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Rescuing Columbus from the Savages

On the 525th anniversary of the European discovery of America, the 90-foot tall monument in New York's huge Columbus Circle escaped damage — but only because the NYPD maintained a 24-hour honor guard during the entire 3-day holiday weekend. Police protection was needed because the violent leftwing movement known as “antifa” had announced a nationwide campaign to “deface Columbus Day.”

Statues left unguarded were not so fortunate. Around the nation in recent weeks, statues of Columbus have been toppled, splattered with paint or otherwise vandalized. In downtown Los Angeles, a Columbus statue in front of the county courthouse was shrouded in a white sheet, ostensibly for its own protection, after the L.A. City Council voted to rename the paid holiday as Indigenous Peoples Day.

The mayor of New York City, who was born Warren Wilhelm but changed his name to Bill de Blasio to attract Italian-American votes, had let it be known that the monument in Columbus Circle was at risk. He has appointed a commission to review the political correctness of hundreds of monuments, plaques and statues throughout the city.

New York's Columbus monument was built and paid for by Italian immigrants in 1892, to honor the 400th anniversary of discovery, around the time Chicago was preparing to host the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Italian Americans are rightly proud of Columbus, but his voyages were actually sponsored and financed by Spain, his crewmen were Spanish, he spoke Spanish and wrote his journals in Spanish.

Americans were already celebrating Columbus on the 300th anniversary of discovery, in 1792, when a Columbus monument was erected in Baltimore. Despite the lack of Italian or Spanish people in the original 13 colonies, the English settlers recognized that Columbus' discovery of the New World was the event that made America possible.

Our nation's capital is the City of Washington in the

District of Columbia, honoring the two men who made our country, and Columbus' name is reflected in many other places, including two state capitals (Ohio and South Carolina). For much of the 19th century, the word Columbia was often used as an alternative to America.

As President Trump said in proclaiming the federal holiday, Columbus' voyages “undeniably and fundamentally changed the course of human history and set the stage for the development of our great Nation.” On Columbus Day, Trump declared, “we honor the skilled navigator and man of faith” for his “courageous feat — even in the face of extreme doubt and tremendous adversity.”

What a contrast with the apologetic tone of Obama's proclamation one year earlier, which omitted any praise of Columbus or recognition of his greatness. Instead Obama whined that “we must acknowledge the pain and suffering of Native Americans” which he said has been “marked by too many broken promises, as well as violence, deprivation and disease.”

By apologizing for Columbus as a man allegedly responsible for bringing pain and suffering, violence and disease to America, Obama was apologizing for America itself. Such ideas are far too common in our schools and colleges, where Columbus is wrongly accused of oppressing the native people with slavery, white supremacy, and even genocide.

The National Education Association, which supplies teachers to most of our public schools, adopted a resolution that “formal apologies are long overdue to the indigenous people of the United States.” The fierce campaign against Columbus is motivated by hatred for America, and will continue even if his statues survive.

It is impossible to exaggerate how great Columbus was, and how much our world depends on what he accomplished. In the 2,000 years since Jesus Christ, it would be hard to name any one man who achieved so much for the betterment of mankind.

Columbus was, first of all, the greatest sailor and navigator who ever lived up to that time, as detailed by

the famous historian Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, himself a sailor who recreated Columbus' voyages. Yes, a Viking named Leif Erikson apparently landed somewhere in Canada about 500 years earlier, but Erikson left no permanent settlement or any trace that he was ever here.

Yes, there were people were already living in North and South America when Columbus came. By comparison to the European explorers and settlers, however, America's native people lived in extreme poverty and brutality, lacking the skills that are necessary to build a civilized nation.

Yes, the European settlers brought new diseases such as smallpox that infected the native people (unintentionally, of course), but they were repaid in tobacco, which has caused far more deaths among Europeans. Columbus wrote about tobacco in his journal on October 15, 1492, just three days after he arrived in the West Indies.

Among the gifts that Columbus brought to America was Christianity. Evangelization of the native people was a prime motivation for Columbus and his Spanish backers. Columbus gave Christian names to places he visited, such as San Juan Bautista (St. John the Baptist), which became Puerto Rico.

'Where Does It Stop?'

"Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments," President Trump tweeted last month. "You can't change history, but you can learn from it. Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson – who's next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish!"

The mob violence did not stop with Confederate generals, but quickly extended to statues of ordinary soldiers, and then to other great historical figures. Christopher Columbus was attacked with a hatchet in Detroit, Abraham Lincoln was burned in Chicago, and the recently canonized Father Junipero Serra was spray-painted with the word "murder" at Mission San Fernando, California.

In Annapolis, Maryland, a sculpture of Chief Justice Roger Taney was hoisted from its massive pedestal and hidden in an undisclosed location as payback for Taney's opinion in the 160-year-old *Dred Scott* case. In Baltimore, a Columbus monument erected in 1792 was attacked with a sledgehammer, and in New York City, the Council Speaker has demanded a review of the massive, 76-foot-high sculpture at the center of Columbus Circle.

After President Trump asked "Where does it stop?," some amateur historians responded by claiming that Robert E. Lee was a "traitor" who committed "treason" against the United States. Such comments are ignorant and wrong, for the simple reason that the 11 Confederate states that Lee fought for are now part of the United States.

The Fourteenth Amendment, which became part of the Constitution in 1868, sets forth the conditions under which

the defeated Southern states were readmitted to the United States on an equal basis with all other states. Nearly all who fought for Southern independence were restored to full citizenship on an equal footing with their counterparts who fought for the Union of North and South.

A previous generation of Americans, including those who actually fought in the Civil War, debated whether to charge General Lee and other rebels as traitors. They wisely decided not to go down that road, and it's too late to revisit their decision now.

Some Republican weak sisters – the same people who timidly proposed civil unions as an alternative to gay marriage (remember how that turned out?) – have offered a compromise. Instead of destroying the offending statues, move them to museums or Confederate cemeteries.

Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace: even cemeteries are not safe from the mob bent on the destruction of history. In Los Angeles, an online petition forced the Hollywood Forever cemetery to remove a 92-year-old hunk of granite that marks – "lest we forget" – the nearby graves of 37 Confederate soldiers.

In Madison, Wisconsin, the leftwing mayor removed a two-foot plaque marking the graves of 140 Confederate soldiers who died in a Union prison at Camp Randall after surrendering in battle. In Boston, where over 600 Confederates were held at Fort Warren, a granite slab bearing the names of 13 who died in prison was boarded up so their names cannot be seen.

History teaches what happens when a revolution gets out of hand, and it's not pretty. When law and order are overthrown, the mob rules.

When the French Revolution reached its peak of mob violence in 1793, the revolutionaries were not satisfied with slicing off the heads of their deposed king, Louis XVI, and his wife, Marie Antoinette. They also invaded the church of St. Denis, where French kings and queens for the preceding 1,000 years had been buried under monuments and statues that marked their lives and reigns.

The mob opened more than 100 tombs and scattered the remains so that the royal bones could never again be identified and reassembled. Then they marched to Notre Dame Cathedral, where they destroyed all vestiges of Christianity and turned the sanctuary into a "temple of reason."

In our home town of Alton, Illinois, two Civil War-related monuments have stood for more than a century at opposite ends of town. On the east side, a flamboyant 110-foot column, topped by a winged sculpture of an angel and flanked by a pair of enormous eagles, honors Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, the anti-slavery newspaper publisher who died defending his printing press from a mob on Nov. 7, 1837.

On the quieter western edge of town, a simple but elegant granite obelisk, 58 feet tall, marks the final resting

place of 1,354 Confederate soldiers who died as prisoners of war in Alton's federal prison. More than 13,000 Confederate soldiers and civilians were imprisoned there under horrific conditions during the war, resulting in as many as six to 10 deaths a day.

For as long as civilization has existed, the end of life on earth has been a time to remember the dead and to reflect on what their lives meant to us who survive. It's time for the grave robbers and defilers to stand down, or if they will not, to be put down by the law. *Requiescant in pace.*

The DACA Debacle: "Just Stop It Now!"

When the Democratic minority leaders of the Senate and House emerged from the White House last month, "Chuck and Nancy" claimed that President Trump had agreed to a deal that would protect so-called Dreamers from deportation. The media spin implied that Trump has a soft spot for the illegal aliens who, we're told, were brought to our country as children through no fault of their own.

But in fact no deal was reached, as the White House soon clarified. For starters, any deal for Dreamers would require inclusion of real border security provisions to which the Democrats have never been willing to agree.

Trump later told reporters that "We're not looking at citizenship" for Dreamers, and on Twitter he insisted that "CHAIN MIGRATION cannot be allowed to be part of any legislation on Immigration!" (Chain migration and a path to citizenship were included in previous versions of the Dream Act.)

The Dreamers are not children, as globalist opponents of border security pretend. Often those in favor of open borders can be heard referring to Dreamers as "kids" when they are typically adults in their 20s, or even older. As Trump has explained, "people think in terms of children but they're really young adults."

Back home in San Francisco during the Congressional recess, Nancy Pelosi held a press conference at which she intended to introduce a carefully selected group of sympathetic Dreamers. Much to her dismay, she was confronted with a mob of 60 angry aliens who feared they would not qualify for the Dreamer deal with Trump.

"You're not helping the cause," Pelosi pleaded pathetically to the mob of "undocumented youth" who shouted her down. "Just stop it now!" Pelosi declared to the liberal protesters, who can never be appeased.

In the age of Trump, Pelosi knows that any hope of a deal depends on persuading the public that a handful of sympathetic young people are typical of the millions of illegal immigrants.

"All of us or none of us," the rioters chanted for nearly an hour, as they waved signs demanding that Pelosi

"FIGHT 4 ALL 11 MILLION." It was a good illustration of the entitlement mentality of illegal immigrants who think they have a right to defy our laws.

The mob scene in San Francisco should have been enough to discredit any DACA deal, but even worse was what happened the same day at the federal courthouse a few blocks away from where Pelosi was prevented from speaking. That's where the famous leftwing Harvard Law School professor, Laurence Tribe, filed a massive lawsuit against President Trump, claiming that he had no right to phase out the DACA program.

When DACA was announced in 2010 by executive action, Barack Obama insisted that it was not amnesty but merely a two-year reprieve and work permit with no guarantee of renewal. Obama's unilateral executive action had no legitimate continuing legal authority, but Tribe's lawsuit claims that it is somehow unconstitutional for Trump to discontinue the program.

There are four other lawsuits filed against Trump over DACA. A growing pattern among the opponents of Trump and the agenda on which the American people elected him is to file a lawsuit in a district court located within a Court of Appeals that consists overwhelmingly of Democratic-appointed judges, as the Ninth, Fourth, Second, and D.C. Circuits do.

That strategy generally ensures a ruling against President Trump at both the district and appellate court levels. This game by the Left has continued even though the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly slapped down and reversed the liberal lower court rulings, and held in favor of Trump, often unanimously.

Anti-Trumpers are even filing numerous briefs challenging President Trump's pardon of Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The power of a president to pardon has traditionally been fully supported and even promoted by the political Left, and was used flagrantly by Presidents Obama and Clinton.

If that were not enough, there are multiple lawsuits challenging the prudent action by Attorney General Jeff Sessions to withhold a small amount of federal funding from cities that defy federal law by declaring themselves to be "sanctuary cities" for illegal aliens. Even though federal power is at its peak in how it spends money, a federal district court in Chicago issued an extraordinary nationwide preliminary injunction blocking the Trump Administration from implementing its plan to withhold federal taxpayer dollars from sanctuary cities.

The will of the American people is to protect our borders and to deport illegal aliens who should not be here. Crime and the burdens on entitlement programs are immense and Trump should not be blocked by the courts from taking action to defend our sovereignty.

Ending DACA restores the rule of law

President Trump has delivered again on a campaign promise, by ending the unlawful pandering to illegal aliens. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA for short, was an executive order by President Obama that prevented the deportation of adults who are unlawfully in our country.

Most of the beneficiaries of DACA are not children at all, but young, able-bodied adults who are taking jobs and benefits away from American citizens. Many states, whose budgets are burdened by illegal aliens, were planning to bring litigation to block DACA.

President Trump's plan to phase out DACA, which granted amnesty for illegal aliens who claim they were brought to our country as children, restores the rule of law to immigration. President Obama's executive actions had undermined both immigration law and congressional authority over it.

No new applications will be accepted under DACA without further action by Congress, but existing applications will continue to be processed, and DACA privileges will be honored until they expire. The government will continue issuing DACA renewals for another six months, which gives Congress plenty of time to consider a permanent law.

Trump's decision to pass the responsibility to Congress, where it belongs, is the best part. The Constitution gives Congress the power to make our immigration policy, so any change in the law must start there with Congress being held politically accountable for any attempts to shift benefits from American citizens to illegals.

By rolling out the new policy in this way, Trump has not revoked anyone's legal status, nor is anyone in danger of being "rounded up" for deportation. DACA recipients still have the same rights they had before, no more and no less.

DACA was never supposed to be permanent. When President Obama unilaterally instituted the program in 2012 without congressional approval, he promised recipients temporary protection for two years at a time – and President Trump is honoring that pledge.

Remember, all DACA recipients are illegal aliens – citizens of another country who came here illegally, even if they were brought here as children. Many of them actually came here on their own as teenagers, and many of the children were "brought" by smugglers or traffickers.

Among those who pre-emptively denounced Trump's announcement were Apple and Microsoft, both of which said they have DACA recipients on their payrolls. The companies didn't say how much the "Dreamers" were being paid or why no U.S. citizens or legal residents could be found to do those jobs.

Apple and Microsoft happen to be the biggest abusers of the system that allows U.S. technology corporations to

avoid federal tax on earnings parked in overseas accounts. Apple's untaxed cash hoard has reached an astounding \$246 billion, while Microsoft is in second place with \$131 billion overseas.

A group of CEOs signed a joint letter claiming that ending DACA would hurt the economy, but Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is not buying it, saying, "There's a lot of people that left the workforce, and our objective is to bring them back into the workforce." Mnuchin came from the Wall Street firm of Goldman Sachs, but he obviously gets the Trump doctrine to put Americans first.

In the furor over what to do about so-called Dreamers (illegal aliens who entered the United States as children), it's important to remember that DACA was never lawfully instituted by President Obama in the first place. DACA's companion program, known as DAPA, was thrown out by the federal courts last year, and DACA was likely to suffer the same fate.

Legislation to grant legal status to Dreamers was introduced in Congress as far back as 2001 and has been rejected many times since then, most recently in 2010 when Democrats controlled both Houses. In addition to defeating those stand-alone bills, public opposition killed "comprehensive immigration reform" in 2006, 2007 and 2013.

Before creating DACA in 2012, President Obama said that doing so "would be both unwise and unfair." After changing his mind in an election year, he described DACA as "a temporary stopgap measure."

House Speaker Paul Ryan and other Republicans now say they want DACA to continue, but many Democrats would go much further if they had the chance. A new Dream Act could extend legal status and provide benefits to millions of currently illegal residents, not just the 800,000 who signed up so far.

On at least 22 occasions, President Obama himself admitted that he lacked the authority as president to implement a DACA-like program. Then, under pressure from the left, President Obama imposed one anyway.

By ending that unlawful action by Obama, President Trump properly restored the role of Congress over our immigration system. Congressmen are elected every two years in the House, and they will hear from their voters if they try to continue a program that prefers illegal aliens over American citizens.

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