

HR 9091

2006

## House Resolution

A resolution designating October 2006 as "Italian-American Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, since the European discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus in 1492, Italians and individuals of Italian heritage have played prominent roles in the growth of the United States and in shaping its culture, and

WHEREAS, rare indeed is the school child who has not studied the exploits and explorations of Giovanni Caboto, better known as John Cabot, Giovanni da Verrazzano, and Amerigo Vespucci or been awed at the inventiveness of Guglielmo Marconi, but perhaps less familiar are names such as Enrico di Tonti, "the Father of Illinois" and the first European to sail the Great Lakes, and Francesco Vigo, believed to be the first Italian to become a United States citizen, who served as a spy in the American Revolution, and

WHEREAS, among Italian Americans in politics, William Paca became the first to serve as governor upon his election to that office in Maryland; John Phinizy was the first to be mayor of an American city, Augusta, Georgia; Francis B. Spinola was first to serve in Congress; and Fiorello LaGuardia is well-known as a three-term mayor of New York City, and

WHEREAS, the arts, professions, education, and entertainment are represented by Italian Americans that include Gaetano Lanza, founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Joseph Barbera, the famous producer of the "Flintstones," "Tom and Jerry," and other cartoons; and

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29 Cincinnati Reds outfielder Buttercup Dickerson, born Lewis  
30 Pessano, the first to play in the Major Leagues, and

31 WHEREAS, pasta, long a staple in the American diet, made  
32 its way to the nation's dinner tables from Italy; pizza came to  
33 the inner cities of the United States courtesy of Italian  
34 immigrants; Domenico Ghirardelli perfected a method for making  
35 ground chocolate and produced chocolate by that name; and any  
36 possessor of a "sweet tooth" will forever be indebted to Italo  
37 Marcioni, who is popularly credited with the invention of the  
38 ice cream cone, and

39 WHEREAS, on October 12, 1866, out of pride for their native  
40 son, the Italian population of New York organized the first  
41 celebration of the discovery of America, NOW, THEREFORE,

42  
43 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
44 Florida:

45  
46 That the House of Representatives recognizes the rich  
47 history and valuable contributions of those of Italian heritage  
48 and designates October 2006 as "Italian-American Month" in  
49 Florida.