

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus and his crew aboard the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María, made landfall in The Bahamas after a long and grueling journey across the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS: Although originally seeking a new route to Asia, Columbus encountered the Americas, making him the first European navigator to set foot in the Americas since the Viking explorations of Greenland and Newfoundland in the 11th century; and

WHEREAS: Columbus made three additional voyages across the Atlantic, demonstrating his determination and ambition. However, the passage of time has allowed for reflection on the legacy of Columbus. Though the exploits of Columbus were bold, their impacts were not limited to the European World and had many unintended consequences echo down to the present day; and

WHEREAS: As we acknowledge the significance of Columbus' voyages and arrival to the Americas, it is appropriate and necessary to also recognize the native populations, including the Taino People, who were significantly impacted by the arrival of Columbus. Through inadvertent disease and cultural conflict, the Taino were lost to history; and

WHEREAS: The unexpected encounter of the Americas began the Age of Exploration, marking the beginning of a new global era in world history. Europe and the Americas would be forever changed through increasing interactions, expanding worldviews, and growing economies that characterized the period. Over time, the Americas, and especially the United States, would become a land of opportunity, adventure, refuge, and hope for many across the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 12th, 2021 as

COLUMBUS DAY

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage all citizens to consider the role of Christopher Columbus in shaping world history.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of June, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

At

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary of State