

Præsident Barack Obama, Proklamation om ”Columbus Day” 7.10.2016, Washington, USA

I oktober 1492 afsluttede Christopher Columbus den første af sine ekspeditioner, der førte ham til Nordamerikas bredder. Sponsoreret af Isabella I og Ferdinand II begyndte Columbus på en 10-ugers sejlads, som han havde håbet, ville føre til Asien. Men da hans skibe i stedet landede på Bahamas, begyndte en ny historie at udfolde sig. Columbus legemliggjorde viljen til at udforske, en vilje der blev opretholdt af alle de mennesker, som fulgte efter ham i hans fodspor vestpå. Alle var drevet af et ønske om at fortsætte med at udvide vores forståelse af verden.

Selvom Columbus rejste fra Spaniens kyst, kan hans rødder spores tilbage til hans fødested i Genova, Italien. Hans rejse forandrede historien og åbnede op for efterfølgende generationer af italienske opdagelsesrejsende og italienske-amerikanere, der søgte løftet om den nye verden. Båndene mellem Italien og De Forenede Stater kan ikke være tættere end de er i dag og de afspejler de ekstraordinære bidrag, som begge vores folk har ydet i vores fælles bestræbelser på at forme en bedre fremtid. Overalt i vores nation fortsætter italienske-amerikanere med at berige vores lands traditioner og kultur.

Når vi markerer denne rige historie, må vi også anerkende den smerte og lidelse, der afspejles i historierne fra indianerne, der længe havde boet i dette land inden europæerne ankom. Vi deler en fortid, der er præget af for mange brudte løfter såvel som vold, berøvelse og sygdom. Det er en historie, som vi må anerkende, når vi søger at opbygge en lysere fremtid - side om side, i samarbejde og med gensidig respekt. I de senere år har vi gjort store fremskridt sammen, og vi vil fortsætte med at opretholde de stærke bånd mellem forskellige nationer, styrke stammesuveræniteten og hjælpe alle vores samfund med at trives.

For mere end fem århundreder siden ændrede en rejse verdenen - og i dag anerkender vi den ånd, som Christopher Columbus arv inspirerer til. Når vi reflekterer over eventyrerne, der lagde nye kurser og søgte nye højder og deres betydning for historien, så lad os huske de samfund, der led, og lad os hylde vores arv og omfavne multikulturalismen, der definerer den amerikanske oplevelse.

(fra: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/08/presidential-proclamation-columbus-day-2016>. Oversat af Jesper Romme Fischer)

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In October of 1492, Christopher Columbus completed the first of his expeditions that would land him on the shores of North America. Sponsored by Isabella I and Ferdinand II, Columbus embarked on a 10-week voyage he had hoped would lead to Asia. But when his ships instead landed in the Bahamas, a new story began to unfold. The spirit of exploration that Columbus embodied was sustained by all who would follow him westward, driving a desire to continue expanding our understanding of the world.

Though Columbus departed from the coast of Spain, his roots traced back to his birthplace of Genoa, Italy. Blazing a trail for generations of Italian explorers and Italian Americans to eventually seek the promise of the New World, his voyage churned the gears of history. The bonds between Italy and the United States could not be closer than they are today -- a reflection of the extraordinary contributions made by both our peoples in our common efforts to shape a better future. Across our Nation, Italian Americans continue to enrich our country's traditions and culture.

As we mark this rich history, we must also acknowledge the pain and suffering reflected in the stories of Native Americans who had long resided on this land prior to the arrival of European newcomers. The past we share is marked by too many broken promises, as well as violence, deprivation, and disease. It is a history that we must recognize as we seek to build a brighter future - side by side and with cooperation and mutual respect. We have made great progress together in recent years, and we will keep striving to maintain strong nation-to-nation relationships, strengthen tribal sovereignty, and help all our communities thrive.

More than five centuries ago, one journey changed the trajectory of our world -- and today we recognize the spirit that Christopher Columbus's legacy inspired. As we reflect on the adventurers throughout history who charted new courses and sought new heights, let us remember the communities who suffered, and let us pay tribute to our heritage and embrace the multiculturalism that defines the American experience.

In commemoration of Christopher Columbus's historic voyage 524 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, 2016, 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

BARACK OBAMA