

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

Italian American Heritage Month

Whereas, each October, our nation celebrates Italian American Heritage Month to honor the rich culture, traditions, and contributions of Italian Americans whose influence has profoundly shaped the United States; and

Whereas, today, more than 16 million Americans identify as having Italian ancestry, and since their arrival generations ago, Italian Americans have helped shape our society and steer the course of our history; and

Whereas, Italian Americans have made significant contributions in every field of endeavor, including the arts, science, education, business, government, and public service, helping to build and strengthen our nation; and

Whereas, an Italian American broke the gender barrier in U.S. politics when Geraldine Ferraro became the first woman to appear on a major party ticket, running for Vice President alongside presidential candidate Walter Mondale; and

Whereas, Italian American men and women have distinguished themselves and contributed to society and culture in remarkable ways from Physicist Enrico Fermi, creator of the world's first nuclear reactor, to Automobile Executive Lee Iacocca, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Baseball Legend Joe DiMaggio, Singer and Actor Frank Sinatra, and acclaimed actors Dom DeLuise, Al Pacino, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, and John Travolta; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service has recognized the enduring contributions of Italian art and culture through its Christmas stamp series, including the 2018 stamp featuring Madonna and Child by Bacciacca, an Italian Renaissance painter known for his Florentine artwork; the 2022 stamp featuring a Virgin and Child inspired by an Italian Renaissance painting by a Florentine artist; and the 2024 stamp featuring Madonna and Child from the Workshop of Sassoferrato, an Italian Baroque artist, reflecting the lasting influence and cultural significance of Italian artistic traditions; and

Whereas, Italian Americans have preserved their cultural heritage while embracing and enhancing the American experience, sharing with us beloved traditions such as Italian cuisine, music, art, and festivals that celebrate life and unity; and

Whereas, the City of Sunrise proudly recognizes the achievements and enduring legacy of Italian Americans whose spirit of innovation, courage, and community pride continues to inspire future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida, along with the City Commission hereby proclaim the month of October 2026 as **Italian American Heritage Month** in the City of Sunrise, and we encourage all residents to celebrate the history, culture, and countless contributions of Italian Americans to our community and our nation.

Witness My Hand and Official Seal of
The City of Sunrise, Florida

Michael J. Ryan, Mayor

