intelligence, command and control, and space systems. While at SAIL Tom briefed the Congressional House Permanent Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

As a hobby, in 1984 Tom became a licensed real estate broker in Virginia and enjoyed not only assisting many family and friends but would become an investor of residential and commercial properties.

He was always active with Catholic church charitable events and held numerous positions in the Knights of Columbus, including Virginia State Deputy from 1996-97. Tom was a vital member of the annual Pro-Life March in Washington, DC and was on the March for Life Fund Board of Directors from 2008-2019. He also served on the National Columbus Celebration Association Board of Directors since 1998 and was the NCCA President from 2008 to 2012. Tom liked to refer to himself as a "fire-putter-outer" — people young and old would consult him to help solve their problems.

He was highly respected by all who had the privilege to know him. Perhaps no role was more important to Tom than his role as a father and grandfather, and it is in this capacity that he will be most deeply missed. A pillar of strength for his family, he faced his cancer diagnosis with his trademark courage and dedication, defying all doctor's expectations. Every wedding, birth, and family gathering was made that much more special to his family as he fought to stay with them. He leaves behind a legacy through which he will be fondly remembered and forever loved.

# FEATURED ARTICLE

## *Alternative History*

*By Joseph Scafetta, Jr.*



*The critical event highlighted in the accompanying featured article is depicted above in "The Recall of Columbus", a painting by Augustus Heaton.*

*The original was purchased for the Senate Wing of the U.S. Capitol Building in 1884.*

What would have happened if Queen Isabella had not recalled Columbus by sending a royal messenger after him? How would history be different?

If Columbus had not been recalled, I submit that he would have traveled to France to make a presentation with his brother, Bartolomeo, to the new rulers, 22-year-old King Charles VIII and his impressionable bride, 15-year-old Queen Anne I of Brittany, who probably would have funded his plan after a year of study.

If so, Columbus would have set sail sometime in 1493 either from Le Havre at the mouth of the Seine River downstream from Paris or from Dieppe a little farther north on the English Channel from where Giovanni da Verrazzano actually set sail on January 1, 1524.

Initially like Verrazzano, Columbus would have sailed southwest for about 17 days to Madeira Island off the coast of Morocco in northwest Africa. There he would have taken on more supplies before beginning the transatlantic crossing. Because of the clockwise rotation of the winds in the North Atlantic Ocean, Columbus probably would have been carried on the same course that the winds took Verrazzano, i.e. westward for 50 days and about 4,000 miles to Cape Fear, North Carolina.

During the course of the crossing, Columbus would have to convince his crew not to mutiny at the 3,000-mile mark, but rather to sail on. After turning north to float along with the Gulf Stream, Columbus like Verrazzano would probably have anchored briefly at the Narrows entrance to upper New York harbor and at Narragansett Bay in Massachusetts. Columbus probably would have continued onward like Verrazzano to Maine, Newfoundland, and Cape Breton Island off the coast of Nova Scotia before returning to France six months after his departure from Madeira Island.

Because of the importance of his discovery, Columbus probably would have been permitted to make a larger second expedition within another six months even though the ambitious King Charles VIII launched the Italian Wars in the Spring of 1494 by invading and conquering Pavia, Florence, and Rome in an effort to control the small independent states on the Italian peninsula.

At the time of his sudden and unexpected death at the age of 28 in 1498, King Charles VIII left no heirs, so he was succeeded by his cousin, King Louis XII, who married the widowed Queen Anne. Because the untimely early death of Charles VIII temporarily halted the Italian Wars, Columbus would have had an opportunity to return to the newly discovered mainland for a third time with the continued backing of Queen Anne.



While Columbus would be away, King Louis XII would relaunch the Italian Wars in 1499 by conquering Milan and Genoa, Columbus' place of birth. The new French king and the Spanish monarchs then formed an alliance which jointly captured Naples.

This conquest and the following short period of peace would have given Columbus an opportunity to launch his fourth and last voyage in 1502 before the alliance broke up over the spoils. A two-year war between the French and the Spanish conquerors was concluded by the two Treaties of Blois in 1504 and 1505. Columbus would have returned to France in late 1504.

A downside of Columbus' sailing for France would have been that Verrazzano would not have been funded for a trip to America by King Francis I in 1524 because Columbus had already been there. On the upside for Verrazzano, he may have lived a long and normal life by not going to America instead of being killed and eaten by Carib cannibals on Guadeloupe Island in the West Indies at the age of 43 in 1528.

English history would have remained unchanged. Upon learning of Columbus' first successful voyage, King Henry VII would have granted a patent on March 5, 1496, to Giovanni Caboto and his three sons, Ludovico, Sebastiano, and Sancio. Giovanni Caboto, or John Cabot as the English called him, would have then sailed with his son Sebastiano from Bristol to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in Canada where they made landfall on June 24, 1497.

Since Cabot also reached Cape Breton Island and Newfoundland, how would the English claims stand up against any French claims that would have been made if Columbus had sailed for France instead of Spain? I suggest that the French would have relinquished them, just as they did after Verrazzano's three trips in 1524, 1527, and 1528, because they were more interested in expanding into the Italian peninsula next to their territory rather than into some wooded land inhabited by wild "Indians" more than 3,000 miles away. In fact, the Italian Wars were continuing while Verrazzano was sailing and would last until 1559.

The history of Portugal also would have remained unchanged. Despite learning about Columbus' successful first voyage for the Spanish in 1493, King Joao II continued implementation of his plan to sail south around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa and then northeast to India. During the reign of his successor, King Manuel I, India was reached by Vasco da Gama in a two-year round trip starting in 1497 and ending in 1499. Also, on April 22, 1500, Pedro Alvares Cabral discovered Brazil after being blown 1,800 miles off course by an early hurricane while on his way south along the coast of Africa on a trip to India.

Spanish history certainly would have changed because Columbus would not have discovered the Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola for Spain in 1492. However, if Columbus had successfully sailed to the mainland and returned to France in 1493, it is my opinion that Spain quickly would have launched its own expedition either later that year or in early 1494. Just as Columbus actually set off on his second voyage with a large fleet of 17 ships from Cadiz, Spain, on September 25, 1493, I surmise that Spain probably would have launched a similar expedition from the same port, possibly in 1494, under Alonso de Ojeda who was actually Columbus' second in command. During de Ojeda's second trip in 1498, he split up with Amerigo Vespucci who went on to discover South America. Vespucci realized that the mainland which Columbus had discovered was not a part of Asia as Columbus thought, but rather a continent, unknown to Europeans, intervening between Europe and Asia.

So, in conclusion, I submit that the answer to my initial question is that the beginnings of French and Spanish colonial histories would be interchanged but that the colonial histories of England and Portugal would be unchanged. In actuality, Columbus discovered the Caribbean Islands and Central America for Spain. Although he reached Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands which are now possessions of the United States, he never set foot on the North American continent. However, if he sailed for France in 1493 instead of for Spain in 1492, he would have reached what is now the United States and probably would be an even greater American hero than he is now.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Joseph Scafetta, Jr.** earned a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from Penn State University in 1969, a Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972, a Master of Patent Law from Georgetown University in 1973, and a Master of Business Administration in Science, Technology and Innovation from George Washington University in 1983.

Joseph has been a member of the Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America since 1979 and served as the Virginia State President from 1993 to 1995. He joined the National Christopher Columbus Association in 1995 and is currently serving his second three-year term on the Board of Directors. In 2008, he became a member of the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society and now serves on its Board of Directors.

### **Featured Article Bibliography**

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**Christopher Columbus Day**

**October 10, 2022**

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**National Columbus Day Ceremony**  
**Monday, October 10, 2022**

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Knights of Columbus**



The Bishop J Louis Flaherty Assembly of the Knights of Columbus (#1678)  
offers our heartfelt prayers, and the work of our hands in Thanksgiving  
for the selection of our new Virginia District Master, SK Guillermo Giandoni.  
May all our Faithful Masters, Current and Former, be Abundantly Blessed!  
And may the National Christopher Columbus Association, the Promoter  
of our Namesake, be given Strength, Wisdom and Perseverance  
in their work to promote our Holy Faith, our Order's Namesake,  
and perceiving Christ within one another, both in-season and out.  
May the Lord + bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.



# Congratulations

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110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Columbus Statue at Union Station, Washington, DC



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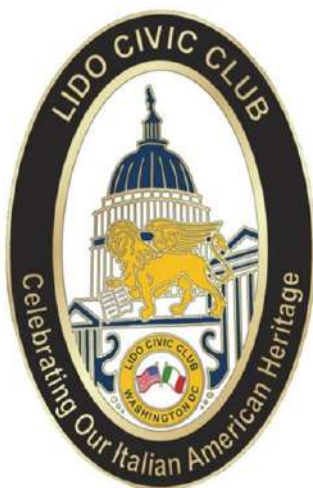
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