

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### **COLUMBUS DAY ... INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY ... (Could this be an opportunity for the Norwegians?)**



By Stephen L. Bakke  April 29, 2014

#### *Here's what provoked me:*

*Columbus Day is gradually being eliminated by the Minneapolis City Council (as well as by many other governmental units across the country). In its place will be an observance of "Indigenous Peoples Day." While I don't cling to an unusually strong affection for Christopher Columbus, I like to think we can continue traditional ways of recalling the discovery of this great land we live in. A lot of ugly human behavior permeated that time of discovery - behavior which we should not celebrate or revere. But I say we shouldn't remove all rascals from the official historical record, because doing so seems like "putting our heads in the sand." Isn't the greater good served just as well by keeping a spotlight on the bad and the good in our nation's history?*

*Having said that, I suddenly realized that this action much just be an opportunity for Uncle Ole and Aunt Lena! Read on .....*

#### *Here's my response:*

### **Columbus Day...Indigenous Peoples Day...(Could this be an opportunity for the Norwegians?)**

The Minneapolis City Council recently approved pushing aside the traditional celebration of Columbus Day in favor of recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day." Both will be celebrated, but Columbus Day remains intact only due to certain legal and contractual considerations. Rest assured, Columbus Day will ultimately disappear at all levels of government. The reason? Columbus was quite a rascal with the blood of many on his hands.



Accepting the veracity of the horror stories surrounding this explorer, does it really serve the greater good to remove Columbus from the annals of history and discontinue using his story as a teaching tool for civil rights and man's inhumanity to man? The fact is, Columbus is a historical

figure, whatever his sins. And this observation is really about the modern discovery of this land we live in. For me, retaining the official holiday actually shines a bright light on this debate.

**On the other hand, might this be an opportunity for Norwegians to finally lay proper claim to being the first Europeans to discover the new world? Isn't that what the Kensington Runestone declares? Think about it Norskies! Carpe Diem!**

