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I would like to take this opportunity to familiarize you of the bond and relationship Columbus Day has with the people of Italian heritage. It originated in 1934 when President, Franklin D. Roosevelt named October 12th as Columbus Day. In tribute to Columbus' Achievement's , the Congress of the United States by Joint resolution of April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657)) requested the President to proclaim the Second Monday of each year in October as Columbus Day. In the words of Bill Clinton, "therefore I , William J. Clinton, President of the United States of American , do hereby proclaim October 11, 1993 as Columbus Day. I call upon the People of the United States to Observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. President, Bill Clinton in Proclamation 6608 of 1993 On October 8 of 1993." In 1996, President, Bill Clinton joined with Vice President, Al Gore in his weekly address, on Columbus day, giving praise to Christopher Columbus and the significance of immigrants in the United States . He said.

"Today is Columbus Day, marking the day an Italian explorer came upon the New World, It's a day that holds significance and much pride for the Italian Americans, Spanish and Hispanic Americans and all Americans who dare to dream the dream and reach for new horizons. These people have shaped who we are and today we celebrate their contributions."

President Roosevelt named this date as Columbus Day. In large part due to the many slanderous and bigoted actions against the Italian American people and acknowledging such things as signs that read "No Italian need apply" and the multiple public lynching's of Italian Americans, such as the one in March of 1891 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The NOLA lynching resulted in the murder of 11 Italian Americans. (these men had been acquitted of the crime) Many of you may not be aware of the little known fact that Italian Americans were placed interment Camps during WW11. Yes, even here in Boston, Italian Americans were held in internment camps. Many of these Italian Americans had sons serving in the US military during that time. As a matter of record, the name of the Island is Peddocks Islands located in Boston Harbor.

Sadly, even today we witnessed repeatedly the degrading slurs and discrimination against Italian Americans. We have now become the target of bigotry and hate . I watched in horror as statues of Christopher Columbus toppled and dropped to the ground. With fear and sadness, I saw the beheading of Christopher Columbus statues. It appears to me you are empowering one group only to erase the culture of another based on inaccurate information and a false narrative of history. Authors such as Mary Graybarr and Carol Delaney have debunked these false narratives about Christopher Columbus.

The Italian American Alliance has a membership of over 7,700 and our National Council is growing daily. We have vowed to fight this . We have many things to be proud of and we will continue to defend our heritage and history. We ask you give us the opportunity to disprove the misinformation being presented by the petitioners here tonight. The Italian American Alliance is prepared to challenge these accusations and prove them to be false.

Please note November is Indigenous Peoples month and the day following Thanksgiving Is Indigenous Peoples Day. Both the month and day is exclusively designated for the Indigenous people. I urge you to postpone the vote until we have an opportunity to be heard.

The Italian American Alliance

National Council of the Italian American Alliance