

## **AMERICA! A NICE ITALIAN NAME**

The First voyage of Columbus across the Atlantic on an impossible mission into the unknown to discover the American continent is one of the most significant events in recorded history. Considered the greatest Navigator of his time, his legacy is one that is felt worldwide today.

Columbus Made 4 voyages across the Atlantic and opened up the Americas to Europeans and the widespread transfer of people, plants and animals that affected every society on the planet. Foods from the Americas such as potatoes, tomatoes and corn became staples of Europeans while wheat from Europe became a main food source for people in the Americas. Coffee from Africa and sugar cane from Asia became major food crops for Latin American countries. Europeans brought livestock unknown in the Americas like cows, pigs, sheep and horses. The introduction of the horse allowed native American tribes in north America to shift from a nomadic to a hunting lifestyle.

While Columbus was from Genoa, he sailed for Spain, but his voyage was financed by

Italian merchants. Another Italian explorer, Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot), who was also born in Genoa and raised in Venice claimed north America for England. He was also financed by Italian merchants. Upon landing he planted both the British and Venetian flags. Italian explorer Giovanni da Verranzano from Florence sailed for France and laid claim to parts of north American for it.

The man who gave his name to America was another Italian explorer of the day, Amerigo Vespucci from Florence who explored the coast of South America for Portugal.

Columbus, Vespucci and Caboto were contemporaries and acquainted with each other. Columbus and Vespucci worked together and Caboto worked with Columbus's brothers. They were friends and rivals in the race for America.



## **SPEAKING OF COLUMBUS...**

The statues of the Italian explorer who discovered the New World are a mainstay across cities in America. Most were created by the Italian American communities in which they stand or stood. The creation of these statues and monuments to commemorate the memory of Columbus and the arrival of Italian immigrants to these shores gave Italian Americans a sense of unity, identity and pride. Today, Italian Americas are the sixth largest ethnic group in the nation.

But the summer of 2020 defined how Italian Americans are viewed in this country. In a concerted attempt to erase Italian American history and traditions, democrat controlled cities and their Mayors forced the removal of Columbus statues in Hartford and New Haven-Connecticut, St. Louis-Missouri, Columbus-Ohio (where the name of the city is being changed); San Francisco-California; Baltimore-Maryland; Chicago-Illinois; Newark-New Jersey; Wilmington-Delaware; St. Paul-Minnesota; Richmond-Virginia; West Orange-New Jersey; San Jose-California, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh-Pennsylvania; Denver-Colorado; Boston-Massachusetts, and Sacramento-California (where the statue of Columbus and Isabella was removed from the California State Capitol Rotunda by the democrat legislative leaders and Governor).

Italian-American communities in each of these cities protested and fought City Hall to Save the Columbus statues but were met with disdain. As a result, Italian Americans are banding together to fight for their return and to protect the remaining statues and The Columbus Holiday. Lawsuits have been brought in South Philadelphia, Pittsburg and West Orange. Boycotts of St Paul and Richmond have been called until the statues of Columbus are returned.

Italian Americans are in this together, whether they like it or not, and deserve to be respected, and not disrespected. They deserve to be included in the story of America. As long as American society and its political class continue to make the mistake of holding Columbus and Italian Americans, and all Americans for that matter, guilty for the grievances of other ethnic groups, there will be no justice for Italian Americans or any other American, just insults and a new wave of discrimination. The end result will be to erase Italian American culture and history and substitute it with a hateful anti Italian American racial agenda.

Make no mistake, the cultural revolution taking place in America is anti-Italian American and much more. As an example of the future, when the people of New York City recently voted to erect a statue of Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Italian-American Saint of the immigrants and the first the American Saint, the African-American wife of the mayor blocked it and instead sought the erection of 5 statues of people of color. This happened despite the fact that one million Italian-Americans live in New York City. In the eyes of the movement, Italian Americans do not matter. " Colorado recognizes Mother Cabrini Day as a State Holiday.

## LET'S RESTORE OUR HERITAGE:

The Italian communities need financial support to protect their unique heritage and preserve the history of Italian Americans. You can help save our history, traditions and culture by supporting your local Italian American community organizations. *Donate or join below.*