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IL CAVALIERE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

“I CAVALIERI IN AMERICA” IN ROME

In just one week, the volume *I Cavalieri in America* achieved outstanding praise and global recognition as a historic achievement. The setting was the trip to Rome of the ASILM delegation in June. The delegation presented the highly-anticipated book to some of the highest Italian officials, all of whom expressed their support for this important initiative. In addition, thousands tuned in from all over the world to watch the book's broadcasting on the hit Italian TV show "Community." *I Cavalieri in America*, known only in the U.S. and Canada a few months ago, became the

topic on everyone's mind following the successful visit to Italy.

I Cavalieri in America, whose pages are dedicated to individuals honored with decorations by the Italian Republic and residing in the U.S. or Canada, underlines both the significance of ASILM and the relevant role these "decorati" have played and continue to play in their communities.

Recognizing the book's potential in having a positive impact on relations

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The ASILM delegation presented "I Cavalieri in America" to the President of the Italian Senate, Hon. Pietro Grasso (Center), at the headquarters of the Senate during the Society's trip to Rome in June 2015. (L - R) Ms. Kimberly Fry, Cav. Berardo Paradiso, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli, President Hon. Pietro Grasso, Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo and Cav. Mario Marano.

DECORATED AND IGNORED

For a long time the personalities living abroad, decorated by the Italian Republic, have not been properly appreciated, and their importance, their role in local society and their value for Italy have been grossly underestimated.

Historically, decorations were frequently given as compensation for favors done rather than on the basis of accomplishments. Gratitude was often expected in return, as if the decoration was a present instead of an important recognition.

The procedure of granting the decorations is equally questionable. It seems that there exists no formal process (or any process in some cases) for the granting of decorations or for their purpose. Instead of periodically selecting individuals of Italian or foreign origin who have distinguished themselves with regard to Italy, decorations were primarily granted based on inbound requests.

As a result, a great number of accomplished individuals across a variety of fields were never even considered for an official recognition for their accomplishments or for their invaluable contributions to the image of Italy.

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WANT TO SUBMIT YOUR NEWS?

For members who wish to submit their recent honors or activities to be included in the next issue of Il Cavaliere, please do not hesitate to e-mail president.asilm@yahoo.com. This information will also be placed in the “Member News” page of the website of the Society: www.asilm.org, unless otherwise specified.



MESSAGGIO DI SALUTO DEL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA PER IL VOLUME “I CAVALIERI IN AMERICA”

Sono particolarmente lieto di rivolgere un cordiale saluto ai lettori del volume “I Cavalieri in America”, promosso dalla “American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit”, che ringrazio per aver voluto dar vita a questa iniziativa.

La pubblicazione - dedicata alle personalità insignite di Onorificenze della Repubblica che vivono negli Stati Uniti e in Canada - contribuisce a valorizzare lo straordinario contributo che moltissime donne e uomini di valore hanno dato e continuano a dare all'Italia e ai Paesi dove sono nati o hanno scelto di vivere.

Il Nord America ospita da più di un secolo una nutrita e operosa collettività di origine italiana, che ha contribuito – nel segno dell'antica amicizia tra le due sponde dell'Atlantico e della costante valorizzazione delle proprie radici – al progresso e alla prosperità dei nostri Paesi. Si tratta di un contributo straordinario, al quale si è affiancato quello, altrettanto importante, di tutti coloro che, pur non avendo radici italiane, hanno guardato al nostro Paese come ad una Patria d'elezione, dedicandole idee, studi, professionalità, passione.

E' in questo spirito che rinnovo il mio ringraziamento a tutti coloro che – insigniti di un'Onorificenza nazionale - hanno contribuito, ciascuno nel proprio campo d'attività, al prestigio e al benessere del nostro Paese.

SERGIO MATTARELLA

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

I am particularly pleased to extend a cordial greeting to the readers of the book, “I Cavalieri in America,” promoted by the “American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit,” whom I thank for having wanted to give life to this initiative. The publication - dedicated to the personalities honored with Decorations of the Republic who live in the United States and in Canada - helps to highlight the extraordinary contribution that many women and men of valor have given and continue to give Italy and the Countries where they were born or have chosen to live. North America is home for more than a century to a large and active community of Italian origin, who has contributed - in the sign of the old friendship between the two sides of the Atlantic and the constant enhancement of its roots - to the progress and prosperity of our Countries. It is an extraordinary contribution which, equally important, was matched by all those who, although not having Italian roots, have looked to our Country as a Country of choice, dedicating ideas, studies, professionalism, passion. It is in this spirit that I renew my thanks to all those who - awarded with a national Decoration - have contributed, each in their own field of activity, to the prestige and well-being of our Country. ■



("I Cavalieri in America" in Rome - continued from Page 1)



The delegation poses with a Corazziere standing guard at the Palazzo del Quirinale.



Inside the Palazzo del Quirinale, headquarters of the President of the Republic of Italy.

between Italy and North America, the President of the Italian Republic, Hon. Sergio Mattarella, devoted a written message (See page 3) to be included in its opening pages.

In his message, he thanks the Society for giving life to this initiative and the "decorati" who have contributed to the progress and prosperity of North America and Italy. It is an important acknowledgment that ultimately elevates the prestige of the publication and all of the "decorati."

President Grasso also expressed his enthusiasm for this book detailing the hundreds of "decorati" living in North America. Within his elegant office at the Palazzo Madama, the headquarters of the Italian Senate, President Grasso graciously met with the delegation, and expressed his appreciation to ASILM, /

Cavalieri in America and the Society's other significant initiatives, all of which help to improve the relationship between Italy and North America.

President Mattarella and President Grasso lead the list of elite Italian authorities praising the book: Min. Francesco di Nitto, Diplomatic Counselor to President Mattarella; Amb. Armando Varricchio, Diplomatic Counselor to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi; Min. Michele Quaroni, Diplomatic Counselor to the Minister of Finance and Economy, Hon. Pier Carlo Padoan.

During the delegation's formal presentations at the prestigious headquarters of these officials, all of them expressed their support for the book and agreed that this was a significant initiative that no one had ever attempted before.



(Left) The ASILM delegation met with Min. Francesco di Nitto, Diplomatic Counselor to President Mattarella, inside the Quirinale. (L - R) Cav. Mario Marano, Mrs. Loyse Paradiso, Cav. Berardo Paradiso, Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo, Mrs. Mary Marano, Min. Francesco di Nitto, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli, Ms. Kimberly Fry and Mr. Nicholas Gravante, Jr.



(Left) Within the elegant meeting room of Palazzo Cighi, headquarters of the Prime Minister, the delegation presented “I Cavalieri in America” to Amb. Armando Varricchio, Diplomatic Counselor to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. (L - R) Cav. Mario Marano, Mr. Nicholas Gravante, Jr., Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli, Mrs. Mary Marano, Amb. Armando Varricchio, Ms. Kimberly Fry (co-editor of “Il Cavaliere”), Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo and Cav. Berardo Paradiso.

The delegation stressed to them that *I Cavalieri in America*, which includes biographical information on individuals like Justice Antonin Scalia, Justice Samuel Alito, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Amb. Peter Secchia, is a major step in connecting the decorated individuals living in North America with not only each other, but more importantly, with the Italian Republic that granted them these decorations.

I Cavalieri in America landed its international platform on the set of “Community,” a popular television show on RAI Italia. The ASILM Board Members participating in the delegation - Cav. Berardo Paradiso (Director), Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli (Executive Vice President), and Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo (President) - were interviewed on the set, where they emphasized the importance of the book, as well as ASILM, the organization behind its creation.

“Community” broadcast this special presentation on July 21. The show’s audience, which includes people from North America, Asia, Australia and Africa, watched this televised presentation, thus giving invaluable exposure to the book.

(Click on the following link to watch the full interview: <http://www.rai.tv/dl/RaiTV/programmi/media/ContentItem-018045de-e1a2-44e2-84d8-9affbdfaec4c.html#p=>)

Subsequent to the trip’s conclusion, the book was also presented and given to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Paolo Gentiloni.

However, the trip’s program was not solely dedicated to meetings and television interviews. Friendships developed between the members of the delegation as they attended several memorable dinners and lunches.

They also enjoyed a private coach tour of Rome, visiting such

places as the Gianicolo Hill, which offers the best panoramic views of the ancient city.

Proceeds from the trip were used solely to further the ASILM Education Fund, a scholarship fund created by the Society for undergraduate college students who would like to pursue a degree in Italian language studies.

In conclusion, the trip to Italy was successful in promoting this unprecedented volume to the most important Italian officials, as well as to decorated and non-decorated people living all over the world. The support that the book has achieved is a step toward a stronger connection between the “decorati” and the Republic. In addition, *I Cavalieri in America* promises to be an important resource about these influential individuals who have and continue to further the relationship between Italy and North America. ■



Exterior of Palazzo Cighi, headquarters of the Prime Minister of the Italian Republic.



Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo, Ms. Kimberly Fry, Cav. Mario Marano, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli, and Cav. Berardo Paradiso pose with an elegant book about the Senate presented to them by President Pietro Grasso.



In addition to presenting "I Cavalieri in America," the delegation attended a tour of the historic building of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance. The tour was led by Cons. Francesco Alfonso.



Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo shows "I Cavalieri in America" to Cons. Francesco Alfonso (center), and Min. Michele Quaroni (right), at the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



During the tour of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, the delegation was able to see the fresco (above), which adorns the wall of one of the Ministry's elegant meeting rooms.



(Left) Members of the delegation pose for a historic photo in the courtroom of the Ministry. (L-R) Cav. Mario Marano, Mrs. Mary Marano, Min. Michele Quaroni, Cons. Francesco Alfonso, Cav. di Gran Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo, Ms. Kimberly Fry, Cav. Berardo Paradiso, Mrs. Loyse Paradiso, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli and Mr. Nicholas Gravante, Jr.



(L-R) Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli and Cav. Berardo Paradiso on the set of the Italian TV show "Community" to discuss the volume "I Cavalieri in America."



ASILM Board Members are interviewed by Alessio Aversa on the set of "Community," a program watched by thousands of viewers worldwide.



The Hotel Savoy, where the delegation stayed throughout the trip, offers breathtaking views of Rome from its terrace.



The delegation gathers together for a picture on the garden roof of Hotel Savoy.



Cav. Berardo Paradiso and Mrs. Loyse Paradiso talk with other members of the delegation over dinner at the Hotel Savoy.



Mrs. Mary Marano and Cav. Mario Marano sit with other members of the delegation on the first night of the trip.



The delegation enjoyed a tour of the city of Rome, and made sure to stop by the Knights of Malta keyhole, which offers a unique view of St. Peter's Basilica.



During the delegation's tour of Rome, it visited the top of Gianicolo Hill, one of the seven famous hills of the city.



On the Gianicolo Hill, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli (left) and Mr. Nicholas Gravante, Jr., pose together in front of a panoramic view of Rome.



Some members of the delegation attended the military parade on June 2nd, which celebrates the anniversary of the Italian Republic annually.

**TO VIEW MORE PICTURES
OF THE SOCIETY'S TRIP TO ITALY IN JUNE 2015,
PLEASE VISIT:**

WWW.ASILM.ORG/PHOTO-GALLERY



(Decorated and Ignored - continued from Page 1)

In addition, the number of decorations bestowed each year is extremely limited, especially considering the number of potential recipients, while the process of granting the decorations is extremely long, much to the frustration of potential awardees.

Once the decoration is bestowed, little care is given to maintaining the relationship with the decorated recipient. Instead of being enhanced, the connection often tends to fade away.

It seems that Italy fails to recognize the importance of the granting of decorations, and underappreciates the bonding that could be created between the recipients of the decoration and Italy. These bonds could have great value for Italy.

Apparently the significant role that those decorated could exercise in the relations between Italy and their countries is not fully appreciated.

By establishing and maintaining closer and continuous relations with these personalities, the Italian Republic could count on a great number of goodwill ambassadors across the world spanning various important fields. These personalities could be instrumental in mobilizing support for Italian causes in their countries of domicile.

The honorees whose value, accomplishments and positions in local communities have been recognized with a decoration should be part of an elite network of Italians, descendants of Italians or foreign nationals interested in Italy. Through their accomplishments, they have given honor to Italy and elevated the image of Italy in the world.

ASILM has been deeply involved in the solution of these issues and has been emphasizing their importance.

The Society has given prominence to the honorees who have already been awarded a decoration while simultaneously raising awareness of the large number of people who should have also been decorated.

To this end the Society has been presenting awards to these individuals at the Society's Annual Gala and Award Ceremonies.

The Society has also drawn the attention of the highest Italian authorities to these problems through a series of initiatives and events, and underlined the need and the opportunity of establishing better and more continuous relations with those decorated.

The trips to Italy of ASILM delegations and the meetings with the highest Italian authorities, including the President of the Republic, have served to underline the role and the importance of the individuals decorated by the Italian Republic and residing abroad, and to highlight their function in the relations between their country of residence and Italy.

The upcoming publication of the volume *I Cavalieri in America*, featuring an inspiring, personal message from the President of the Italian Republic, Hon. Sergio Mattarella, is another important and unique contribution in this direction.

Other initiatives will follow with the hope of bringing together as many people as possible who share these views. ■



(Left) Advance copies of "I Cavalieri in America," which were presented to some of the most important Italian officials during the Society's VIP trip to Rome in June 2015.



Mark your Calendars!

*50th Anniversary
ASILM Gala Dinner Dance
& Awards Ceremony*

February 25, 2016

Essex House, New York





DID YOU KNOW?

REGGIMENTO CORAZZIERI

The Reggimento Corazzieri is the honor guard of the President of the Italian Republic.

First mention of this army dates back to the 16th century, when Emanuele Filiberto Testa di Ferro (1553-1580) had in his duchy a “Guardia d’Onore del Principe,” about fifty people commanded by a captain and entirely at his service. During the 17th century, the division counted at least 400 members divided into four companies: one of these was called “Compagnia Corazze di Sua Altezza” and it had in its disposition one commander captain, four officials, nine petty officers (now twelve), sixty-nine Carabinieri (now eighty-eight).

The corps earned its name on the occasion of the wedding of the Duke of Savoia Vittorio Emanuele II and Maria Adelaide of Lorena in 1842, when the unit was covered by armor (‘corazziere’ in Italian).

The foundation of this army dates back to February 1868 in Florence, at the time the capital of Italy. Eighty horseback Carabinieri were called to protect the entrance where Princess Margherita di Savoia arrived for her marriage to Prince Umberto.

In 1870, Squadrone Corazzieri became the only unit with the assignment to protect the royal family and, in 1871, both moved to the Quirinale in Rome.

When Italy became a Republic after WWII in 1946, the Reggimento was freed from the duty of serving the king. The standard arrived in 1978 with a Republic President’s decree.

Becoming a member of the Reggimento Corazzieri is not for everyone: the two most important features are height (74 inches

at least) and a previous military career. A Corazziere has to perfectly ride an Irish horse (67 inches at the withers) and the impressive Moto Guzzi California. They are trained to be the Republic President’s bodyguard. Their heraldic emblem contains the three colors of the cities where they were at service (Turin, Florence and Rome) and their old Latin maxim: “Virtus in periculis firmior” (Courage becomes stronger in danger). ■



(Left) Corazziere stands guard at the entrance to the Quirinale, the headquarters and residence of the President of the Italian Republic.



FRANK SINATRA

Frank Sinatra was decorated by the Italian Republic twice under two different orders: Grande Ufficiale dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia on March 12, 1985, and Grande Ufficiale Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana on December 27, 1977.

In the picture (left) of Gr. Uff. Sinatra, he is proudly wearing his decoration on his lapel.

This April, HBO released the documentary, *Sinatra: All or Nothing At All*, which examines the life of this legendary entertainer, and also marks the 100th anniversary of the singer/actor’s birth. ■

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**50th
Anniversary
of the
ASILM Gala**

February 25, 2016

**Please keep checking the
Society's website for updates
on this special event:
www.asilm.org**

Cavalieri who receive honors and other recognitions should send information and a portrait photograph to:

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