

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Italian Community and as the First Vice President of the Maryland Sons and Daughters of Italy- it is respectfully requested that October in Maryland be designated as Italian Heritage Month throughout the state. Due to the many contributions from the Italian Community from our culture and livelihood in the restaurants in Little Italy in Baltimore- to the many Italian Festivals throughout the state that share our Food, culture and Italian pride throughout Maryland- There is a rich history and deep sense of family pride that the Italians bring to the State through many resources.

As someone who has proudly been involved in sharing his culture back from the days of the Italian Festival at Rasch Field in the late 70's to being the honored President of 2 of Maryland's largest Lodges of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America- Both Little Italy and Harford County within the past 7 years- I sincerely hope that you will give the Italian Community it's month of October as the Official designation as Italian Heritage Month as we proudly and humbly request.

Through our many Charitable donations, Scholarship Programs and many other events that we are deeply entrenched through our Community involvement, we most humbly hope that you will pass this recognition for the Italian community.

We would appreciate this honor and hope that you will support the legislation presented by Delegate Nino Mangione and make October in Maryland Italian Heritage month.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Castino
1st Vice President Grand Lodge of Maryland
President of the Harford County Lodge
Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
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