

**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY**  
**BUFFALO, N.Y., OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 A.D.**

We Hereby Certify, that at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing October 2022 as**  
**“Italian American Heritage and Culture Month”**

**WHEREAS**, in the month of October, we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Italian immigrants and their descendants living in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, over five million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 2000, which makes Italian Americans the fifth largest ethnic group today; and

**WHEREAS**, when Italians decided to leave their beloved Italia and create a new life in America, most intended to make a new home for themselves as others intended to stay long enough to make their fortune and return to Italy; and

**WHEREAS**, as Italians arrived, life was not easy since they did not know the language, but many were without any education or training and were relegated to manual laboring jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Italian immigrants tended to live very close together in the cities to which they came, which these Italian population pockets were called “Little Italias”; and

**WHEREAS**, within these Italia communities, the Italians helped each other, fed each other, practiced their religion, and maintained many of the familiar customs of their homeland; and

**WHEREAS**, various celebrations and events are held throughout the month, celebrating and educating the public about Italian-American history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the heritage month was first proclaimed in 1989 by President George H.W. Bush and Congress of the United States and has continued annually in October since; and

**WHEREAS**, American men, women, and children of Italian descent have made many contributions to the United States, especially in art, humanities, and sciences and as entrepreneurs, government officials, and in a myriad of occupations; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 26 million Americans of Italian descent who celebrate their vivacious culture, and we commit to honoring the long history and vast contributions of Italian Americans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Honorable Body pauses in its deliberations to proclaim October 2022 as “**Italian American Heritage and Culture Month**” and call upon all citizens to observe this month and raise awareness about the local Italian heritage in the community.

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**HON. FRANK J. TODARO**

Erie County Legislator, 8<sup>th</sup> District