

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Please Colombus Day to Indigenous People's Day

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Fawn Gaudet <fawngaudet@yahoo.com>
Date: October 22, 2021 at 12:32:56 PM EDT
To: "Fennessy,Nathan" <NFennessy@concordnh.gov>, "Sexton, Amanda" <AGradySexton@concordnh.gov>, "Keach, Fred" <FKeach@concordnh.gov>, chamby@comcast.net, brenttoddconcord@gmail.com, pierce4council@comcast.net, "Kretovic, Jennifer" <JKretovic@concordnh.gov>, "Werner, Robert" <RWerner@concordnh.gov>, "Kenison, Linda" <LKenison@concordnh.gov>, "Nyhan, Keith" <KNyhan@concordnh.gov>, ewbouchard@concordnh.gov, "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Please Colombus Day to Indigenous People's Day
Reply-To: Fawn Gaudet <fawngaudet@yahoo.com>

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October 22, 2021

Indigenous People's

Day

Dear

Honorable and Concord City Councilors,

My name is Fawn Gaudet and I live in New Hampshire. I am requesting Columbus Day be changed to "Indigenous People's Day". I have strong pride in my ancestry and I am a descendant of the Blackfeet Nation. Growing up in NH as a child, I was keenly aware of the injustices committed against Native Americans, this being our Nation first. Before Columbus era, there were millions of indigenous people in North America, Central America and South America. The Wabanaki, known as People of the Dawn, lived in New Hampshire long before colonists arrived. Indigenous people here thrived in harmony with Gedakina- which means "world" for the Wabanaki. Their culture was rich with tradition, honor, respect for their people, land and wildlife. For me, Columbus Day is not a day of joy. It is a day of mourning. During this period of terrorism, indigenous peoples were massacred, raped, enslaved, tortured and genocide occurred. Changing this holiday to "Indigenous People's Day" offers honor and respect to our people. As

Columbus Day, the day only marks a false representation of what happened in the past. We must never repeat this. By changing the name to Indigenous People's Day, you will offer truth. It is a chance for New Hampshire residents, indigenous and non-indigenous, to honor those who came before them and respect indigenous peoples who survive to carry on such rich native traditions for our future seven generations. Please change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day in NH.

Oliwni- Thank you in

Wabanaki,

Fawn Gaudet, Co-Leader of NH Coalition of Indigenous People's Day Rumney, NH

fawngaudet@yahoo.com 603-960-

2872

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Re-name Columbus Day holiday

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
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zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Patricia Bass <pattybass@comcast.net>
Date: October 19, 2021 at 2:15:11 PM EDT
To: "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>, jpbouley@comcast.net, "Sexton, Amanda" <AGradySexton@concordnh.gov>, chamby@comcast.net, "Werner, Robert" <RWerner@concordnh.gov>, "Nyhan, Keith" <KNyhan@concordnh.gov>, "Bouchard, Candace" <CWBouchard@concordnh.gov>
Cc: Patricia Bass <pattybass@comcast.net>
Subject: Re-name Columbus Day holiday

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To: Concord City Councilors:

I support the proposal to rename the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day.

I want my home City of Concord to join, in every way it can, the growing public discussion about, acknowledgement of, and reckoning with our nation's history of racism toward Indigenous Americans.

Now we know about the *Doctrine of Discovery* that led 15th and 16th century Europeans to believe they "owned" the lands and the indigenous people that they "discovered" abroad.

Now we know that Christopher Columbus was finally recalled home and tried and found guilty by his royal Spanish sponsors of extreme brutality toward the people of Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

To continue to celebrate this obsolete world view and this reckless adventurer is an affront to modern day efforts to achieve justice for Native Americans.

Far better that we reserve the day for celebrating the People who lived here for thousands of years and ultimately, but barely, survived our ancestors' colonization; and for searching our hearts for how to restore justice to their descendants who live with us today.

Thank you for including these remarks in the Public Record of Comment on this proposal.

Patricia Bass, 149 East Side Dr, Concord NH 03301

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Indigenous People's Day

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen Rooney <kathrooney55@gmail.com>
Date: October 17, 2021 at 7:58:50 PM EDT
To: "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Indigenous People's Day

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Dear Ms Hawkins,

Thanks for bringing the renaming of Columbus Day to the attention of the City Council. I have been relearning a great amount of what passed as American History this past year and although it's painful to come to terms with the perpetuation of the harm done to fellow human beings who were here before the colonists, I totally support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. In light of our crimes against indigenous people, renaming is an important first step in what should be a path toward justice.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Rooney, ward 10, citizen of Concord, NH

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice -
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: honoring IPD

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
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Begin forwarded message:

From: ann podlipny <annpodlipny57@gmail.com>
Date: October 15, 2021 at 7:50:50 PM EDT
To: "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: honoring IPD

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Hello Zandra. As a longtime, active member and ally of the advocacy group Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective I urge you to support the renaming of Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Its time is long overdue and has finally arrived! Thank you for your support.
Ann Podlipny, Chester

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Finally putting an end to Columbus Day in Concord

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sarah Robinson <feasting52@gmail.com>
Date: October 13, 2021 at 11:48:30 AM EDT
To: "Sexton, Amanda" <AGradySexton@concordnh.gov>, "Champlin, Byron" <BChamplin@concordnh.gov>, "Fennessy,Nathan" <NFennessy@concordnh.gov>, "Kenison, Linda" <LKenison@concordnh.gov>, "Keach, Fred" <FKeach@concordnh.gov>, "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>, jpbouley@comcast.net, "Todd, Brent" <BTodd@concordnh.gov>, "Bouchard, Candace" <CWBouchard@concordnh.gov>, "Kretovic, Jennifer" <JKretovic@concordnh.gov>, kmcnamara@concordnh.gov, "Werner, Robert" <RWerner@concordnh.gov>, "Nyhan, Keith" <KNyhan@concordnh.gov>, "Matson, Gail" <GMatson@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Finally putting an end to Columbus Day in Concord

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Hello, Mr. Mayor and Honorable City Councilors:

The subject line of my email should leave no mystery to where I stand when it comes to this worn out debate. To consider keeping Columbus Day as a holiday is not in alignment with what we claim we value as a community. Especially when the City Council and the City of Concord as an employer have gone so far as to employ DEI programs and professionals to bring our governance and departments into alignment with the movement for justice we are all living in.

Changing the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day is low-hanging fruit on the tree of social justice awareness and action. Many communities across the state have already made the moral and ethical decision to do so. It's disappointing that Concord lags so far behind our municipal counterparts.

I understand the legal or practical need for community input on this matter, but the vote to do the right thing comes down to all of you. We have had ample time to become educated on the whys of this effort, so claiming any ignorance to the issue is disingenuous. I hope that when the time comes, you'll all make the wise choice and keep us on track as a welcoming, nimble, and forward thinking place to live and work.

With Gratitude,
Sarah

Sarah Robinson

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Concord NH Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

603-568-2741

I acknowledge that I live and work on the land of the Pennacook Abenaki people, who walked gently on the land many centuries before me. I am committed to learning about their history, culture, and stories, and to share them with my own community. If you would like to learn about who's land you currently occupy, please visit <http://native-land.ca>

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Indigenous Peoples Day
Attachments: Wabanaki.docx

Zandra Rice Hawkins
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Donna RAYCRAFT <draycraft@comcast.net>
Date: October 11, 2021 at 7:20:30 AM EDT
To: "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Cc: Brent Todd <brenttoddconcord@gmail.com>
Subject: Indigenous Peoples Day

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Councilor Rice-Hawkins,

I was just reminded by the article in this morning's *Monitor* that I have been intending to thank you for initiating the conversation with the Council to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. I have emailed Brent Todd, my councilor, with my enthusiastic approval for such a proposal and I am cc-ing him with this email.

It happens that in the poetry class I am taking at Twiggs Gallery in Boscawen, taught by Catherine O'Brien, we were assigned the exercise of looking at a map, choosing some words from it (creek, lake, road were suggested) and writing a poem with them in it. The draft of what I wrote for that assignment is attached, which I send as my reasons for urging adoption of your proposed change.

As a descendent of the Europeans who perpetuated the oppression, I think it's the least we can do. The poem touches only the surface, but it's only a draft.

Thank you again,
Donna Raycraft
74-year-old student of poetry

"What you think, you create, what you feel, you attract, and what you imagine, you become." Buddha

Wabanaki

Her canoe slides silently down the Ashuelot River,
past other Abenaki villages that the Oppressor later renames Hinsdale.

She smiles and casts her eyes down in shyness
as hers meet his on the path near Mascoma,
what many years later the Oppressor will call a high school.

She stretches the hides from her husband's hunt
as she sits along the Pemigewasset
where already the Oppressor is dreaming of the giant dams of the future
that will overtake the beaver's endeavors
and that will make the rivers flow
in directions different from where the Creator put them.

The woman of the People of the Dawn casts her net into the Winnepesaukee
and lifts up a fish that gasps for breath as she brings it to the surface,
its silvery scales catching glimpses of the morning sun,
the sun from which her people are named.
It will be breakfast for her child.

The sweetgrass basket is full of the summer berries
that after she dries will become winter food
for her family living on Mooselasuk.

She sinks to the ground in hopeless despair
as the victorious white kidnapper carries away the child he ripped from her arms
to take across the ocean to be sold as a slave, an oddity, a trophy of his victory.

The grandmother, wrapped in the blankets of the Oppressor,
shivers in fever as the boils of the white man
take all the strength from her body
which will soon be buried with the others on the mountain of Waumbak.

They stole her child, her grandmother, her virginity,
her pride, her heritage, her future
and then turned her words into schools
and mascots and businesses
that will adorn the maps sold at AAA and the baseball caps at athletic games,
and they will demean her integrity with phrases like "Indian giver".

And they will celebrate Columbus Day.

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Italian-American Defense League - Celebrate Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matthew Guarnieri <iadlnow@yahoo.com>
Date: October 27, 2021 at 8:01:42 PM EDT
To: brenttoddconcord@gmail.com, pierce4council@comcast.net, "Kretovic, Jennifer" <JKretovic@concordnh.gov>, kmcnamaraward4@gmail.com, "Kenison, Linda" <LKenison@concordnh.gov>, "Werner, Robert" <RWerner@concordnh.gov>, "Nyhan, Keith" <KNyhan@concordnh.gov>, "Matson, Gail" <GMatson@concordnh.gov>, "Bouchard, Candace" <CWBouchard@concordnh.gov>, "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Italian-American Defense League - Celebrate Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day

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Dear Concord Ward Councilors:

Together we must stop systematic discrimination and bigotry against Italian Americans. Across this great Nation, never before has there been a movement by local, state, and now federal officials against people of one ethnic descent in the 21st century. I am founder of the Italian-American Defense League, member of the Italian American Alliance, son of an Italian orphan who sought a better life in the United States, and father concerned with preserving Italian-American heritage, history, and culture for future generations of Americans.

There is a problem today that is creating a false divide between Native Americans and Italian Americans - the elimination of Columbus Day. Let me start with a solution to this problem. Keep Columbus Day and designate Indigenous People's Day, a day worthy of recognition, to either August 9th (The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples), September 24th (Native American Day in California) or the Friday after Thanksgiving, a better fit based on historical context.

Replacing Columbus Day is contrary to a spirit of diversity, equity, and inclusion by excluding Italian Americans. Historical context shows Columbus Day was designated because of anti-Italianism and anti-Catholicism in the 19th and 20th centuries. Even today, many who oppose Columbus are anti-Catholic and ignorant of Italian-American history. Please understand that the majority of Italian Americans view the replacement of Columbus Day as discriminatory, biased, and divisive. A loud and vocal few are hijacking the agenda of Indigenous People, using it for their own political advancement.

In recent years, as I have revisited and researched Columbus Day, I have found:

1. Historically, people of Italian descent are proud to be included in a country that was founded as a result of Columbus's vision and perseverance as a navigator.
2. Columbus Day is a day that created a national identity for Italians, something that they didn't have in their home country, and is an apology for discrimination against Italians at multiple times in American history.
3. Modern-day scholars tell a very different story of Columbus based on primary sources and context rather than the twisted history of revisionists of the past 30 years.

First, President Barack Obama, just as every president dating back to Benjamin Harrison, understood the significance of Columbus Day for people of Italian descent and all Americans. Here is President Obama's proclamation in 2011:

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus and his crewmembers sighted land after an ambitious voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. The ideals that guided them to this land--courage, determination, and a thirst for discovery--have inspired countless Americans and led to some of our Nation's proudest accomplishments. Today, we renew our commitment to fostering the same spirit of innovation and exploration that will help future generations reach new horizons.

Ten weeks before his arrival in the Americas, Columbus and his crewmembers set sail from Spain in search of a westward route to Asia. Though their journey was daring, it did not yield the trade route they sought. Instead, it illuminated a continent then unknown to Europe, and established an unbreakable bond between two distant lands.

These explorers, and countless others that followed them, encountered indigenous peoples that had lived in the Western hemisphere for tens of

thousands of years. On this day, we also remember the tragic hardships these communities endured. We honor their countless and ongoing contributions to our Nation, and we recommit to strengthening the tribal communities that continue to enrich the fabric of American life.

Columbus returned to the Americas three more times after his first historic voyage, and his journey has been followed by millions of immigrants, including our Nation's earliest settlers and Founders. Born in Genoa, Italy, Christopher Columbus was the first in a proud tradition of Italians to cross the Atlantic to our shores. Today, we recognize their indelible influence on our country and celebrate the remarkable ways Italian-Americans have shaped the American experience.

The excitement Christopher Columbus and his crewmembers experienced that October morning is felt every day by today's pioneers: entrepreneurs and inventors, researchers and engineers. On the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage, we celebrate the pursuit of discovery as an essential element of the American character. Embracing this heritage and inspiring young people to set their own sails, our Nation will reach the shores of an ever brighter tomorrow.

In commemoration of Christopher Columbus's historic voyage 519 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, 2011, 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.

Historically, this shows that Columbus Day has been a bipartisan celebration of events leading to the founding of our Nation and the positive impact of Italian-Americans on our beloved country.

Second, as Americans we cannot forget the journey of all immigrant groups throughout history and their quests for justice, including Italians. August 23, 2021 was the anniversary of the execution of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for a murder they didn't commit in South Braintree, Massachusetts. The trial took place during a time of Italia-phobia and drew worldwide attention. The context for this trial is the 1920's, a time of resurgence of the KKK and The (anti) Immigration Act of 1924 which limited the immigration of Catholics, including Italians. That is also the time that people of Italian descent funded the erection of Christopher Columbus statues across America, because Columbus was an Italian

and Catholic, in good faith with local governments. Essentially, eliminating Columbus Day is siding with white supremacists of the Twentieth Century, over poverty stricken Italian immigrants who never felt a national identity in their home country, but rallied behind becoming American.

In another example showing Columbus Day is tied to Italian-American heritage and history, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation in 1892 after the March 14, 1891 lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans. This is the single largest lynching in U.S. history. Harrison recommended “to the people the observance in all their localities of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America...” and described Columbus as “the pioneer of progress and enlightenment.” Native Americans and Italian Americans marched during the first Columbus Day parade in New Orleans in the spirit of unity in stark contrast to the forces at be who are creating an artificial divide between the groups today.

Recently, the Italian Parliament passed a resolution to defend Christopher Columbus and Italy’s special relationship with the United States, showing the holiday’s significance to people of Italian descent. Eliminating Italian-American heritage and culture may diminish diplomatic relations between the two nations. The resolution commits the government:

- *to take action, on the political and diplomatic level, so that the Italian cultural heritage in the USA and the symbolic figure of that heritage embodied by Christopher Columbus may be safeguarded;*
- *to use all the communication tools available to the Government, to grant the enhancement, both at the level of bilateral Italy-US relations and at the multilateral level, of the real historical role of Christopher Columbus, an explorer moved by the noble sentiments of discovery, at the basis of the evolution of society and of the whole of humanity.”*

This resolution shows that celebrating Columbus Day is meaningful to people of Italian descent from the past, today, and to future generations.

Third, if we cannot celebrate Columbus Day, then we cannot celebrate Indigenous People's Day either, because the Americas were not a Garden of Eden prior to Native American encounters with Europeans. Eastern Native American tribes fought in “mourning wars.” Native Americans, “such as the Mahican, Cofitachequi, Susquehannock, Petun, Oneida, and Micmac retaliated for the deaths of relatives and clan members by taking captives or killing Indians from rival bands.” One of the reasons for fighting was that these “blood feuds provided a steady source of captives for some Native Americans’ ritual sacrifices.” Furthermore, “engagements were usually one-sided affairs that ended with the taking of captives.” For many captives, “the entire village assembled in the primary war chief’s longhouse and began torturing the captive

in a lengthy, highly ritualized ceremony. After the prisoner's death, the tribe concluded the ceremony by cooking and eating his remains." Lastly, "women, children, and skilled or especially attractive men were adopted into the family."

Like supporters of Christopher Columbus who do not celebrate the actions of Roldan, Bobadilla and Ovando, it is doubtful that today's Native Americans celebrate inhumane native practices of the past. Though the history is complex and shocking by today's standards, modern thinkers can agree that those inhumane Native American practices were acceptable at that time, and we should still celebrate Native American heritages today. Modern day revisionists use Columbus as a scapegoat for all sins of the past while failing to acknowledge human sacrifices of the Aztecs and cannibalism by the Caribes. Academically giving a "free pass" to some native groups, while demonizing Columbus for the sins of others, is unsound and unworthy of serious scholarship.

Rafael Ortiz, author of *Christopher Columbus The Hero*, is of Taino (Puerto Rican) descent and defends Columbus and Italian Americans. Ortiz counters every point against Columbus with context and citations. He states "I hope the media retract their false biographies and accusations on Columbus and correct their mistakes. I hope people will stop sharing false information in social media, without first double-checking the facts."

For the past thirty years, Columbus is being accused of crimes he didn't commit. Revisionists and activists fail to see themselves as committing another wave of anti-Italian and anti-Catholic discrimination. They only see using Columbus to achieve their own political agenda. In addition to Rafael Ortiz, researchers, historians, and anthropologists of the present and past support my claims, including: Carol Delaney, Mary Graber, and Samuel Eliot Morison. Delaney Ph.D., Harvard Divinity School, the University of Chicago, and Boston University, wrote "Columbus never killed any natives and continually admonished his men not to maraud, rape or plunder."

By today's standards, I condemn Captain Martin Alonso Pinzon, Francisco Roldan, and Francisco de Bobadilla for their sins and atrocities. However, as I learn more I am cautious of becoming guilty of presentism, viewing history through today's lens and not in the context of the past. Today's revisionists must face the facts. It took the United States less than 100 years to rid the country of slavery, a human institution that was present in all cultures since the beginning of known history, a practice that Columbus never participated in.

Here are the words of Friar Bartolome de Las Casas, known as the defender of the Indians, "*But here is observable, that the desolation of these Isles and Provinces took beginning since the decease of the most serene Isabella, about the year 1504.*" Columbus had already returned from his fourth voyage by then. This shows that Las Casas believed that Columbus's actions during his four voyages were just and lawful. In life, Christopher Columbus was exonerated

from false accusations by his political adversaries by the Spanish sovereigns, and today revisionists are putting Columbus on trial again, unjustly.

I am hoping to start a conversation with influential members of Native American groups to stand side by side with Italian Americans (and patriots) to celebrate multiculturalism and diversity, instead of destroying it. We have a great responsibility as today's Americans to create an environment of togetherness and truth for future generations.

I humbly ask that you share this letter with anyone open to a bipartisan and unifying solution that honors and respects both Native Americans and Italian Americans.

Matthew Guarnieri
Founder of IADL
Clinton, CT
iadlnow.org
iadlnow@yahoo.com
860-552-9597

References:

<http://www.gpo.gov/>

Sacco and Vanzetti executed

Italian American Stereotypes In Media

The Grisly Story of One of America's Largest Lynching

In defense of Columbus

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/native-american-warfare-east-mourning-wars#A>

http://www-personal.umich.edu/~twod/latam-s2010/read/las_casasb2032120321-8.pdf

Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem by Carol Delaney

Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisionism by Rafael Ortiz

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Columbus Day

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: fdf5@enter.net
Date: October 29, 2021 at 12:31:39 PM EDT
To: brenttoddconcord@gmail.com, pierce4council@comcast.net, "Kretovic, Jennifer" <JKretovic@concordnh.gov>, kmcnamaraward4@gmail.com, "Werner, Robert" <RWerner@concordnh.gov>, "Kenison, Linda" <LKenison@concordnh.gov>, "Nyhan, Keith" <KNyhan@concordnh.gov>, "Matson, Gail" <GMatson@concordnh.gov>, "Bouchard, Candace" <CWBouchard@concordnh.gov>, "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Columbus Day

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To Whom It May Concern:

UNICO National, the largest Italian-American Service Organization in the US, respectfully requests that you reconsider the notion to rename Columbus Day. Regardless of your intentions, this action is demeaning, insulting, and disrespectful to all Italian-Americans. Over time, Columbus Day has become synonymous with celebrations of our Italian heritage for many social and historical reasons. In addition,

much of the circulating information concerning Columbus is historically inaccurate as it neglects the many positive aspects of Columbus' explorations and has placed this information totally out of temporal context. His accomplishments as a daring navigator can go uncontested; he is emblematic of the millions of immigrants and their pursuit of economic opportunity, religious freedom, and hope for a better life. "To the world he gave a world!"

Our organization wholeheartedly supports the idea of a special day to honor indigenous people. However, we would suggest that you consider offering one of the many other days of the year for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Frank N. De Frank, M.D.

Immediate Past President, UNICO National

Vice President, Conference of Presidents of Major Italian-American Organizations

10/11/21

Celebrate Columbus's Achievements

Garry Kasparov

Friends, Americans, citizens of the world, lend me your ears. I come to bury Christopher Columbus, not to praise him.

In Shakespeare's famous Marc Antony speech, he speaks of Julius Caesar's "grievous fault" of ambition, of the honorable nature of Caesar's friend and assassin, Brutus. Antony then subverts the accusations against Caesar, skillfully and sarcastically reminding the gathered crowd of Caesar's achievements and love of the Roman people—and how they all died to love him in return.

I doubt my abilities will be so convincing on behalf of Columbus, who believed great things and is worthy of being honored for them with a national holiday, but I must express what I know to be true. His incredible feats of exploration were due to individual qualities that Americans

should acknowledge his flaws, but his treatment on the left is reminiscent of communist propaganda.

could find admirable, and once did enjoy unanimity. Holding historical figures to modern standards of morality is a method of antihistorical political control—much like the pseudohistory I grew up being taught in the Soviet Union.

My earliest memories of my father were not of chess, but of his gift to me of a globe and our reading the stories of the great explorers together—by authors like Stefan Zweig, communist propagandists. So I was prepared to be critical when the



Columbus arrives in San Salvador on the Santa Maria, Oct. 12, 1492.

Soviet history books portrayed these men as callow imperialists who exploited the natives the way their capitalist descendants exploited the proletariat. This also prepared me to hear the same tropes repeated by Western leftists today.

This caricature of Columbus as little more than a rapacious villain is as simplistic and wrongheaded as the version of him as a savior-hero who proved the world was round. As usual, reality is complex and doesn't provide easy, comfortable answers.

It could be said that Columbus's years of navigating the Spanish courts and courtiers was a greater feat than navigating the Atlantic, which hardly went as planned. He was driven but diplomatic, traits he employed in his dealings with indigenous communities of the Americas, where he and his men also committed atrocities in the name of holy conquest.

As I said, I'm not here to praise the man but to celebrate his deeds.

Columbus taught himself Latin to study ancient and medieval manuscripts for clues about the circumference of the globe and his prospective journeys. True, his calculations were wildly off, overestimating the size of Asia and underestimating the size of the globe. But he also knew that he had to make the mission sound easier, like any startup seeking venture capital. Columbus yearned to fulfill the prophecy of Seneca's Medea: "An age will come after many years when the Ocean will loose the chains of things, and a huge land lie revealed." And so he did, in four remarkable voyages that charted and changed the world.

Revisionism has a vital role in history, as we discover new information and apply new insights to past events. There should be no place for whitewashing and jingoism in the service of a supposedly patriotic agenda—or any agenda. We must teach the good and the bad of our leaders, our founders, our heroes and saints.

Otherwise, myths take hold too easily, such as the Confederate "Lost Cause," left to fester like an open wound. Its infection has spread into the 21st century. There should be no honoring those who fought a war against the Union to preserve the evil institution of slavery—which, critically, even some of its defenders at the time understood as evil.

Comparing American statues of Columbus to those of Robert E. Lee fails this test of context. The call for objectivity applies also to those who would judge a 15th-century European who took outrageous risks and performed incredible feats of exploration to advance modern civilization. Humanism and the Enlightenment were still two centuries away. The year of Columbus's iconic voyage, 1492, was also the year Spain expelled many Jews and subjected others to the horrors of the Inquisition.

The line of ambitious explorers runs through Columbus to the likes of Elon Musk. Their accomplishments should not blind us to their flaws, but neither should their flaws blind us to their achievements. Honoring great deeds and risk-takers who defy conventional wisdom can inspire others to follow in their footsteps, be it into uncharted waters or outer space, and we sorely need such daring today.

We too, are complex. We are capable of judgment and reason, unlike the "brutish beasts" invoked by Marc Antony. History is not a zero-sum game. We can honor indigenous people and all they represent—and all they lost—without erasing the greatest achievements of the Age of Discovery. I will be celebrating Columbus Day, and I hope you'll join me.

Mr. Kasparov is chairman of the Renew Democracy Initiative and the Human Rights Foundation.

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Councilor Erle Pierce <perce4council@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: WSJ article on the deeds of Columbus
Attachments: Columbus Day WSJ.pdf

[CAUTION: *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe*]

Madam Clerk.

Please share this newspaper article with the Mayor and Council.

Thank you.

Erle Pierce

The above memo represents my opinion and actions only. Unless otherwise stated, it does not represent the opinions or actions of the Concord City Council. Please feel free to contact me anytime at: perce4council@comcast.net or on my mobile at 603-496-1665. Thank you.