



RPNM Statement for Columbus Day



Today, we commemorate Columbus Day. In 1492, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus set forth on a historic voyage that led to the discovery of a passage into the Americas. With three ships, the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María, Columbus' journey across the Atlantic sparked the "Age of Discovery," which paved the way for Western civilization to flourish and for America to become the greatest nation in the world.

Many Italian Americans celebrate Columbus Day to honor their heritage and contributions. In 1892, the first national Columbus Day was proclaimed by President Benjamin Harrison after a terrible mob attack that led to the lynching of 11 Italian immigrants the year before. Columbus Day took on a much deeper significance to Italian Americans and Catholics and became a day they could celebrate their heritage with the rest of the nation.

In recent years, we have seen the left attempt to erase the history of Christopher Columbus. Along with this, we've seen an overall attempted revision and demonization of all of America's rich history.

This is unfortunate, as the historical significance of Christopher Columbus' discovery into the Americas includes lessons that we must continue to learn from. We must learn from our history's mistakes, including the brutal treatment of the first Native American people, so never to repeat it. We must also acknowledge our history's vast accomplishments and remember the great pioneering of Western civilization.

Today, let us be inspired to discover uncharted possibilities, learn from and correct our mistakes, and gain a deeper appreciation for every American who calls this beautiful nation home. We hope you have a wonderful holiday weekend.