

Joe Donahue
For Oct. 11, 2017
Holidays

Hi, I'm Joe Donahue with a comment for Brookings-Harbor Voices:

Tomorrow is Columbus Day, – the day Christopher Columbus was credited with “discovering” America. However, it is now celebrated by some on Monday the 9th so it makes a three day holiday. In Oregon as well as four other states, it is no longer celebrated; rather an Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated instead. It seems the Curry County Facebook page is full of a discussion about this.

Paul Revere’s ride, Washington’s Cherry tree chopping, and Columbus’ sailing the ocean blue and “discovering” America are all historical fictions perpetrated on school children throughout our nation. The divided nation we currently live in has caused some individuals to make accusations and blame other political parties or politicians for revisionist history.

It is time we grew up as a nation. Our country is great, but we have not always been perfect in our actions. We all need to research and study the facts of history and then learn from them. Whether or not we create or abolish holidays is something Hallmark cares about and we all like days off. However, it is important to know the facts of our history to build understanding and unity as a Nation. That cannot be done by divisive rhetoric, name calling, badgering or belittling. It requires research and careful education of our youth.

Facts about Columbus are now quite well-known. He did not discover America, rather he stumbled on a Caribbean island. He wasn’t really a hero, rather a lucky ocean navigator that almost got his men killed. He brought diseases to the indigenous people already on the islands [thus, he did not “discover” anything]. He also enslaved many local people and sent some back to Spain as slaves.

Thanks for listening!