



The California Italian-American Task Force

The California Italian-American Task Force was created through two legislative resolutions, and its 15 members were first appointed by the Governor in 1996. In establishing the Task Force, it was the intent of the State Assembly to address the concerns of Italian-Americans and to provide increased recognition and awareness of their many significant contributions to California's economic growth, history and development. The Task Force members are chosen from various geographical locations in the State, and represent a cross-section of the population.

Mission Statement

The California Italian-American Task Force shall document and increase awareness of the history, achievements and positive contributions of Italian-Americans in our State's history. This encompasses a broad spectrum of human endeavor, including arts and humanities, food and wine, science and medicine, trade and commerce, family and public service, discovery and architecture, labor and entertainment, education and literature, fashion and design, law and social justice.

Our Vision

It is the goal of the Task Force to provide Italian-American organizations and individuals in the State with a renewed sense of solidarity, a new voice and a higher public awareness of our many positive contributions that are the essence of the Italian-American spirit in California.

Charitable Organization

The original Task Force members established a companion non-profit organization known as the California Italian-American Task Force Foundation. Their objectives are to promote and sponsor activities which foster the awareness and appreciation of all aspects of the Italian-American heritage and experience in California. The Foundation's mission and vision overlap with those of the Task Force.

Leadership

There have been achievements and contributions made by thousands of Italian-Americans, not all of whom have attained VIP status, but who have held leadership positions throughout California's history. Much of that information lies dormant in the memories and archives of the many Italian-American individuals and organizations in the State. We believe that their stories still need to be told.

Advocacy

In its first three years of existence, the California Italian-American Task Force sponsored and supported significant legislative measures which were consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the mission and vision statements. Through State legislation, California's Education Code was modified to include instruction of the World War II internment, restriction and relocation of Italian-Americans. Additionally, the Legislature designated the second week of October every year as Italian-American Wartime Internment Remembrance Week.

Remembrance

We feel strongly that the story of internment needs to be told in order to acknowledge that these events took place. We need to remember those whose lives were unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated. We need to help repair the damage done to California's Italian-American communities. We need to discourage similar occurrences of injustice and violations of civil liberties in the future.

