

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, This is the 26th Anniversary of the Observance of October as Italian American Heritage Month under legislation signed in 1999 by Governor Argeo Paul Cellucci; and

Whereas, Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni, 1475-1564, was an Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and writer of sonnets. A central figure in the High Renaissance, his work was inspired by classical antiquity and had a lasting impact on Western art. Michelangelo was celebrated for his art's complexity, physical realism, and psychological tension. His contemporaries called him *Il Divino* ("the divine one") for his mastery of multiple disciplines. Michelangelo is best known for his sculptures such as *David* and *The Pietà*, and for the monumental frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, particularly *The Creation of Adam* and *The Last Judgement*. He was also a prominent architect, known for his work on St. Peter's Basilica; and

Whereas, Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924, was an Italian composer known primarily for his operas. He was regarded as the greatest and most successful proponent of Italian opera after Verdi. Though his early work was firmly rooted in traditional late-nineteenth-century Romantic Italian opera, it later developed in the realistic verismo style, of which he became one of the leading exponents. Puccini wrote twelve operas which included well-known works such as *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly*, as well as his final, unfinished opera, *Turandot* (completed by Franco Alfano; and

Whereas, Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation PCPA (born Rita Antoinette Rizzo), 1923-2016, commonly referred to as Mother Angelica, was an American Catholic nun of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. She was known for founding the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), an international Catholic cable television network, and for hosting the program *Mother Angelica Live*. She also established WEWN, a radio network used by members of the Catholic Church to disseminate their religious teachings. She founded Our Lady of the Angels Monastery and later built the impressive Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a place of pilgrimage and worship in Hanceville, Alabama; and

Whereas, Liza May Minnelli, born March 12, 1946, is an American actress, singer, and dancer with Italian heritage, known for her powerful alto voice and commanding stage presence. She has received numerous accolades, including an Academy Award, a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award, an Emmy Award, two Golden Globe Awards, and four Tony Awards. She is one of the few performers awarded a non-competitive EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award) having received two honorary Grammy Awards. Minnelli is a Knight of the French Legion of Honour. Her persona and her style have immortalized her as an icon. Minnelli was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

Whereas, Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost on September 14, 1955, is the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State. He is the first pope to have been born in the United States and North America, the first to hold American and Peruvian citizenships, the first from the Order of Saint Augustine, and the second from the Americas after his predecessor Pope Francis. Pope Leo is of French, Italian, Spanish, and Louisiana Creole descent,

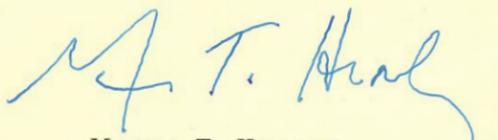
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
do hereby proclaim October 2025, to be,

ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

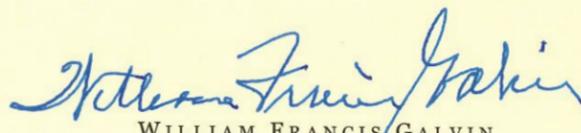
And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take
cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and twenty-five,
and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts