

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA: 5.A.3
AGENDA DATE: September 25, 2018

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim October 2018 as Italian American Heritage Month in Stanislaus County


BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0466

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Chairman DeMartini and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) Approved as recommended
- 2) Denied
- 3) Approved as amended
- 4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: 
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA:5.A.3
AGENDA DATE: September 25, 2018

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim October 2018 as Italian American Heritage Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Proclaim October 2018 as Italian American Heritage Month in Stanislaus County.

CONTACT PERSON:

Elizabeth King, Clerk of the Board

Phone number: 209-525-4494

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proclamation

PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2018 AS ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Italians came to this promised land, leaving a mark on the history of the United States, contributing through their hard work, talents, creativity, skills to the growth and the flourishing of America, helping it to thrive in many fields; and,

WHEREAS, Italians immigrants toiled to dig channels, sewers, and metro tunnels, to level and plough up lands from coast to coast, to build skyscrapers, bridges, and dams, to excavate railroads, and to erect cities. Their sons and daughters went on and, through better education and mastery of the English language, actively participated in the cultural and social life of America, from the politics to the show business, from the arts to the medical field, from the sports to the music; and,

WHEREAS, Italian immigrants brought with them their expertise in agriculture, especially in viticulture and other forms of horticulture, introducing new crops and techniques of cultivation, like in the olive production or the wine industry. Names like Gallo, Carlo Rossi, Secondo Guasti, Coppola shaped the wine history and made California viticulture one of America's most distinctive and vibrant in the industry; and,

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans were daring entrepreneurs, like Amedeo Giannini who created the Bank of Italy, later to become the Bank of America, offering loans to Russians, Chinese, Mexicans, without any racial discriminations; or Domenico Ghirardelli, chocolatier from Genoa, founder of the homonymous chocolate company; or Taormina and Uddo, who generated Progresso, an industry of canned Italian food, or the seven Jacuzzi Brothers, and many others; and,

WHEREAS, Italian Americans contributed to the political life of the Republic in both the Republican and Democratic party with corruption-fighting politicians like Fiorello La Guardia, mayor of New York from 1934 for three consecutive terms, or Rudolph Giuliani, mayor of New York from 1994 to 2001, champion of the zero tolerance policy against crime, or Mario Cuomo, governor of New York for 11 years best known for his progressive legislature, or Antonin Scalia, one of the most influential justices of the twentieth century; and,

WHEREAS, Frank Capra, Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese, Brian De Palma just to name a few, directed movies that entered in the history of the American cinematography. And the list of the actors is even longer, starting from Rudy Valentino who contributed to create the studios industry, to Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Leonardo Di Caprio, John Travolta, Lou Ferrigno; and,

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have stood in support of this nation's freedom and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of its liberty with thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who served this country, often deserving Medals of Honor for bravery; and,

WHEREAS, it should not be forgotten that Italian Americans faced racial, social, and religious discrimination, and still face negative stereotyping to this day. Richard Gambino, former director of Italian American Studies at Queens College, in New York, wrote a study of the Italian American experience. It's mostly positive, but the legacy of prejudice remains heavy. He writes how in the aftermath of the New Orleans tragedy that: "Americans debated whether all Italian-Americans were somehow all disposed to criminality by their genetic endowment or cultural inheritance."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby unanimously proclaim October 2018 as Italian American Heritage month in Stanislaus County and commends this observance to all our residents.