



Columbus Day 2024





ChristopherColumbus.org

Cover Image: Matthew Barrick | Barrick Photography

THE NATION'S CAPITAL
CELEBRATES
532 Years of Discovery



HONORING THE GREAT DISCOVERER

Christopher Columbus

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024
THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL
COLUMBUS PLAZA - UNION STATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

10:45am - Musical Prelude | 11:00am - Ceremony Begins

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 (400th 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. Over the years, appearances of military honor guards, military bands, and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps have added 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.

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.

Supreme Master of the Knights of Columbus **Michael McCusker** for his presence at today's ceremonies.

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; **Kelly Mortensen**, Master, Virginia District; **Christopher Powers**, 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.

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 many of 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 14, 2024
COLUMBUS PLAZA — UNION STATION

MUSICAL PRELUDE 10:45 a.m.

POSTING OF THE COLORS 11:00 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Corps
*The Supreme Master with the 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 Timothy M. Saccoccia
President, NCCA

RETIRING OF THE COLORS

INVOCATION Reverend Dr. Margaret G. Kibben
Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

WELCOME Timothy M. Saccoccia
President, NCCA

READING OF PROCLAMATION Francesco Isgro
From the President of the *President, Italian American
United States of America Museum of Washington, DC*

REMARKS

Knights of Columbus
National Park Service
Diplomatic Corps

INTRODUCTION

National Youth Columbus Essay Contest Winner

Agostino Muzio - Bloomfield Hills, MI

Essay Contest Co-Sponsored By

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

RECOGNITION
AND PRESENTATIONS

National Italian American Foundation
National Christopher Columbus Association

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"America, the Beautiful"
Samuel Augustus Ward, lyrics by Katherine Lee Bates

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL WREATHS

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
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

Lido Civic Club of Washington, DC
Italian American Museum of Washington, DC
National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
District of Columbia State Society, Daughters of the American
Revolution
Centro Español de Washington, D.C.
National Society Daughters of the American Colonists
National Society Children of the American Colonists
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
Abruzzo & Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area
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



Call for Entries

2024 – 2025 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.

2024-2025 TOPIC

Christopher Columbus’s expeditions connecting the Americas and the Old World ushered in a period of global trade and cultural exchange widely recognized as the Columbian Exchange. How did the trans-atlantic exchange of goods impact the culinary landscape across the world?

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 2025 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 13, 2025). 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



Agostino Muzio
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Columbus: The Great Initiator of the Age of Exploration and The Transformer of Economic Theory

Europe in the late 15th century seemed to be itching for something new. The Hundred Years' War between France and England had ended, Constantinople had fallen to the Ottoman Turks, and Aragon and Castille had created a united Spain. All while the Italian states were still fighting amongst themselves, and the Renaissance had begun to blossom. Feudalism was in steep decline, and it is evident in hindsight that a new economic structure, an economic structure that would completely change the world, was on the way. It feels as if Europe was waiting for some spark, and this spark came with Columbus's discovery of the new world. The discovery brought a new age to Europe, one dominated by human potential, and an age that brought the advent of the modern world. Columbus's voyages spurred technological advancements in navigation, and his grandiose reports about what he found in the New World guided the European states into the intense colonial competition of the following decades. His voyages also enhanced mercantilist economic theory, leading to nations such as Spain and England enriching themselves with exports from the New World. This caused the elimination of the political strength of the Maritime Republics while setting the stage for the centuries-long foreign domination over the Italian peninsula.

Columbus's voyages stimulated growth in navigation technology, and his reports about the New World steered the European states into the intense colonial competition of the following decades. Much of the technology used by Columbus, such as the Astrolabe, had been in use for centuries, and the Europeans had understood that one could use the star to navigate since the

Phoenicians, but there was room for much improvement. For example, one of the main reasons why Portuguese explorers made slow progress in finding sea routes was that they feared sea monsters and warm water. On his voyages, Columbus used celestial navigation and a technique called “dead reckoning,” where the navigator measures the distance and course from a specific point, such as the starting port. He would mark the day's endpoint, and this point would serve as the starting point the next day. The main issue was that dead reckoning cannot determine the ship's latitude. The clearest example of an improvement in naval technology was in the ship itself. Carracks became the premier way to traverse long distances, with the carrack being a medley of northern European and Mediterranean ships. The carracks were some of the largest ships ever seen; they reached 45 meters in length and 1000 tons in displacement. Without the carracks, it was impossible to attain the level of dependable travel of the Atlantic necessary to sustain the colonial ventures of the European powers. The evolution of the carrack was directly caused by the success of Columbus's voyages. Without the voyages, the spark that led to these technological advancements would have disappeared, and the level of colonization would have been impossible. Columbus's reports are filled with alluring speech, which directly caused the advent of the Age of Exploration. Columbus calls the natives “guileless” and “timid,” words which would inspire the future colonizers to horribly take advantage of the natives and to make explorations of their own. Columbus makes mention of the resources apparent in the land, claiming that the natives wore gold and that the lands were very fertile and easy to navigate through. All these claims would greatly excite the future colonizers; Columbus made it seem like an easy and fruitful venture, leading to the rush to colonize that the world would see in the following decades. Columbus knew that he and his family would benefit from this rush, and his embellishment led to possibly the greatest societal overturn in centuries.

Economic theory was fundamentally transformed with the onset of the Age of Exploration: mercantilist theory was enhanced due to the abundant resources, leading to the nations that were more naturally able to control a larger piece of the pie, for example, Spain or England, being enhanced, while the nations without access to the new resources, such as the maritime republics, being weakened. In short, mercantilism states that global wealth is finite and that maximizing exports and minimizing imports is critical to maintaining the wealth and power of a nation. Therefore, controlling new lands that are rich in resources to export would enhance this theory and would lead to the European powers

fighting each other over a bigger share of what they believed to be finite wealth. It is no coincidence that the exploratory nations were ardent believers in this somewhat more modern economic theory; the only difference between these nations and the maritime republics, who were also big advocates of mercantilism, is that they had the means to explore, and more crucially to control, vast swaths of lands rich in resources a whole ocean away. With a larger portion of the wealth and resources having been secured, the major European powers were more able to ignore the Mediterranean trade monopolies of Genoa and Venice, and the Mediterranean as a whole would eventually lose its place as the center of the economic world. Unsurprisingly, the decrease in power of what had been the cornerstone of European commerce for thousands of years led to the nations that depended on it weakening. The clearest example of this are the maritime republics, but other examples are the Ottoman Turks and Northern Africa, even though their decline would take much longer. Spain would use this newly-found wealth to dominate Southern Italy for centuries, and their mark would not leave the peninsula until Garibaldi's Expedition of the Thousand in 1860. Inevitably, mercantilist economic policy led to European rivalries augmenting to a previously unheard-of degree. The assumption that wealth is finite enhances the degree of competition between nations; if a rival nation increases its share, your nation will likely lose out. In short, mercantilism states that a nation is either actively winning or losing, which is somewhat analogous to sport. This conditional would lead to centuries of war and hatred between the major powers of Europe, as not being active in advancing your nation's power would be admitting defeat. Colonial wars between Britain and France would only amplify each decade, enhancing the tensions between the two nations, tensions which would not go away until 1905, while nations such as Spain saw the competition for resources blind them, leading to an inevitable fall from grace.

Columbus's importance cannot be understated. Without him, the advancements seen in naval technology were impossible, and his striking words directly led to the rush to colonize. Mercantilist economic theory was boosted, to the great delight of the major powers of Europe and to the great misfortune of those who were unable to access the new resources, namely the Italian states which Columbus himself had come from.

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Biography

Agostino Muzio was born in Genova, Italy to a family with deep roots in the Ligurian Riviera. Both of his parents were from the Tigullio, which spans from Sestri Levante to Portofino and is named after the ancient Ligurian tribe the Tigulli. He spent the first two years of his life living in one of these Tigullian towns, Chiavari. At the age of two, he and his family moved to Shanghai, and after spending four years in China, they landed in Detroit, Michigan, where Agostino lived through his pre-college education with his father, mother, and younger sister.

He has played volleyball competitively for six years, loves to read and write, and is a massive fan of the Italian soccer team Genoa. Each summer Agostino and his family goes back to Genova to spend the summer with his extended family, delighting in Pesto, Pansoti, and Focaccia. He went to high school at Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, and this fall he began his higher education at Amherst College studying Classics (Latin and Greek) and Economics.

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 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
PO Box 91187
Washington, DC 20090-1187

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.

FEATURED ARTICLE

The Second Voyage, Part 1: Colonization

By Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

The first part of the second voyage of Columbus was focused mainly on colonization. It was also the longest of his four voyages and an unmitigated disaster for the natives of Hispaniola.

Although King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella did not hurry Columbus to set sail on his first voyage in 1492, they rushed him to start his second voyage in 1493. They had a sense of urgency after the Spanish Pope Alexander VI changed a line of demarcation dividing the newly discovered lands in a revised arbitration ruling issued on June 28, 1493, in the dispute between Spain and Portugal. Within three months, Columbus was ready to set sail again with a much larger fleet of ships and men.

The second voyage left Cadiz in southwest Spain with 17 ships and 1,200 men. They included sailors, farmers, approximately 200 gentlemen volunteers, 20 cavalry soldiers, a doctor, and six priests with a mission of evangelization. The goal of Columbus was to establish a trading post and a permanent colony on Hispaniola. He was accompanied by his younger brother, Giacomo. No women made this trip. Livestock included sheep, goats, cattle, chickens, pigs, horses, and dogs, 20 of which were fierce mastiffs. Seed and grain were also brought. The departure date was September 25, 1493. The flagship was a nao called the *Maria Galante* (Gallant Mary). There were two other naos and ten caravels, including the *Niña* (Little Girl) from the first voyage. The type of the remaining four vessels is not recorded anywhere.

After a week, the fleet stopped at Grand Canary Island for more provisions. On October 5, 1493, the ships stopped at Gomera Island where the 42-year-old Columbus visited the widowed governess,

Dona Beatriz de Bobadilla, for a few days while the crew stocked up with another round of provisions and livestock. The crossing was uneventful except for a thunder squall on October 26, 1493. The ships made 2,600 nautical miles from the town of Ferro on Gomera Island in 22 days.

On November 3, 1493, the expedition made landfall on an island in the Lesser Antilles, known also as the Leeward Islands. Since it was a Sunday, Columbus called the island Dominica which name it still retains today.

In the distance, another island was visible. So, Columbus changed course to the northwest the next day and reached it. He called this second island Guadeloupe, another name retained to this day. His first party to go ashore got lost in the dense tropical rain forest for four days. He sent four search parties of about 50 men each to find them. When they came across villages, the natives ran away. Inside the huts, the Spaniards found human bones and partly consumed cuts of human flesh. They also freed two castrated boys and 12 very beautiful pregnant teenage girls who were taken back to the fleet. With the assistance of the four natives whom Columbus had taken during his first voyage from Hispaniola to Spain where they learned Spanish, the girls said that they were Taino villagers captured in a raid on Hispaniola by the cannibalistic Caribs. They also said that their babies would be eaten upon birth. The girls later would be useful to the crew as interpreters.

Next after Guadeloupe, the fleet passed islands which Columbus called Monserrate, Redonda (Around), Antigua (Ancient), and Nieve (Snow), now Nevis. The first three islands still have the names given to them by Columbus. When a party went ashore on Nieve, the Carib villagers fled. So, the Spaniards rescued some more boys and young women who were being held as captives to be eaten.

On the next day, November 14, 1493, the ships reached another island which Columbus called Santa Cruz (Holy Cross), now Saint Croix. It is now a part of the Virgin Islands and was the first future United States territory visited by Columbus. The fleet anchored off a small estuary now called Salt River Bay where there was a little village. Columbus sent ashore a boat filled with about 25 men carrying weapons and shields. Upon its return, the boat was attacked by a canoe

filled with six Caribs who shot arrows with their strong, long bows. One sailor was killed and one was wounded. The Spaniards returned fire, killing one Carib and wounding two. This deadly skirmish was the first of many future exchanges between the natives and the Spaniards.

Without tarrying, Columbus sailed to San Juan (now Saint John) Island, Santo Tomas (now Saint Thomas) Island, Vieques Island, and Puerto Rico (Rich Port). Here the fleet stopped on November 19, 1493, in Anasco Bay to fish and take on fresh water. A mate named Ponce de Leon liked the place so much that he came back 15 years later in 1508 and made a permanent settlement which he called San Juan.

From Puerto Rico, the fleet crossed the Mona Passage to the easternmost cape of Hispaniola. Columbus had returned to the territory familiar to him from the end of his first voyage earlier that year. A native whom Columbus had picked up at Samana Bay in January 1493 towards the end of his first voyage recognized his home village and was left off there in the hope that he would allay the fears of the Taino villagers. Apparently, he succeeded because the next day many natives visited the ships and traded gold to the Spaniards for trinkets.

Traveling along the northern shore of Hispaniola, Columbus decided to anchor in a harbor which he called Monte Cristo (Christ Mountain) to investigate the site for a possible settlement. Upon landing, the shore party found two dead, naked, bearded, white bodies. Since the natives did not have beards and had dark complexions, Columbus feared the worst. He raised anchor and rushed forward to La Navidad (The Nativity) which was the settlement where he had left behind 40 men in January 1493. On the evening of November 27, 1493, the fleet anchored off Cape Haitien outside the passage leading into the harbor where La Navidad was established. Columbus ordered flares to be lighted and a cannon to be fired. A canoe soon approached out of the darkness. It was filled with several natives calling for El Almirante (The Admiral) and welcoming back "the men from heaven." They presented gifts from the local cacique (chieftain) Guacanagari who had befriended Columbus on the first voyage and

who had helped him to establish the fort at La Navidad from the wreckage of the Santa Maria (Holy Mary) on Christmas Day, 1492.

When Columbus came ashore the next morning, he learned the sad fate of La Navidad from Guacanagari himself. Soon after the departure of Columbus in January 1493, the 40 men split into three groups. One was led by Columbus' friend, Diego de Harana, an older cousin of his 28-year-old mistress back in Spain. Diego stayed behind at the fort with nine men while the other 30 went off into two separate gangs of 15 each looking for gold and young women. The conduct by one gang headed by a royal official named Pedro Gutierrez enraged and incited Caonabo, another cacique in the center of Hispaniola. He seized and killed the Gutierrez gang, then attacked La Navidad, slaying the ten defenders. Caonabo finally hunted down and slaughtered the third gang of 15. This information angered Columbus and ended the honeymoon period between the Spaniards and the natives of Hispaniola.

However, the immediate problem for Columbus was to choose a new site for his trading post and colony. After ten days of contemplation, Columbus decided on December 8, 1493, to backtrack eastwardly along the northern coast of Hispaniola in search of a good harbor. Going against the winds and the current, the fleet took 25 days to sail only 32 miles to a peninsula which afforded some shelter. During that harsh portion of the trip, most of the livestock on board died.

Thus, on January 2, 1494, Columbus founded a fort which he named Isabela after the Spanish queen. It was the second Spanish settlement in the Americas. Columbus planned the site as a grand capital city supposedly within reach of the gold mines at Cibao in the interior of Hispaniola. The new fort was located near a marsh and a river. Unbeknownst to Columbus, the river overflowed its banks frequently. On the Epiphany which was January 6, 1494, the 1,199 colonists attended the first Mass held on the soil of the western hemisphere. The celebrant was Fray (Brother) Buyl who headed the religious group of six priests.

Immediately afterwards, Columbus sent out an armed band of 20 men under Captain Alonso de Ojeda to find the gold mines in the interior. Meanwhile, Columbus put the rest of the men to work building the new

fort. While the illiterate sailors, farmers, and soldiers were used to taking orders and working hard, the approximately 200 gentlemen volunteer dandies dressed in their finery were not. They were the literate younger sons of the lesser Spanish nobility and were called *hidalgos* (noblemen). Since they would not inherit their fathers' fortunes because of the legal doctrine of primogenitor by which the first son inherited everything, the younger sons had to make their own fortunes. Initially, they openly mocked Columbus as an immigrant to Spain and for characterizing the natives as gentle and peaceful. They also refused to work until Columbus withheld their daily food rations. Nevertheless, their spirits were raised after two weeks when the armed band returned on January 20, 1494, with about \$7,000 worth of gold. Unfortunately, during this same two-week period, mosquitoes from the nearby swamp began to take their toll, infecting about 400 men with malaria. In another ten days, about 200 more men were sick and unable to work. The *hidalgos* now added "Admiral of the Mosquitoes" to their list of insults.

To alleviate the problem, Columbus decided to send 12 of his 17 ships and 600 of his 1,199 men, including the 200 *hidalgos*, back to Spain with the \$7,000 worth of gold and a request for the Spanish monarchs to send back three ships with food, medicine, clothing, work animals, and 100 miners. This part of the fleet left for Spain on February 2, 1494, under the command of Captain Antonio de Torres. Columbus also entrusted de Torres with a letter addressed to the Spanish monarchs requesting them to approve a plan to ship Caribs back to Spain as slaves.

Columbus himself soon became sick and was ill with malaria for more than a month. When he recovered, he set out on March 12, 1494, at the head of a force of about 500 men to the interior area where the gold mines were believed to be located. After searching unsuccessfully for a month, Columbus erected a fort named Santo Tomas (Saint Thomas) and ordered 50 men to stay there in the interior and continue the search for gold under the command of Lieutenant Pedro Margarit.

Upon his return to Isabela with the 450 men still under his command, Columbus found that discontent was widespread among the approximately 100 men who were left behind at Isabela and that mutiny was threatening him. As a precaution, Columbus had all the ringleaders arrested and shackled in irons. He also placed all arms and munitions on

board his flagship under the command of his brother Giacomo. To get rid of the troublemakers, Columbus sent them with a second force of about 400 men under Captain Alonso de Ojeda back to Santo Tomas to assist in the search for gold. Thus, Columbus was left at Isabela with about 200 men loyal to him.

Upon their arrival in the interior, against the orders of Columbus, the approximately 450 men there began to extort gold from the natives, took young native women as concubines, and carried off native boys as slaves. Captain de Ojeda, as the leader of this second expedition, cut off an ear of a young native man who stole some old Spanish clothes. Also, Captain de Ojeda captured the local cacique and sent him in chains to Columbus in the fort at Isabela.

Meanwhile, unaware of what was happening in the interior, Columbus decided to continue where he left off at the end of his first voyage in a westward search for mainland China. Columbus placed his mild-mannered, younger brother Giacomo, who wanted to be a priest, in charge of Isabela. Columbus then took 60 sailors of the approximately 200 men left at Isabela and three of the remaining five ships on a westward expedition. The Niña carried 30 men, the San Juan 15, and the Cardera 15. Thus, exploration, i.e., the second phase of the second voyage of Columbus, was about to begin.

To be continued next year!

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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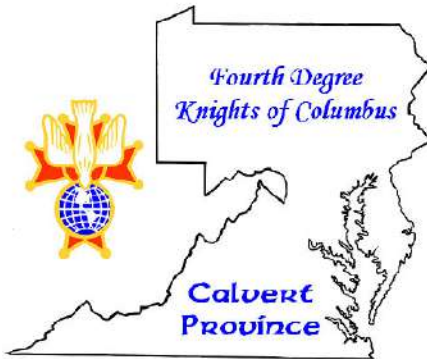
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