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Newark Columbus Day Speech: Version 1

Geraldine Ferraro

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REMARKS OF GERALDINE A. FERRARO

NORTH WARD CENTER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1984

Thank you, Chairman Rodino, for that wonderful introduction. Every two years for the past 36 ~~years~~, the people of the North Ward have elected Peter Rodino to the Congress because he shares your values, and he understands what this country is all about.

But, you've done more than elect a great representative. You've given us a great leader. Throughout this nation Peter W. Rodino is known as a champion of justice, and a staunch defender of our constitution.

I'm delighted to be here today at the North Ward Center to participate in this fourteenth annual Columbus Day parade. And I bring greetings from my good Italian friend, Fritz Mondali.

I love Columbus Day parades. When else do you get to hear La Traviata played by a high school marching band?

Here at the North Ward Center, you understand the importance of good neighborhoods, strong families, and compassion for each other. That's the spirit Fritz Mondale will bring to the White House this November.

And it's the spirit I will be proud to fight for as the first female -- and the first Italian-American -- vice president in our history.

No one believes more deeply in the American dream, than the daughter of an Italian immigrant nominated by her party to be Vice President of the United States.

You and I have all shared in that dream, and have made it our own. That's why we're so proud to celebrate Columbus Day, and recall that it was one of our ancestors who discovered the freest and fairest nation on earth.

-END-