From: Gene Pashby
To: Equity Task Force
Subject: co9lumbus day
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 11:42:47 AM

LEAVE THE NAME AS IT IS. Gene Pashby

From: Andrew Illiano
To: Equity Task Force
Subject: In Support of Columbus Day
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 9:01:05 AM

To the members of the Task Force on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,

As an Italian-American I am all too aware of the unrelenting attacks Columbus Day undergoes yearly. While several books have been published by scholars either countering the attacks on Columbus (ex “Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem” by Carol Delaney),or proving Howard Zinn wrong (ex: “Debunking Howard Zinn” By Mary Graber) and fact based websites have been created to educate the public (ex: KnowColumbus.org, ColumbusTheTruth.org), these attempts have done little to relent the attacks on Italian-Americans. Yes, I said attacks on Italian-Americans, not Columbus.

Italian-Americans observe Columbus Day as a celebration of their heritage and contributions made to this country. From the many Italian explorers that came after Columbus to map out the Americas, to Filippo Mazzei’s inspirational words that helped shape our constitution, that “All men are by nature equally free and independent”, to the works of Constantino Brumidi whose paintings beautify the Senate and House Chambers and the Capitol Building’s rotunda, to the Piccirilli brothers who carved the “Seated Lincoln” in Lincoln Memorial, to Amadeo Giannini who found Bank of America, to Enrico Fermi who was the first to split the atom at Columbia University and lead the Manhattan Project, to Antonio Meucci the true inventor of the first telephone, and other contributions that are too countless to list in this letter, one thing is evident: Throughout history Italians have made great contributions to America and the world!

Proponents of Indigenous People’s Day love to say, “This is not anti-Italian; It’s anti-Columbus.” But that is a lie. Are they calling to rename the day “Italian Heritage Day”? NO! They are demanding the day be taken completely away from Italian Americans and there is nothing more anti-Italian than this! This is NOT being inclusive. And anyone that votes in favor of eliminating our day of celebration is just as guilty of racism and discrimination as the people calling for it’s removal, especially when they’re not even calling to rename the day “Italian Heritage Day.”

Fact is scholars have proven that Christopher Columbus is accused of crimes committed by his political adversaries and actions of leaders that came after him. Historical research shows that Columbus advocated for the rights of Indigenous People and punished his own men when they committed crimes against the Natives. Time and again writings show that Columbus hoped to peacefully convert Native Americans to Christianity through teaching and not force. By Papal law, once people converted to Christianity they could not be enslaved so how could he possibly have intended to pursue slavery? Yet it seems the flames of uneducated radicalized mobs continue to dictate the course of this country as they strong arm leaders to capitulate to their zealous screams and unjustly take this day of recognition away from Italian-Americans by slandering Christopher Columbus!

Notice when people attack Columbus they either never provide references or proof to their accusations, or they take quotes out of context to fulfill their false narratives. For your convenience I’ve included the below links to scholarly resources so you can continue your education on Christopher Columbus and see through the lies being perpetrated against the Italian-American community. Please do not turn your back to these truths! A vote for Columbus Day is a vote for education, a vote for truth, and a vote for the Italian-American Community.

Globally Indigenous People Day is recognized on August 9th. Native American Day is the fourth Friday of September. American Indian Heritage Day is the Friday after Thanksgiving. November is Native American Heritage Month. As Italian-Americans we ask only for ONE day to celebrate our heritage, culture and contributions. Are we not worthy of that?

Sincerely,

Andrew Illiano

1.

Rediscovering Columbus: Evidence That Topples the Wall of Lies Around Him
https://franoi.com/columbus/rediscovering-columbus/

2. Debunking “Top 5 Atrocities Committed by Christopher Columbus”
https://www.officialchristophercolumbus.com/2020/06/debunking-top-5-atrocities-committed-by.html

3. Columbus: Fact vs Fiction: https://www.osia.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Columbus05_factvsfiction.pdf

4. VIDEOS and Links: Courage and Conviction: https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/columbus/index.html#

5. http://www.truthaboutcolumbus.com/

6. VIDEO: Columbus: Facts vs Fiction https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVOcXLHj6kQ

7. Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: https://www.amazon.com/Columbus-Quest-Jerusalem-Religion-Voyages/dp/1439102376/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Columbus+and+the+Quest+for+Jerusalem&qid=1615916072&sr=8-1

    1. If you don’t have time to read the book here’s an article on its research:
    https://www.thecollegefix.com/columbus-not-villain-professor-says-explorer-seriously-maligned/

8. VIDEO: Interviewing Stanford University professor Carol Delany https://youtu.be/HzezYlARIcU?t=24

9. Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisionism:
https://www.amazon.com/Christopher-Columbus-Hero-Defending-Revisionism/dp/1548738123/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=christopher+columbus&qid=1615915539&sr=8-4

10. Exposing the lies of Christopher Columbus: http://www.officialchristophercolumbus.com/

11. Debunking Howard Zinn: https://www.amazon.com/Debunking-Howard-Zinn-Exposing-Generation/dp/1684511526/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Debunking+Howard+Zinn&qid=1615917195&sr=8-1

12. “Debunking Zinn’s Lies About Columbus” by Rich Disilvio:
http://www.columbusthetruth.org/Documents/DebunkingtheZinnMethodologyRich%20Disilvio.pdf

13. A Realistic Historical Perspective on Christopher Columbus:

http://www.columbusthetruth.org/Documents/ARealisticHistoricalPerspectiveonChristopherColumbusSteveByas.pdf

14. Resources that debunk the lies about Columbus: https://knowcolumbus.org/resources/
And many more… http://www.columbusthetruth.org/links.htm



The True legacy of Christopher Columbus, Links to other Christopher Colu...

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. The truth and real facts about Christopher Columbus and not the li...

From:	Matthew Guarnieri
To:	Equity Task Force
Subject:	Italian-American Defense League - Celebrate Columbus Day and Indigenous People"s Day
Date:	Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:09:58 PM

Dear Members of the Santa Clara Equity Task Force:

Together we must stop systematic discrimination and bigotry against Italian Americans. Across this great Nation, never before has there been a movement by local, state, and now federal officials against people of one ethnic descent in the 21st century. I am founder of the Italian-American Defense League, member of the Italian American Alliance, son of an Italian orphan who sought a better life in the United States, and father concerned with preserving Italian-American heritage, history, and culture for future generations of Americans.

There is a problem today that is creating a false divide between Native Americans and Italian Americans - the elimination of Columbus Day. Let me start with a solution to this problem. Keep Columbus Day and designate Indigenous People's Day, a day worthy of recognition, to either August 9th (The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples), September 24th (Native American Day in California) or the Friday after Thanksgiving, a better fit based on historical context.

Replacing Columbus Day is contrary to a spirit of diversity, equity, and inclusion by excluding Italian Americans. Historical context shows Columbus Day was designated because of anti-Italianism and anti-Catholicism in the 19th and 20th centuries. Even today, many who oppose Columbus are anti-Catholic and ignorant of Italian-American history. Please understand that the majority of Italian Americans view the replacement of Columbus Day as discriminatory, biased, and divisive. A loud and vocal few are hijacking the agenda of Indigenous People, using it for their own political advancement.

In recent years, as I have revisited and researched Columbus Day, I have found:

1. **Historically, people of Italian descent are proud to be included in a country that was founded as a result of Columbus's vision and perseverance as a navigator.**
2. **Columbus Day is a day that created a national identity for Italians, something that they didn't have in their home country, and is an apology for discrimination against Italians at multiple times in American history.**
3. **Modern-day scholars tell a very different story of Columbus based on primary sources and context rather than the twisted history of revisionists of the past 30 years.**

First, President Barack Obama, just as every president dating back to Benjamin Harrison, understood the significance of Columbus Day for people of Italian descent and all Americans. Here is President Obama's proclamation in 2011:

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus and his crewmembers sighted land after an ambitious voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. The ideals that guided them to this land--courage, determination, and a thirst for discovery--have inspired countless Americans and led to some of our Nation's proudest accomplishments. Today, we renew our commitment to fostering the same spirit of innovation and exploration that will help future generations reach new horizons.

Ten weeks before his arrival in the Americas, Columbus and his crewmembers set sail from Spain in search of a westward route to Asia. Though their journey was daring, it did not yield the trade route they sought. Instead, it illuminated a continent then unknown to Europe, and established an unbreakable bond between two distant lands.

These explorers, and countless others that followed them, encountered indigenous peoples that had lived in the Western hemisphere for tens of thousands of years. On this day, we also remember the tragic hardships these communities endured. We honor their countless and ongoing contributions to our Nation, and we recommit to strengthening the tribal communities that continue to enrich the fabric of American life.

Columbus returned to the Americas three more times after his first historic voyage, and his journey has been followed by millions of immigrants, including our Nation's earliest settlers and Founders. Born in Genoa, Italy, Christopher Columbus was the first in a proud tradition of Italians to cross the Atlantic to our shores. Today, we recognize their indelible influence on our country and celebrate the remarkable ways Italian-Americans have shaped the American experience.

The excitement Christopher Columbus and his crewmembers experienced that October morning is felt every day by today's pioneers: entrepreneurs and inventors, researchers and engineers. On the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage, we celebrate the pursuit of discovery as an essential element of the American character. Embracing this heritage and inspiring young people to set their own sails, our Nation will reach the shores of an ever brighter tomorrow.

In commemoration of Christopher Columbus's historic voyage 519 years ago, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as ``Columbus Day.'' NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2011, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of our diverse history and all who have contributed to shaping this Nation.

Historically, this shows that Columbus Day has been a bipartisan celebration of events leading to the founding of our Nation and the positive impact of Italian-Americans on our beloved country.

Second, as Americans we cannot forget the journey of all immigrant groups throughout history and their quests for justice, including Italians. August 23, 2021 was the anniversary of the execution of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for a murder they didn't commit in South Braintree, Massachusetts. The trial took place during a time of Italia-phobia and drew worldwide attention. The context for this trial is the 1920's, a time of resurgence of the KKK and The (anti) Immigration Act of 1924 which limited the immigration of Catholics, including Italians. That is also the time that people of Italian descent funded the erection of Christopher Columbus statues across America, because Columbus was an Italian and Catholic, in good faith with local governments. Essentially, eliminating Columbus Day is siding with white supremacists of the Twentieth Century, over poverty stricken Italian immigrants who never felt a national identity in their home country, but rallied behind becoming American.

In another example showing Columbus Day is tied to Italian-American heritage and history, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation in 1892 after the March 14, 1891 lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans. This is the single largest lynching in U.S. history. Harrison recommended "to the people the observance in all their localities of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America…" and described Columbus as "the pioneer of progress and enlightenment." Native Americans and Italian Americans marched during the first Columbus Day parade in New Orleans in the spirit of unity in stark contrast to the forces at be who are creating an artificial divide between the groups today.

Recently, the Italian Parliament passed a resolution to defend Christopher Columbus and Italy's special relationship with the United States, showing the holiday's significance to people of Italian descent. Eliminating Italian-American heritage and culture may diminish diplomatic relations between the two nations. The resolution commits the government:

- ***to take action, on the political and diplomatic level, so that the Italian cultural heritage in the USA and the symbolic figure of that heritage embodied by Christopher Columbus may be safeguarded;***
- ***to use all the communication tools available to the Government, to grant the enhancement, both at the level of bilateral Italy-US relations and at the multilateral level, of the real historical role of Christopher Columbus, an explorer moved by the noble sentiments of discovery, at the basis of the evolution of society and of the whole of humanity."***

This resolution shows that celebrating Columbus Day is meaningful to people of Italian descent from the past, today, and to future generations.

Third, if we cannot celebrate Columbus Day, then we cannot celebrate Indigenous People's Day either, because the Americas were not a Garden of Eden prior to Native American encounters with Europeans. Eastern Native American tribes fought in "mourning wars." Native Americans, "such as the Mahican, Cofitachequi, Susquehannock, Petun, Oneida, and Micmac retaliated for the deaths of relatives and clan members by taking captives or killing Indians from rival bands." One of the reasons for fighting was that these "blood feuds provided a steady source of captives for some Native Americans' ritual sacrifices." Furthermore, "engagements were usually one-sided affairs that ended with the taking of captives." For many captives, "the entire village assembled in the primary war chief's longhouse and began torturing the captive in a lengthy, highly ritualized ceremony. After the prisoner's death, the tribe concluded the ceremony by cooking and eating his remains." Lastly, "women, children, and skilled or especially attractive men were adopted into the family."

Like supporters of Christopher Columbus who do not celebrate the actions of Roldan, Bobadilla and Ovando, it is doubtful that today's Native Americans celebrate inhumane native practices of the past. Though the history is complex and shocking by today's standards, modern thinkers can agree that those inhumane Native American practices were acceptable at that time, and we should still celebrate Native American heritages today. Modern day revisionists use Columbus as a scapegoat for all sins of the past while failing to acknowledge human sacrifices of the Aztecs and cannibalism by the Caribes. Academically giving a "free pass" to some native groups, while demonizing Columbus for the sins of others, is unsound and unworthy of serious scholarship.

Rafael Ortiz, author of Christopher Columbus The Hero, is of Taino (Puerto Rican) descent and defends Columbus and Italian Americans. Ortiz counters every point against Columbus with context and citations. He states "I hope the media retract their false biographies and accusations on Columbus and correct their mistakes. I hope people will stop sharing false information in social media, without first double-checking the facts."

For the past thirty years, Columbus is being accused of crimes he didn't commit. Revisionists and activists fail to see themselves as committing another wave of anti-Italian and anti-Catholic discrimination. They only see using Columbus to achieve their own political agenda. In addition to Rafael Ortiz, researchers, historians, and anthropologists of the present and past support my claims, including: Carol Delaney, Mary Graber, and Samuel Eliot Morison. Delaney Ph.D., Harvard Divinity School, the University of Chicago, and Boston University, wrote "Columbus never killed any natives and continually admonished his men not to maraud, rape or plunder."

By today's standards, I condemn Captain Martin Alonso Pinzon, Francisco Roldan, and Francisco de Bobadilla for their sins and atrocities. However, as I learn more I am cautious of becoming guilty of presentism, viewing history

through today's lens and not in the context of the past. Today's revisionists must face the facts. It took the United States less than 100 years to rid the country of slavery, a human institution that was present in all cultures since the beginning of known history, a practice that Columbus never participated in.

Here are the words of Friar Bartolome de Las Casas, known as the defender of the Indians, "*But here is observable, that the desolation of these Isles and Provinces took beginning since the decease of the most serene Isabella, about the year 1504."* Columbus had already returned from his fourth voyage by then. This shows that Las Casas believed that Columbus's actions during his four voyages were just and lawful. In life, Christopher Columbus was exonerated from false accusations by his political adversaries by the Spanish sovereigns, and today revisionists are putting Columbus on trial again, unjustly.

I am hoping to start a conversation with influential members of Native American groups to stand side by side with Italian Americans (and patriots) to celebrate multiculturalism and diversity, instead of destroying it. We have a great responsibility as today's Americans to create an environment of togetherness and truth for future generations.

I humbly ask that you share this letter with anyone open to a bipartisan and unifying solution that honors and respects both Native Americans and Italian Americans. I would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on any of my remarks.

Matthew Guarnieri
Founder of IADL
Clinton, CT
iadlnow.org
iadlnow@yahoo.com
860-552-9597

References:
U.S. Government Publishing Office

U.S. Government Publishing Office

Sacco and Vanzetti executed





Sacco and Vanzetti executed

History.com Editors

Despite worldwide demonstrations in support of their innocence, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolo...

[Italian American Stereotypes In Media]



Italian American Stereotypes In Media

[The Grisly Story of One of America's Largest Lynching]



The Grisly Story of One of America's Largest Lynching

Erin Blakemore

Innocent Italian-Americans got caught in the crosshairs of a bigoted mob.

In defense of Columbus



In defense of Columbus

Native American Warfare in the East: Mourning Wars | Encyclopedia.com

Native American Warfare in the East: Mourning Wars | Encyclopedia.com

Native American Warfare in the East: Mourning Wars Sources Source for information on Native American Warfare in ...

http://www-personal.umich.edu/~twod/latam-s2010/read/las_casasb2032120321-8.pdf
Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem by Carol Delaney



Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem

"One of the 100 best books of the year." —The Times Literary Supplement Christopher Columbus is reevaluated as a...

Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day

[Revisionism by Rafael Oritz]



Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisi...

Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisionism

From:	alvaro reis
To:	Equity Task Force
Subject:	Re Columbas dDAY
Date:	Saturday, October 30, 2021 11:59:01 AM

People have moved from place to place from the beginning of time. Perhaps Columbas discovery of America (or perhaps it was the Vikings) was the beginning of bad times for our American Indians, but even they may have originally come from Asia via the Alaska. Movement, and exploration is what has created the modern world with all its warts and rough edges,

I suppose that nest we will be providing comments on, (should the City of Santa CLARA remove the statue of St. Clare)??

A. Reis

From:	KEVIN MCGUIRE
To:	Equity Task Force
Subject:	Renaming Columbus day is disrespectful to Italians
Date:	Saturday, October 23, 2021 8:25:46 AM

Christopher Columbus is important . He was from Genoa and our Italian-American folks in Santa Clara are proud of him. Do not let the historical revisionists rewrite his history. He was an important early finder of the new world. I don't buy the arguments for taking away his status. If you insist it should be by vote of the people. I am sick of the disrespect for the early settlers of our land taking their name off of schools and the like as was done for the Franciscan Padre Crespi in the East bay recently. These early pioneers operated a few hundred years ago and it was not with all the social knowledge that we have today. THE STANDARDS WERE DIFFERENT BACK THEN!. They did the best they knew how and accomplished much. I suggest you do not offend our Italian folks in Santa Clara by killing this important holiday.

From: Baker, Mike
To: Equity Task Force
Subject: Survey of Columbus Day in Santa Clara
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:51:33 AM

To whom it may concern:

My various Apple platforms will not permit me to access your Survey because of security risks.

I am adamantly opposed to the elimination, or renaming, of the Columbus Day Holiday.

Best regards,

Mike Baker
Orthopaedic Innovations, Inc.
Sent from MacBookAir
408-460-4234

https-::ashishkhera.wistia.com:medias:kcsgg3buoj
3-in-1 SHAVER - RELIGN Corporation

From: Webmanager
To: Genevieve Yip; Robyn Sahid
Subject: FW: Public Survey on the Renaming of Columbus Day Holiday
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 9:40:17 AM

From: Nicholeen N-S <nicholeen@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 3:14 PM
To: news@info.SantaClaraCA.gov
Subject: Re: Public Survey on the Renaming of Columbus Day Holiday

Personally, I think it's way past time to celebrate our First Peoples' kindness to strangers from afar, instead of their mistreatment by them.
Canada calls what the US is now naming Indigenous people what they Really are: First People...

On Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 3:47 PM, City of Santa Clara <news@info.SantaClaraCA.gov> wrote:

> Having trouble viewing this email? View it as a Web page.
>
> The City of Santa Clara - Stay Connected
>
> # Public Survey on the Renaming of Columbus Day Holiday in Santa Clara.
>
> The Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has released a survey to gather input from the community on the observance of Columbus Day in the City of Santa Clara.
>
> The survey is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Hindi, and Tagalog.
>
> **To Access the Survey**
> Please visit SantaClaraCA.gov/EquityTaskForce.
>
> **To Email Your Comments**
> Comments can be submitted directly to EquityTaskForce@SantaClaraCA.gov.

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This email was sent to nicholeen@sbcglobal.net using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of:
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