

HB 179 –Indigenous Peoples’ Day—Rule of Interpretation of Columbus Day.

(UNF) I am opposed to this bill

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The Italians

How stupid can the representatives of the people be? Based on recent discussion, the answer is VERY stupid. Now why would an “old” first generation Italian American say that?

Another good answer: Because a few idiots in Annapolis want to turn Columbus Day into “Indigenous Peoples Day “, I have a great suggestion let’s make February Italian American History Month. NO... here’s one better; October is the perfect month to be Italian American History month because we celebrate Columbus Day, Shortly after that celebration fall sets in ; it brings beauty to the forest, the harvest is in full swing and we Great Americans with an Italian heritage enjoy the beauty of nature, the fruits of the season, the produce from the farms, and of course Mama’s and Nonna’s Cucina!!

Now for the history lesson:

A great number of Italians, more than 4 million, immigrated LEGALLY into the United States in the late part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th Century, including my parents. Most came through Ellis Island, as a note a large number of Italians also immigrated LEGALLY through the port of Baltimore. They all came to the Capitalistic Republic of the United States to improve their lives, they worked hard in any menial labor job available. A lot of them lived in squalor, made a small living and still sent money back to the families they left behind. Many of those poor immigrants were indentured; today we would say they were slaves. Some worked for companies that owned the homes they lived in, the families had to shop in company stores. Between the rent for the home and being forced to shop in the company store, they were literally kept poor. Eventually WWII came along

But, before we go there, let us not forget the way the Italians that immigrated to New Orleans were treated. By the way those poor folks were considered to be “BLACK” they were treated terribly. Subsequently in 1891 the chief of police was shot, **several** Italian men were arrested,

eventually they were found innocent and then the worst happened...folks in the city of New Orleans RIOTED, crashed into the jail, removed 11 Italian men and HUNG them.

A large number of Italians served honorably in WWII and helped protect the freedoms we now enjoy. Many folks with an Italian heritage became great business leaders, formed great companies such as Contadina, Bel Gioloso, Polly O, Citterio, Pompeian Olive Oil Headquartered in Baltimore, just to name a few. The beginnings of the California wine Industry can be attributed to men of Italian heritage as well as one of the largest banks in America known as The Bank Of America. Let us not forget the singers, the artists, engineers, scientists, doctors, nurses that gave their all to the development of America. Most of all we cannot and will never forget those that gave their lives for our freedom.

We are Americans, we are proud, we are very compassionate, we contribute to society in many ways, but most of all we are the Italian Americans that demand you politicians realize we are a large part of the population...leave Columbus Day alone, leave the Statues of Columbus alone, leave the history alone and focus on doing good for the people you represent!!

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