

# Assembly



## RESOLUTION

By the Honorable Dominic L. Cortese, 23rd Assembly District; and  
the Honorable David Roberti, 20th Senatorial District; Relative to

### ITALIAN AMERICANS

WHEREAS, During World War II, thousands of Italian American immigrants in California were arrested, and hundreds were interned for the duration of the war in military camps; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, the freedom of more than 100,000 Italian-born immigrants in California and their families was restricted by government measures that included carrying identification cards, curfews, travel restrictions, and seizure of personal property; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, more than 10,000 Italian citizens living in California were forced to leave their homes and were prohibited from entering California's coastal zones; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Italian Americans performed exemplary service and sacrificed their lives in defense of the United States during World War II; and

WHEREAS, At the time, Italians were the largest immigrant group in California and in the entire United States; and

WHEREAS, Italian immigrants were among the earliest pioneers of California and have contributed greatly to the development of the state; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans today are the fifth largest ancestry group in the United States, numbering over 15 million people, and more than 1.5 million Italian Americans live in California; and

WHEREAS, The impact of the wartime experience was devastating to the Italian communities in California, the effects of which are still being felt; and

WHEREAS, These federal and state government actions were based on the Italian nationality and citizenship of these Californians; and

WHEREAS, This story needs to be told and included in our state's history books to acknowledge that these events happened and to help repair the damage to the Italian community of California; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER DOMINIC L. CORTESE AND SENATOR DAVID ROBERTI, That they welcome the exhibit "Una Storia Segreta--The Secret Story" to the Capitol Rotunda from April 16 to May 8, 1994; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they encourage all Californians to view the exhibit to promote greater awareness of this painful period in the experience of California's Italian population; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they recognize these events of 1942 and the effects of those whose lives were unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they encourage the study of the Italian American experience in the public schools and universities of the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they encourage the establishment of an Italian American Research Institute in the state university system similar to the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute established by the New York State Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they encourage the promotion of Italian American historical, artistic, and cultural projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they encourage the study of the feasibility of establishing an Italian American Museum to give attention to the many contributions of Italian Americans to California's rich history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That they encourage the establishment of an Italian American Task Force to address the concerns of Italian Americans in California and to promote Italian American studies programs in our state institutions of higher education.

Members Resolution No. 731

Dated this 28th day of April, 1994

*Dominic L. Cortese*

Honorable Dominic L. Cortese  
23rd Assembly District

*David Roberti*

Honorable David Roberti  
20th Senatorial District

