

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The President of the United States  
The White House  
Office of Presidential Messages and Proclamations  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President,

As co-chairs of the Congressional Italian-American Delegation, we respectfully request that you issue a Presidential Message to proclaim October as Italian-American Heritage Month.

October is a special month for Italian-Americans. In October, as a nation, we celebrate Columbus Day. As you know, Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer and navigator credited with discovering our great nation in 1492. In bringing two worlds together, his home in Europe and the Western Hemisphere, he initiated widespread contact between Europeans and indigenous Americans.

Over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1992. Today there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fifth largest ethnic group. The legacy of these intrepid immigrants is found in the millions of American men, women, and children of Italian descent who strengthen and enrich our country. Our nation was even named after an Italian, the explorer and geographer Amerigo Vespucci.

You need not look further than our own capital city of Washington, D.C. to see the influence of Italian culture across our nation. This can be observed in the neoclassicism of Thomas Jefferson's design of Monticello and sketches of the White House, the strong Roman classicism of the Jefferson Memorial, and in Constantino Brumidi's frescoes in the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol Building.

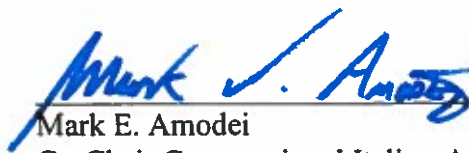
Americans of Italian descent play an integral role in America today, not only in the public policy arena, but in all aspects of academics, sciences, and the arts. This proclamation has the support of the Italian-American community as well as the National Italian-American Foundation. Therefore, it is our hope that you will also recognize Italian-Americans in this country by issuing a Presidential Message to proclaim October as Italian-American Heritage Month.

If you have any further questions regarding this request please contact Christopher Hadad in Congressman Bill Pascrell's office at 202-225-5751 or Ken Brooke in Congressman Mark Amodei's office at 202-225-6155.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Co-Chair Congressional Italian-American  
Delegation



Mark E. Amodei  
Co-Chair Congressional Italian-American  
Delegation