



Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans

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St. Mary of Sambuca Society,
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Italian Americans to recognize heroes, commemorate Columbus statues

Chicago, IL- Italians and Italian Americans will converge on Arrigo Park Sunday, July 25 at 3 pm in a show of unity and ethnic pride as Italy defeated England to win the Eurocup Soccer Championship last Sunday. The Italian Unity Day will also commemorate the one-year anniversary of the “temporary” removal of the Christopher Columbus statues from Arrigo and Grant Parks.

The Inaugural Marco DiFranco Hero Award will be presented that day to the group of forty-nine courageous Chicago Police Officers who were injured on July 20, 2020 defending the Columbus Statue in Grant Park. Officer DiFranco was the first Chicago Police Officer to die from complications due to Covid-19 in March of 2020.

“This is the birth of our ‘Heal Chicago’ Campaign,” said Ron Onesti, President of the JCCIA. “What began solely as an ‘Italian-thing’, has grown to represent all ethnic groups. We want our city back! On that day we will celebrate our heritage, remember our heroes and open our arms to our brothers and sisters of all cultures.”

Italian Unity Day preserves the Italian American culture by uniting the greater community through empathy, compassion, and understanding. The green, white, and red colors of the Italian flag along with America's red, white, and blue will proudly wave. All ethnic communities are invited as support for each of our unique cultural significances.

For more information, please contact media@jccia.com

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About JCCIA: *Founded in 1952, the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA) serves as a congress for the Chicagoland Italian American organizations and represents the community on a local, state, national and international level. The JCCIA is dedicated to its heritage and promoting the Italian American community. One of its main goals is to assist young Italian Americans through education. The JCCIA gives away numerous scholarships to promote the advancement of students. In addition, Italian American Heritage and Cultural Month, the Columbus Day Parade, Columbus Day Queen contest, and the Dante/Mazzei Award luncheon are well known annual JCCIA events.*