

Southern Colorado Sons of Italy Lodge 2738, Pueblo, Colorado

The city of Pueblo, Colorado has the oldest Christopher Columbus Monument west of the Mississippi, and the only one in Colorado. The Monument was dedicated in 1905 with 7500 people in attendance. In 2011 with Southern Colorado Lodge 2738 as the driving force the Monument was placed on the National Register of Historic Places; in 2013 donor walls were erected; in 2014 the Monument was cleaned, restored, and preserved with a matching grant to the City of Pueblo from the State Historical Fund; with donors for a total cost of Fifty Thousand Dollars. A new flagpole was installed, and the original flagpole was restored so both the American and Italian flags can be flown; and the area was designated by the City of Pueblo as "Christopher Columbus Piazza".

Southern Colorado Lodge has been the driving force behind the Columbus Day Celebration at the Monument for over twenty years. We have hosted local and National speakers at the events. We have had WBA Lightweight Title Holder "Boom Boom Mancini, United States Congressman Ray Kogosek, United States Congresswomen Lauren Boebert. 2023 we will feature Rafeal Ortiz a National Author and Expert on Christopher Columbus.

Southern Colorado Sons of Italy Lodge 2738 in Pueblo, CO was chartered in 1999. Our main purpose in forming the Lodge is to protect Columbus Day and the Columbus Monument in Pueblo, Colorado. Southern Colorado lodge sponsors the Columbus Day Celebration every year at the Monument and will continue to do so for years to come. The lodge feels that it is their responsibility, and a great honor to be the **Guardians** of this important Pueblo Treasure that has been passed down to us.