

## **H. Res. 347**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*October 24, 2000.*

Whereas Italians, like Amerigo Vespucci and Christopher Columbus, were some of the first explorers to discover the American continents and illustrate the geography;

Whereas Italians and Italian Americans have made great contributions to America's society economically, culturally, and politically;

Whereas Italian Americans have won prestigious prizes, such as the Nobel Prize, the Pritzker Award for architecture, and the Fields Medal for mathematics;

Whereas Italians and Italian Americans invented pianos, violins, calendars, radios, telescopes, compasses, microscopes, thermometers, eye glasses, steam engines, typewriters, and batteries;

Whereas Italian Americans have toiled and labored while helping to build our Nation's infrastructure, including railroads, tunnels, highways, and subways;

Whereas a great many Americans have enjoyed the entertainment provided by Italian Americans, such as Hall of Fame baseball player Joe DiMaggio, singer and songwriter Frank Sinatra, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini, and Oscar-winning actor Robert DeNiro;

Whereas great Italian American political figures, such as Fiorella La Guardia (who was both Mayor of, then Congressman from, New York City), Anthony Celebrezze (who, in the Kennedy administration, was the first Italian American Cabinet member), and Antonin Scalia (who, in 1982, became the first Italian American Supreme Court Justice), have enriched the political process and brought national pride to our country;

Whereas over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1991, which today has resulted in over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fifth largest ethnic group; and

Whereas the Massachusetts Legislature has designated the month of October as “Italian-American Heritage Month” in Massachusetts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideas of “Italian-American Heritage Month” and recognizes the significant contributions that Italian Americans have made to the United States.

Attest:

*Clerk.*