



## Italian Heritage Month? (Part 3 of 3)

As a follow up to our previous emails where we noted how the media ignored Italian history during October, Italian-American Heritage Month, here are more notables that were overlooked...

### **Al Smith**

His father's surname was Ferraro.

42nd governor of New York.

1st Roman Catholic to be nominated for president by a major party (Democrat).

### **Peter Rodino Jr.**

U.S. Congressman, 1949 to 1989, New Jersey.

Chaired the House Judiciary Committee overseeing the impeachment of Richard Nixon.

In 1968 co-sponsored the bill that made Columbus Day a national holiday and designated the 2nd Monday in October as a Federal Holiday in 1971. One should read his remarks on the celebration of Columbus Day.

### **Alecia Keys**

Born Alicia Augello Cook.

Classically trained pianist who began composing music at the age of 12.

She is a 15 time Grammy Award winning singer, song writer, musician, producer and actress.

Credits her single mother, Terria, who inspired her love for music and performing.

### **Antonio Meucci**

Credited with developing the 1st talking "telegraph" or telephone. He created a working model in 1856 and filed a preliminary patent caveat in 1871. He was unable to afford to renew his caveat or secure a full patent due to financial hardship which allowed Alexander Graham Bell to obtain a patent for the telephone in 1876.

In 2002, the House of Representatives passed a resolution officially recognizing Meucci's work in the invention of the telephone.

### **Frank Sinatra**

Really ????

NOT A WORD ABOUT FRANK SINATRA IN OCTOBER...."ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH".