

Office of the President
Borough of Queens
City of New York

Proclamation

Greeting:

- Whereas:** this year marks the 700th anniversary since the passing of the great medieval poet and philosopher, Dante Alighieri. Dante, considered the father of the Italian Language, composed his major literary work in the vernacular, rather than in Latin which was understood only by the educated elite; and
- Whereas:** the Italian Cabinet designated March 25th of this year as “Dante Day,” referring to the beginning of the journey in the epic poem, “Divine Comedy.” This edict inspired commemorative events throughout the world, including the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York’s day-long ceremony at the Dante Statue in Dante Park at Lincoln Center; and
- Whereas:** the theme of this year’s *INCEAN* program series, “Dante 700: Celebrating the Genius of Dante,” recalls to mind the writer’s tremendous influence on western art and literature. This year also marks the 160th anniversary of the unification of Italy, and the 45th anniversary of our remarkable *INCEAN*; and
- Whereas:** I am proud to join with Joseph Sciame and the many supporters of the *INCEAN* as we resume the annual tradition of holding a Proclamation Ceremony. This wonderful event is an opportunity to salute Italian Americans for their many accomplishments and to appreciate the justifiable pride they take in their rich heritage.

Now, therefore, I, Donovan Richards Jr., President of the Borough of Queens in the City of New York, do hereby proclaim the month of October as

Italian Heritage & Culture Month

in Queens, with gratitude for the *INCEAN* members who continue to share the gifts of their culture with us all.

Done at Queens Borough Hall, Kew Gardens, in the City of New York, on this first day of October in the year two thousand and twenty-one.



Donovan Richards Jr.
President of the Borough of Queens