

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

Senator Lucido offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to recognize October 2019 as Italian-American  
2 Heritage Month.

3       Whereas, In October of 1492, a three ship expedition led by  
4 Christopher Columbus reached the shores of what he named San  
5 Salvador (now in the Bahamas). This voyage brought forth a new era  
6 of exploration and discovery in the New World; and

7       Whereas, Those American continents are named after an Italian,  
8 the explorer and geographer Amerigo Vespucci; and

9       Whereas, As Christopher Columbus may have set forth his  
10 expedition under a Spanish flag, it is his Italian ancestry which  
11 is celebrated to this day; and

12       Whereas, Italian-Americans have defended the liberty and

1 integrity of the United States since the Revolutionary War. Two of  
2 the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, William  
3 Paca and Caesar Rodney, as well as Filippo Mazzei, were believed to  
4 have been of Italian decent; and

5       Whereas, An estimated 5.5 million Italians immigrated to the  
6 United States between 1820 and 2004; and

7       Whereas, Today, there are over 18 million Americans of Italian  
8 descent in the United States, making them the fourth largest ethnic  
9 group; and

10       Whereas, Italian-Americans have and continue to make important  
11 contributions to the state and our local communities. The bonds  
12 between the United States of America, the state of Michigan, and  
13 the Italian Republic have never been stronger; now, therefore, be  
14 it

15       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
16 body recognize October 2019 as Italian-American Heritage Month; and  
17 be it further

18       Resolved, That the Senate reaffirm its commitment to  
19 celebrating the history and heritage of Columbus Day; and be it  
20 further

21       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
22 Governor of the state of Michigan.