

# Columbus Day 2023





# ChristopherColumbus.org

# THE NATION'S CAPITAL CELEBRATES

# 531 Years of Discovery



HONORING THE GREAT DISCOVERER

# Christopher Columbus

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023 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.

Daniel 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

Throughout 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 **Francis Leach**, 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 9, 2023 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

Logan Kneller - Stewartstown, PA

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
Spanish Center of Washington, DC
District of Columbia 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

Abruzzo & Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area National Council for the Promotion of Italian Language and Culture in America

National Society Daughters of the American Colonists UNICO Virginia/DMV

**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

### UPDATE NEEDED



2023 – 2024 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.

### 2023-2024 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 2024 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 14, 2024). 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

### WINNING ESSAY



Logan Kneller Stewartstown, PA

### Columbus's Ripple Throughout Italy

Throughout human history, discovery has played a crucial role in our lives. Whether it be the waters of Norway or the forests of Croatia, every new finding slightly benefits the world. The discovery of America by the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus shared this similarity, except for one significant distinction: its profound impact on the world as a whole. Although we tend to think of the country that Columbus sailed for, Spain, as the country that prospered the most from it, there are far more countries that soared above their past selves. One of the most essential and considerable examples is Columbus's homeland: Italy.

Although Italy benefited greatly from America, it was in a state of crisis at the time Columbus encountered it. Lorenzo de Medici, the ruler of the Florentines, died in 1492 (the very same year that Columbus discovered America). He was considered vital in keeping the five major Italian powers in check, and with him gone, they began to fight. Thus, the European struggle over land in the newly discovered America caused Italy to have both internal and external conflict. However, with the discovery of America, this low point was turned into an age known as the Italian High Renaissance, a period of intellectual and cultural change throughout Italy. The new technologies, ideas, and forms of artistic expression sparked countless Italian artists' imaginations. These effects are seen even today: Many famous and historical art pieces, such as the Last Supper, the Creation of Adam, and the Mona Lisa, were created during this time.

Religious beliefs were significantly altered as well. Italy had been almost entirely Catholic for over one thousand years. The Roman Catholic

Church was incredibly powerful, appointing many Italian politicians and even having the Pope as a king. However, with the discovery of America, many people began to rethink the world's origin. The most common thought was that Europe, Asia, and Africa were the only continents on Earth. The finding of America proved this theory wrong, however, so many people began to adopt new religions and practices. The most prevalent new religious movements were Protestantism and the Counter-Reformation, which took power away from the churches and permanently transformed Italy.

Multiple scientific fields in Italy advanced considerably due to the New World. Columbus's voyage showed the people of Europe that they had been ignorant of the world and would have to investigate things beyond what their religious scriptures said. This jump-started the Scientific Revolution, a period in time when Europe began to make extensive discoveries about the world. Many Italian scientists became fascinated with the study of plants and animals from America. This led to the establishment of botanical gardens and scientific societies across Italy. Through science, many Italians found a common interest that they could all appreciate and collaborate upon.

The economic impact that America had on Italy can also not be understated. Initially, the primary benefit for Italy (and all of Europe) was the discovery of new species of potatoes, tomatoes, wheat, tobacco, and maize. Since crops are easily transportable and few are needed to create more, they could easily be transported to and spread throughout Europe. The crops and consequent new foods would help to boost Italy's economy. As more and more ships began to sail to America, valuable and heavy resources could be taken back to Europe cost-effectively. Gold, silver, copper, and other precious materials were returned and distributed across the continent. This, of course, benefited Italy. The new trade routes and resources formed from the new land fueled Italy's merchant class and helped its economy even more. These factors would be critical since Italy still had turmoil, and the economic activity likely eased some of the tension.

Life in Italy became significantly more luxurious after America was discovered, too. The land in America was primarily uninhabited, meaning that large amounts of work could be outsourced. Because of this, most things commercially sold in Italy had prices slashed, enabling Italian prosperity. Additionally, the land allowed Italians to migrate to America for a better life. Although this hurt Italy's workforce, it caused those who stayed to compete with

fewer people for resources and alleviated some stress on the Italian government. Those who left for America had differing levels of success, with some starting a fresh new life and others facing extreme hardships. Unfortunately, almost all of them would face severe racial discrimination from others who did not believe they were "white" enough.

The balance of power would dramatically shift in Europe due to Columbus's discovery as well. While Italy's trade was still excellent, other countries such as Spain began to have superior trade because of the new routes, colonies, and trading posts. The intense political battle within Italy was still raging on as well. Although it had many large contributions to the discovery and formation of America, Italy itself would not be politically unified until the late 1800s when Napoleon's invasion and downfall caused nationalist ideals to spread. As a result, Italy could not capitalize on all the benefits, and it fell behind in the competition for dominance in the New World. However, it was still bettered in countless ways by the discovery of the Americas overall.

From Columbus's journey across the vast Atlantic Ocean in 1492, countless things have changed. His findings permanently transformed Italy, whether religious, scientific, economic, cultural, or political. Even today, America affects and changes Italy in countless ways, from immigration to diplomacy. Through all of the discovery, research, and innovation, Columbus's odyssey to America has shaped Italy into what it is, what it was, and what it will be for millennia to come.

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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**. 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	e appropriate b	<u>ox):</u>		
☐ Organizational Member (business, professional, nonprofit, p		al)		
☐ Individual Member	\$25.00			
Please print your name exact	ly as you wish	it to ap	pear on the co	ertificate:
Name				
Address				
City	St	ate	Zip	
Telephone	E-mail			

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**

**Logan Kneller** is a sophomore from the small town of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania. He has a love for writing, mathematics, and computer science. Logan succeeded in skipping the eighth grade due to his high academic prowess. This was reflected in his writing as he was able to win two national essay contests; The 2022 German Embassy Essay Contest and the 2023 NIAF NCCA Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.

Logan is also heavily involved in his school's music programs as a percussionist, such as being in the marching band, the jazz band, and concert band. With a love for problem solving and mathematics, Logan has engaged in prestigious mathematics contests such as the American Mathematics Competition, the Mathcounts competition, and the Harrisburg Area Community College Mathematics Competition.

Logan has been learning multiple programming languages and plans on going to college to major in some form of computer science. Logan also involves himself in his school's track and field program as a sprinter.

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.

### FEATURED ARTICLE

# The First Voyage of Discovery

By Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

On May 12, 1492, Columbus left King Ferdinand and Queen Isabela at Granada and headed for the port of Palos de la Frontera in southwestern Spain. On Sunday, May 23, in the Church of St. George, the town magistrate and notary read a proclamation from the king and queen. As punishment for past smuggling, the citizenry had to provide Columbus with two ships equipped for a year's journey and manned by a full crew.

Two brothers, Martin Alonzo Pinzon and Vicente Yanez Pinzon, recognizing the potential importance of the voyage, agreed to captain a caravel named the Pinta (painted lady) and another caravel named the Nina (little girl), respectively.

Cristobal Quintero and Juan Nino, owners of the Pinta and Nina, respectively, agreed to go as masters, i.e., the officers second in command. No clergy wanted to make the trip.

As a flagship, Columbus rented a larger nao, called La Gallega (the Galician Woman), from its owner, Juan de la Cosa, a mariner from northwestern Spain. Columbus renamed it the Santa Maria and served as its captain with de la Cosa as its master.

Columbus, the Pinzon brothers, and the three owners had no trouble recruiting 84 others to join them as crew members. Thus, the expedition included 84 Spaniards, four Italians, one Portuguese, and one converted Jew who knew Arabic. Among the Spaniards, there were four convicts who had all charges dropped against them for signing on. The crew was divided as follows: 40 on the Santa Maria, 30 on the Pinta, and 20 on the Nina.

Columbus chose to leave on August 3, which was the feast day of St. George who was the patron saint of his home town of Genoa. During the prior evening, the entire crew went to confession and attended mass at the Church of St. George in Palos de la Frontera. Before dawn the next day, the fleet set sail on the outgoing tide from Palos, moving down the Tinto River and then the Saltes River, past La Rabida Monastery where Columbus had been staying.

The sails were set to travel southwest to catch the westerly trade winds. On the fourth day out, the rudder on the Pinta broke off its hinges. Columbus suspected sabotage by the owner Quintero who had complained that he really did not want to make the trip. Two days later, the Pinta limped into the Grand Canary Island off the western coast of Morocco. Repairs were made and additional provisions were taken on board.

While there, a volcano on nearby Tenerife Island erupted and terrified the young crew members who saw it as a bad omen. However, after Columbus explained what was happening, they calmed down.

It took more than three weeks to make repairs to the Pinta. Finally, the fleet left the Grand Canary Island and sailed west for a day to Gomera Island. There Columbus went ashore for four days to visit Dona Beatriz de Bobadilla, the young widowed governess of the island. The 41-year-old widowed mariner had known her at the Spanish court where she was rumored to be a mistress of King Ferdinand before Queen Isabela appointed her to be the governess. Nevertheless, Columbus was courting her to be his second wife.

After grumbling by the crew who were left behind on board, Columbus returned to the Santa Maria. On September 6, he set a course for due west. Ten days later, a meteor fell at night into the sea. The younger crew members again were terrified and saw it as another bad omen. Once more, Columbus explained to them what it was in order to settle them down. Most of the older crew members had seen meteors during past voyages.

After 17 days at sea, the fleet entered the Sargasso Sea which is a vast expanse of still water in the Atlantic Ocean. It is covered with floating, brightly colored, brown, yellow, and green algae that resembles seaweed or grass. The grumbling by the crew began anew at this third bad omen. Again, Columbus explained its presence to soothe them and speculated that land must be near.

About 30 days out from Gomera, on October 5, the officers of the Pinta and Nina came on board the Santa Maria to urge Columbus to turn back. Unbeknownst to them, Columbus had been keeping two logs. One showed the true daily distances which were more than 2,400 miles. The other had shorter falsified distances which added up to much less than the 2,400 miles that Columbus had estimated was the distance from Gomera to Cipango (Japan). When Martin Pinzon saw the falsified calculations, he agreed to continue and convinced the others to sail on for a few more days. They then returned to their ships.

During the next day, a flock of birds flew overhead in a southwesterly direction. Columbus ordered the fleet to change course to the southwest. However, after two more days of sailing, no land was sighted. For a second time, the Pinzon brothers pulled their ships alongside the Santa Maria and boarded with their masters to discuss the fact that Columbus's own falsified log now showed they had sailed more than 2,400 miles. His true log showed that they had made almost 3,000 miles. Facing a mutiny, Columbus relented and agreed to turn around after three days if landfall was not made. They would have just enough provisions to return.

Two days later, October 11, about 10 p.m., Columbus and another crew member saw a flickering light going up and down on the western horizon. However, it soon disappeared. Four hours later at 2 a.m. on Friday, October 12, Rodrigo de Triana, the lookout on the Pinta shouted: "Tierra! Tierra! Tierra!" (Land! Land!).

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabela had promised an annual lifetime allowance of 10,000 maravedis (about \$1,400 today) to the first man who sighted land. Upon their return, Columbus would claim the prize for himself because of the sighting the previous evening.

At dawn everyone on board saw a flat island with naked people standing on the beach. Columbus sailed the fleet around to the leeward side of the island to find a safe harbor. At noon, Columbus went ashore with the Pinzons and others in small rowboats. He unfurled the royal banner and claimed the island for Spain.

From the natives, he learned that they called it Guanahani. Columbus then decided to name the island San Salvador (Holy Savior). Although its location is not exactly known, most experts think that landfall was made on Watlings Island in the Bahamas. Watlings was renamed San Salvador in 1926 and it is about 400 statute miles due east of Key West, Florida.

The natives were Tainos who are related to Arawaks of South America. Columbus called them indios. They were farmers and fishers. They had no metal tools. One cut his hand accidently when he ignorantly grabbed the blade end of a sword that Columbus showed him. Columbus traded caps, beads, and hawk bells for parrots, balls of cotton thread, spears, and other souvenirs.

The next day, many natives rowed out to the three ships in canoes to trade some more with "the men from heaven." Columbus traded for one of the canoes.

Some natives wore gold nose pieces and Columbus asked questions about them. They indicated that the gold came from a large island to the south. He asked for someone to take him there, but no one volunteered.

On the following day, Columbus ordered six young men to be taken as guides. Following their directions, Columbus set a zigzag course. First, they sailed southwest to Santa Maria de la Concepcion, now Rum Cay, where they landed for one day. Then they sailed west to Fernandina Island where they went ashore the following day and found maize, i.e., corn, for the first time. They took some back to Spain. After five days of sailing southeast, the fleet reached Isabela Island, now called Crooked Island.

Up to this point, the inhabitants were all the same: naked, friendly, and poor without much gold. Columbus did note in his log that they slept in hammocks which some of the crew traded for and quickly adopted. He also noted that they would make good Christians and servants because of their childlike docility.

The natives there told Columbus that he could find gold on Colba which he thought must be either Cipango (Japan) or Cathay (China). After another week of sailing, this time southwest, the fleet again reached land on October 28. At first Columbus thought that it was the mainland which he called Juana. It was actually the island of Cuba. There Columbus noted in his log that the natives smoked rolls of dried leaves called tobacco and ate yams. Columbus traded for samples of each. He also found a fair amount of gold for the first time and he traded for it.

However, after two more weeks sailing along the coast, Columbus realized that the land was really a very large island, but not Japan and certainly not the mainland of China. Nevertheless, the natives told him that the mainland was ten days farther away by canoe. So, Columbus took 16 natives who agreed to go on board the fleet ships to serve as guides and interpreters. Unfortunately, after 11 days of sailing, no mainland was found. So, on that day, i.e., November 22, without the permission of Columbus, Martin Pinzon sailed the swifter Pinta off towards the island of Babeque where the natives on his ship had said that gold could be found in abundance.

Columbus sailed on for another two weeks before reaching Espanola on December 6. Again, Columbus thought it was just another large island. It is now Hispaniola which holds Haiti and the Dominican Republic. However, he finally did find more natives with a fair amount of gold. For ten days, he traded with them. At the end of the tenth day, he invited the local chief called a cacique for dinner on board the Santa Maria. After the feast, Columbus traded for six more days. For the natives, the gold was decorative but not valuable. The trading peaked on December 22 when the crew counted more than 1,500 natives coming to exchange the yellow metal for the trinkets that Columbus offered.

One of the traders was an emissary from a neighboring cacique known as Guacanagari who was more powerful and wealthy than the local chieftain. This emissary gave Columbus a stunning belt with a buckle in the form of a mask made of pure gold. He also invited Columbus to visit Cibao which was his region of the island.

Columbus decided to set sail immediately for Cibao where he hoped there was a mine which was the source for all the gold. He released the 16 natives who had voluntarily gone with him and followed the directions of the emissary who stayed on board.

After two days of sailing without any sleep along very treacherous shoreline waters, an exhausted Columbus retired about 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve and turned over the tiller to the helmsman. Unfortunately, the helmsman was also fatigued and soon turned over the tiller to a ship's boy before going to sleep. The inexperienced boy soon allowed the Santa Maria to run aground on a coral reef which tore several holes in the hull.

Immediately awakened by the boy's screaming, Columbus came above deck and saw that the outgoing tide was causing the ship to break upon the reef. He ordered the ship to be abandoned. The natives on the shore came out in their canoes to help the crew transfer provisions and gold to the Nina. Dawn brought Christmas morning and knowledge that the natives were subjects of Guacanagari who lived only five miles away. The wreck off Cape Haitien meant the end of the expedition because Columbus would not continue with the small Nina loaded with 60 crew members and six natives. So, he decided to build a fort from the timbers of the Santa Maria and asked for volunteers to stay and trade with the natives for gold. Except for the ship's owner, Juan de la Cosa, and three others, 35 Spanish crew members agreed to remain behind. Five men from the Nina also agreed to stay.

Columbus named the fort La Navidad (The Nativity). After ten days, the fort was ready for occupancy. Columbus appointed Diego de Harana, a native of Cordoba, to be the captain of the fort. He was a cousin of Beatriz Enriquez de Harana, who was the 26-year-old mistress of Columbus back in Spain and the mother of his four-year-old illegitimate son, Ferdinand.

On January 2, 1493, a farewell party was held with Guacanagari as the guest of honor. Two days later, Columbus left on the Nina with its crew of 20 and six natives. He set sails to travel northeast along the coast of Espanola.

Surprisingly, after two days, Columbus and the Nina met Martin Pinson and the Pinta along the coast of Espanola. Pinzon was forgiven by Columbus when he saw all the gold that he had collected on Babeque. Pinzon said he came to Espanola, which the natives called Bohio, because they told him that a gold mine was there.

Pinzon also told Columbus about his encounters with the beautiful naked women of Babeque. For this conduct, Columbus rebuked the elder Pinzon.

However, because Columbus needed Pinzon's help to return safely back to Europe, he decided not to punish him for disobeying his orders by leaving the fleet and having sexual relations with the native women.

Five days later, while still sailing northeast along the coast of Espanola, Columbus decided to stop in a small gulf for additional provisions. He sent seven men ashore but they were immediately attacked by about 50 natives with bows and arrows. After wounding two of the natives, the seven crewmen fled back to the ship. The six natives on board said that the attackers were Caribs who were cannibals. The Caribbean Islands were later named for them. Columbus named the place Golfo de las Flechas (Gulf of the Arrows).

After five more days, the Nina and the Pinta reached a safer point along the coast where they were able to take on more provisions without incident. The date was January 16, 1493. Columbus then steered the two ships with their 50 crewmen and six natives northeast across the open ocean towards Spain.

On February 3, 1493, he changed course to sail due east to catch the easterly winds. Ten days later, as they were approaching the Azore Islands, a terrible winter storm separated the Nina from the Pinta. Fearing that the tiny Nina would be sunk, Columbus quickly wrote a letter about his voyage, put it in a small barrel, and threw it overboard in the hope that it would be found if the Nina would be lost. The Nina survived the storm, but the barrel was never found. Also, because of their inexperience as sailors, two of the six natives were washed overboard and were lost.

Five days later, the storm subsided. Columbus then anchored the Nina off an eastern Azore island to make repairs. After six days, the 20 crew members and the four surviving natives had the ship fixed. So, at sunrise on February 24, 1493, Columbus raised the anchor and resumed the homeward bound trip. They were about 800 miles west of Portugal.

Unfortunately, eight days later, another terrible winter storm struck and drove the ship right into the Lisbon River of Portugal. Columbus decided to anchor at Rastelo. He had made it safely back to Europe!

While making more repairs, Columbus received a letter from King Joao (John) II inviting him to come to the Portuguese court and tell him about his trip. Columbus went to the court in Lisbon the next day, March 9, 1493, and described the successful voyage which the king had twice refused to back in early 1485 and again in late 1488. The four natives, the gold, parrots, canoe, hammock, corn, tobacco, and yams led the king to believe that Columbus had indeed reached India by sailing west. Some of the king's advisors suggested that Columbus be killed, but the king did not want a war with Spain, so he allowed Columbus to leave unharmed.

Four days later, the crew completed repairs to the Nina and the ship left Portugal for Spain. The Nina with Columbus at the helm arrived two days later, March 15, 1493, at Palos de la Frontera after being away seven and one-half months.

Surprisingly, Martin Pinzon and the Pinta arrived a few hours later, on the incoming tide. The sickly Pinzon immediately took to his bed where he died a month later of syphilis. He became the first European known to have succumbed to the disease brought from what would later be called the Americas. Some of the other crew members also became sick and died from syphilis but not before infecting their wives, girlfriends, and local prostitutes. Within five years, Europe was suffering from its first epidemic of the sexually transmitted disease.

Some of the other sailors reported to Beatriz Enriquez de Harana, the peasant mistress of Columbus, about his liaison with Dona Beatriz de Bobadilla on Gomera Island. Upon learning about Dona Beatriz, Beatriz Enriquez confronted Columbus and demanded that he stop seeing her. When Columbus refused, she left him and took their five-year-old son, Ferdinand, with her. The breakup of his relationship with Beatriz Enriquez did not seem to bother him because it was overshadowed by his successful voyage.

Meanwhile, Columbus had immediately set about to have his story published. It was set by type and printed on April 1, 1493. On April 5, the Spanish monarchs invited Columbus to their court. After 25 days of traveling overland in a long procession, the very proud Columbus was received by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabela at Barcelona where he was asked to sit next to them so that they might hear his story over a banquet. It was the finest day in the life of Columbus!

On May 3, Pope Alexander VI, who was a Spaniard, declared that all the new lands belonged to Spain. Columbus was given a coat of arms and was officially named Admiral of the Ocean Sea on May 23, 1493.

The poor wool weaver's son from Genoa had reached his zenith! The significance of his remarkable first voyage would soon change the world forever in ways that Columbus never envisioned!

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Scafetta, Jr. earned a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania 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 with high honors from George Washington University in 1983.

The author 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 is currently the parliamentarian for the Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax, Virginia.

He was a charter member of the Christopher Columbus Jubilee Quincentenary Commission when it was established in 1989 and joined the National Christopher Columbus Association in 1995. He is currently serving his third three-year term on the Board of Directors.

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The Honor America Corps was established in 2003 to provide a cadre of Knights of Columbus willing to visit area parochial schools and school districts of Central Virginia as well as participate in civic and fraternal events to offer a clearer understanding of the meaning of our flag. (While its core membership comes from the Rappahannock Fourth Degree Assembly, it is open to all Knights who are willing and able to participate in its activities.)

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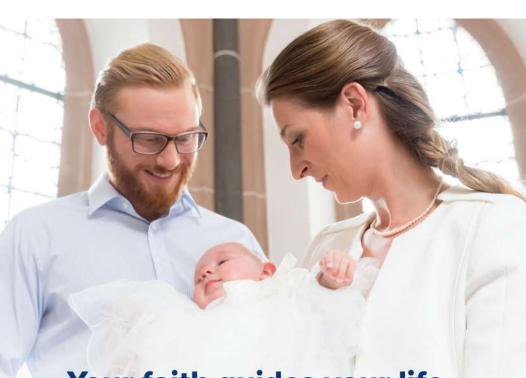
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joins the National Christopher Columbus Association
in celebrating the great Italian navigator





The Robert Facchina Italian American Museum of Washington DC

www.casaitalianacenter.org

Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center Inc. promotes cultural activities of the local Italian-American community, and presents the best of Italian culture to the larger society through educational, historical and heritage programs. Our principal project is the The Robert A. Facchina Italian American Museum of Washington DC (IAMDC), located in the St. Scalabrini Center, on 229 F St. and 3rd St. NW, a corner that also includes the Casa Italiana Hall, the Casa Italiana Language School, and the 100-year old Italian Parish Holy Rosary Church. The Museum celebrates the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans to the Nation's Capital. Other ongoing projects connected with the IAMDC include: compiling a series of oral histories of local Italian Americans, an Italian Legacy Lecture Series, an Italian-American library, an archive to preserve historical documents, and the award of research grants to local college students. Join us as we build our legacy for the next century! Visit us at: www.CasaltalianaCenter.org | Follow us on Face Book @CasaltalianaDC #CISC\_IAMDC

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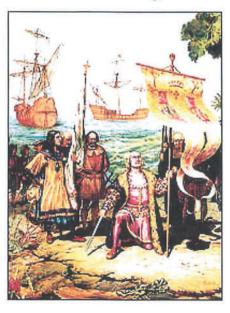
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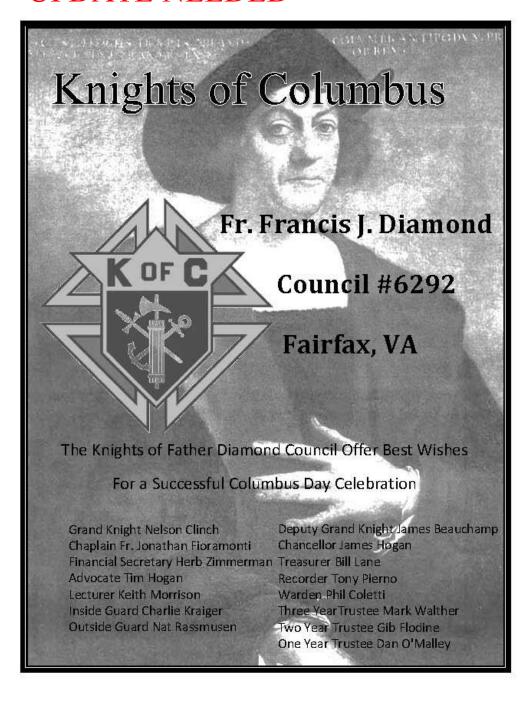
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> National Columbus Day Ceremony Monday, October 9, 2023

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On the

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