

Greg Carter, PCC
National Patriotic Instructor

Monthly Patriotic Instruction
October, 2014

Happy Halloween from in Quincy, Illinois! October is another one of the few months where we Americans don't celebrate any major American holidays. For Americans of Italian heritage, however, it is time to celebrate their heritage and remember the famous voyage of Christopher Columbus. The month also begins with National Fire Safety Week, and on October 6th we celebrate German Heritage Day.

In October, 1864, the Shenandoah Valley campaign was wrapping up, and Grant's forces attempted to break the defenses of Richmond at Fair Oaks. Sherman was eyeing Savannah, Union forces were drive guerrillas out of Louisiana, and there was little question remaining as to the eventual outcome of the American Civil War. Nevada became a state, and gold was discovered in Montana, sparking yet another gold rush. In Canada, delegates met in Quebec with the goal of forming one united country.

Most historians also agree that the outcome of the U.S. presidential election was no longer in doubt by October 1864. President Lincoln was reelected one month later.

The desire to explore new things and the wish for political stability are two traits endemic to Americans. No matter what we like, we explore that particular thing until we exhaust ourselves learning about it. We love to go out and be adventurous, but we always return to places we find comfortable. In October, 1864, we see this. Five massive Union armies were moving across different parts of the country, trying to put it back together, and in politics, our government proved remarkably stable, holding a popular election in the middle of the war.

This spirit of stability is also celebrated on October 24th, United Nations Day. The idea of a successful force for world cooperation was the dream of President Woodrow Wilson, but became a reality in 1947.

As we all gear up for the mid-term elections next month, let's all remember that desire for stability and unity as we head to the polls.