



VOL. 5 NO. 3 JULY, 2009

IL CAVALIERE

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

Charities Board Reconvening

The Society's Charities Board, which by year's end will have awarded \$200,000 in mini grants "focusing attention on worthwhile endeavors that comport with the Society's constituted purpose," will soon reconvene, according to *Cav. di Gran Croce* Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, of Michigan, now in his fourth year as Board chair. In addition to the ambassador, the Board is comprised of *Cav.* John F. Calvelli, Esq., of New York; *Cav.* Cesare Taormina, of New York; and *Uff.* Senator Renato G. Turano, of Illinois.

"This very popular program has met with overwhelming success," the ambassador noted. "It focuses on examples of Italian cultural expression while identifying humanitarian issues of wider concern." According to Board guidelines, entities that educate about or perpetuate culture, history and heritage are prime candidates for funding, as are those promoting economic and social assistance to the needy.

"These gifts are in keeping both with the Society's cultural imperatives and knightly beneficent obligations," notes *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro. "The Society acts as a 'moral center' sharing awareness. Thus, these \$1,000 mini grants do not so much represent financial largess as, rather, a sign of the interest and esteem for the particular grantee," the Society's president noted.

"It is a moral identification that is meant to focus attention on worthwhile endeavors and, hopefully, encourage further monetary support by others."

"The Society's mini grant program is a two-fold ongoing one," Ambassador Secchia observed. "It concentrates on culture, providing seed support for pro-

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Tribute to Italy's Diplomats Huge Success

Continuing an annual tradition, the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit reception in favor of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps was held at the Society's Columbus Townhouse headquarters in midtown Manhattan during May. Some 150 *cavalieri* joined with ranking Italian officials for the occasion. They mingled with ambassadors from Italy's neighbors, nations bordering Italy - - over the Alps in the Mediterranean, and along the Adriatic - - in tribute. The Townhouse's ornate and flower bedecked reception rooms provided the perfect setting for the sounds of piano music and the clinking of cocktail glasses. On hand with the Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the United Nations were representatives of Albania, Algeria, Bosnia, Croatia, Malta, Montenegro, San Marino and Tunisia, as well as Eritrea, Italy's former colony in Africa.

Opening with a "Prayer for Peace" intoned by *Gr. Uff.* H.E. Nicholas Di Marzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, the evening paid "public acclaim for exemplary performance" by all those assigned to the Italian Embassy in Wash-

The Society is an important American situs for conveying the shared interests of both nations to a wider audience.

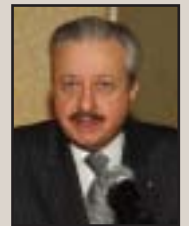
ington, D.C., the Italian Mission at the United Nations in New York, and the various Italian consular and specialized offices throughout the United States, all of whom were invited guests.

Acknowledging "the leadership of the Ambassador of Italy to the United States, H.E. Giovanni Castellaneta; the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata; and on behalf of all consulates general, the Consul General of Italy in New York, *Comm.* Hon. Francesco M. Talò," *Cav. Di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Society, opened: "Appreciation is the theme tonight... approval and acknowledgment for the high level of service rendered by the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps. Such performance surely does Italy proud, but it also brings pride to the Italian American community. We embrace them with sincere affection - - seasoned professionals who keep the machinery of the Embassy, the Mission and the consular offices moving in fulfillment of their respective mandates."

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Bishop Di Marzio prays ...



Justice Massaro welcomes ...



Admiral Giambastiani remarks ...



Ambassador Terzi responds ...

Charities Board Reconvening

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grammatic creation, expansion and/or improvement while at the same time seeking to remediate need, particularly as found in some of Italy's less fortunate neighboring countries."



Cav. di Gran Croce
Ambassador Peter F.
Secchia

While grant proposals may be submitted at anytime, the Board convenes each Fall to consider potential awardees. Recipients must be non-profit organizations and not prior grantees.

A brief cover letter on the organization's letterhead addressed to the Society commences the application procedure. The package should include proof of non-profit status, a brief description of the organization's history and mission, and a detailed summary of the request, including its goals and objectives. Importantly, organizational expectations regarding other sources of monetary support resulting from a Society grant should be indicated. A name and phone number of the contact person for the proposal should be listed as well. ♦

Rabbi Named Grand Officer



Rabbi Arthur Schneir, one of the most distinguished representatives of the Jewish American community long identified with defending human rights and strengthening interfaith dialogue, is shown with Italian Consul General Francesco M. Talò as a new Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity. The rabbi, spiritual director of New York's Park East Synagogue for over 40 years, coordinates the annual remembrance of Italian Jews lost in the Holocaust. ♦

Envoy Lectures



Italy's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, enlightened a Montclair State University assembly on Italy's role in the world body. Seen on the occasion (from left): Italian Consul in Newark Andrea Barbaria; Ambassador Terzi and his wife, Dott.ssa Antonella Cinque; Consul General of Italy in New York, Francesco M. Talò; and Montclair State University Provost, Dr. Willard P. Gingerich. ♦



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Prince Carlo Succeeds Father



Prince Carlo de Borbone

His Royal Highness Prince Carlo de Borbone, Duke of Calabria, now Duke of Castro, has succeeded on the death of his father to the headship of the Royal House of Bourbon Two Sicilies. The Society dispatched an expression of good will to his Secretariat on the Via Sistina in Rome.

As Head of the House, the Prince is automatically the Grand Master of all House Orders, which include the Royal Order of Saint Januarius and the Royal Order of Francis I; best known in the United States is the Constantinian Order. Officially known as the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George, since 1734 it has been inseparably linked with the House, which reigned at Naples from 1734 to 1860. One of the great Italian dynastic Orders of Chivalry, its origins lie with the Byzantine Emperors.

Embraced by the Papacy following the fall of Constantinople in 1453, it received numerous marks of favor from the Holy See, and was raised to a religious military order of the Roman Catholic Church in 1576. In 1693, the Order's knights relieved the siege of Vienna in the struggle to save Europe from the Turks. Ceded to the Duke of Parma, it passed by inheritance to the Kings of the Two Sicilies. With the fall of the Kingdom to Garibaldi in 1860, the unification of Italy that followed deprived the Order of its territorial properties, but King Francis II (1859-1860) retained its Grand Magistracy as a dynastic or family order independent of the Crown, its headship a hereditary right which attaches to the person of the Head of the Royal House. Prince Carlo is the great grandson of King Francis.

Born in Saint-Raphaël, France, in 1963, he studied at the Institute of the Marist Fathers in Toulon, the College Stanislas in Nice and the Université Internationale Libre of Paris. Thereafter, he worked for three years in public relations in New York. Returning to Italy now fluent in English as well as in Italian and French, Prince Carlo carried out several professional assignments for Italian industrial interests. For many years he took an active role in the management of the family's various business endeavors and estates.

As Grand Prefect, he personally directed the charitable and humanitarian activities of the Constantinian Order internationally. Awarded numerous state and dynastic orders over the years, he holds nine grand crosses, including those of the republics of Costa Rica, Lebanon, Panama, Syria and Yemen in addition to that of Italy. He is Bailiff Grand Cross of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

In 1998, as Duke of Calabria, he married Camilla Crociani in Monte Carlo, who became Princess Camilla de Borbone, Duchess of Calabria. Their Royal Highnesses currently have two children, the young princesses Maria Carolina (2003) and Maria Chiara (2005). The baptism ceremony of their first child was conducted by His Eminence Mario Francesco Cardinal Pompedda, Prefect of the Holy See's Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Segnatura; it took place at the Royal Borbon Palace of Caserta, in Naples, with over seven hundred guests attending including many state and royal dignitaries from across the world. ♦

Path to Peace Dinner



Numerous *cavalieri* gathered at the United Nations for the Vatican's Path to Peace Foundation dinner. Above, Society president *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro and his wife are greeted by the Papal Nuncio, *Gr. Uff.* Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the world body. The jurist is also Knight Grand Cross of the Vatican's Order of St. Gregory the Great. ♦

Papal Orders

As a state, The Vatican continues to award knighthoods since the time of the Crusades. Today, these Papal Orders include the Order of Pius IX, the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, and the Order of Saint Stephen Pope and Martyr. Each is given in the name of the Pope as Sovereign of the Holy See. They mirror awards made by states to distinguish those deemed worthy of recognition, in these instances "for outstanding services to the Church and unswerving loyalty to the Sovereign Pontiff and the Holy See." ♦

New Swiss Guards



The latest recruits to the Swiss Guards, the oldest army in the world, have sworn their oath of allegiance to Pope Benedict XVI at a ceremony in Vatican City. Founded in 1506 by Pope Julius II, the Swiss Guards traditionally take their oath on May 6 to recall the deaths of 147 guards during the Sack of Rome by Emperor Charles V in 1527. Only 42 guards survived the attack and ensured that Pope Clement VII escaped the ignominy of capture. The oath ceremony takes place with top church officials and representatives from the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See in attendance. The new guards maintain the number now limited to 110. The recruits are drawn from Swiss towns and villages which for centuries have provided the Pope's personal mercenaries. ♦

Pacific Focus



Comm. Frank J. De Santis, the Society's Pacific regional vice president (at left) confers with Italian Consul General Fabrizio Marcelli in San Francisco to promote increased interaction with *cavalieri* residing there. At right, *Comm.* Joseph Simile, Sr. ♦



Forty *cavalieri* gathered at the Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles to focus on identifying worthwhile projects to support in the Pacific region. Seen (from left): *Comm.* Joseph Cerrell, Pacific regional vice president *Comm.* Frank J. De Santis, Society directors *Cav.* Marie Leonetti-Tyler and *Comm.* Robert Barbera, Los Angeles Italian Consul General Nicola Faganello (who sponsored the meeting) and Cultural Institute director Francesca Valente. ♦

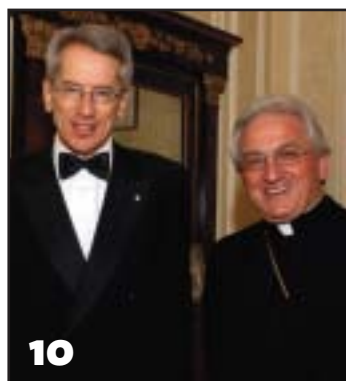
Terzi Dinner Party

Continuing a biennial tradition of welcoming the Society's new administration, Italy's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, *Gr. Uff.* Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, hosted a dinner in favor of Society officers at the Ambassador's residence in New York.

Observing "the great honor of keeping this tradition alive," the ambassador commented on "this special brand of Italian American leadership that has the ability to interpret the very best of what Italy has to offer while, at the same

moment, representing Italy's own choice of her very best in America."

Thanking the ambassador "for this continuing sign of solidarity," *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Society, noted "it is central to the Society's purpose to maintain the traditional bonds of friendship and goodwill between our countries through informed discussion on all appropriate levels that the shared interests of both the United States and Italy be realized." ♦



1. Ambassador Terzi greets Society regional vice president for the Mid Atlantic, *Cav. Dr.* **Thomas** and **Theresa Bellavia**

2. Ambassador and Mrs. Terzi with Society President Emerita, *Comm.* **RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo**, the Society's Chief of Protocol, and *Cav.* **Michael L. Santangelo, Esq.** (in center).

3. *Il Cavaliere* publisher and Society Director, *Comm.* **Stefano E.B. Acunto** with Ambassador Terzi.

4. The Society's Counselor, *Comm.* **George M. Pavia, Esq.** and **Antonia Pavia** being greeted by the Ambassador's wife, *Dott.essa* **Antonella Cinque**.

5. *Comm.* Consul General of Italy in New York, **Francesco M. Talò**

6. At the dinner table

7. In the living room

8. The Society's Immediate Past President, *Uff.* **Joseph Sciame**

9. *Cav. di Gran Croce Dr.* **Lucio Caputo**

10. Ambassador Terzi with the Society's Ecclesiastical Chaplain, the Papal Nuncio, *Gr. Uff.* Archbishop **Celestino Migliore**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the United Nations

11. **Ornella Talò**



Tribute to Italy's Diplomats Huge Success

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Special note was made of the roles of *Cav. di Gran Croce* Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani "who graciously chairs tonight's event," Society president emerita *Comm.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, "who serves as chief of protocol and whose special talents are much needed this evening, with so many ranking personalities, diplomatic and chivalric, in attendance, and "particular gratitude extended to Vincent Viola," Justice Massaro stated, "more recently Chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange, who has graciously underwritten this evening's program and serves as our host."

In a message from Washington, Ambassador Castellaneta expressed "my great appreciation to the Society... tonight is testimony to the important bond between Italy and the United States, and the constancy of underlying mutual respect and collaboration with the Society an important interlocutor, also in service to the land of our heritage."

"The Society, of course, plays its role well," Justice Massaro stated in his welcome. He highlighted "it is an important American situs for conveying the shared interests of both nations to a wider audience." And, indeed, "whenever the best interests of the United States can be better served with an Italian patina, the Society has stood and continues to stand ready to articulate for these best interests."

Admiral Giambastiani expressed "exceptional pleasure in being with you on this important occasion." He noted "particular favorable impression with the excellent turnout of ambassadors from Italy's neighbors throughout the Mediterranean," adding "I am delighted to engage not only them, but also the multiple officials posted to the United Nations here in attendance, and, of course, the military attaches."

The Admiral stated that he was pleased to return to New York after being honored as the Grand Marshal of last October's

Columbus Day Parade. He complimented Italian Americans on their wide-ranging dispersion in society and their dedication to the United States and Italy. He remarked on the Italian Armed Forces' contribution to NATO and other peace-keeping initiatives as well as reminded all of Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet that aided Messina, Sicily, after the massive earthquake of 1909 - - 100 years ago! He also expressed his great sympathy for the losses of the recent devastating earthquake in L'Aquila for which the United States has offered "its assistance to its friend in rebuilding efforts."

"It is important to have friends - - not just for individuals, but for allies within the international community: 'chi trova un amico, trova un tesoro,'" he concluded.

Ambassador Terzi observed on the part of Italian officialdom: "The annual gathering in favor of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps takes on added meaning with many of Italy's neighbors and special friends, whose ambassadors join us tonight... it is with their support that Italy brokers cooperation in furtherance of the international goals of peace, security and the rule of law. The Society and, of course, its president, its officers, its cavalieri in whom Italy places special trust, is to be congratulated for what it does on behalf of the land of origin. It is a vital collaborative link between the community of Italians in the United States and the cultural, economic, social and political realities of Italy today."

Addressing the cavalieri directly, the ambassador added: "Each of you in your respective fields of endeavor - - epitomized by admired, valued and respected individuals like Bishop Di Marzio, Admiral Giambastiani and Justice Massaro - - has reached high levels of your calling, clearly equating Americans of Italian descent with American ascendancy. That Italy enjoys such supporters is gratifying indeed." ♦



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1. *Comm.* **Lawrence E. Auriana**

2. **Patricia Vellella**

3. Uff. **Joseph Sciame** and *Comm.* Consul General **Francesco M. Talò**

4. *Cav.* **Salvatore M. Salibello**

5. *Cav.* **Theodore H. Jacobsen** and *Cav.* **Roy L. De Barbieri, Esq.**



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6. Cav. Msgr. **Ronald T. Marino**

7. Cav. Dr. **Thomas Bellavia**, Cav. **Jack Di Piazza** and Cav. **Anthony Gagliotti**

8. Ambassador **Adrian Neritani** of Albania

9. Dr. **Francesca Verga** and Cav. Dr. **Riccardo Strano**

10. Uff. Justice **Eugene L. Nardelli**

11. Cav. **Joseph V. Del Raso**, Esq.

12. Cav. **Thomas** and **Angelina Pecora**

13. Major General **Giulio Ferrari**

14. Ambassador **Nebojsa Kaludjerovic** of Montenegro and Ambassador **Gianluigi Valenza**

15. Comm. **RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo**

16. **Vivian Cardia**

17. Cav. Deputy Consul General **Giovanni Favilli**

18. Dr. **Alfio Russo**

19. Gr. Uff. **Marco Cangialosi**

20. Comm. **Stefano E.B. Acunto**



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- 21. Cav. Dr. **Domenico Mignone**
- 22. Uff. **Aldo and Lisa Mancusi**
- 23. Gr. Uff. Ambassador **Giulio and Antonella Terzi**
- 24. Cav. Chief **Daniel A. Nigro**
- 25. Gr. Uff. Ambassador **Daniele Bodini** of San Marino and Gr. Uff. Archbishop **Celestino Migliore**, the Papal Nuncio
- 26. Cav. **Louis Massimo M. and Jocelyn Micolucci**, KMS
- 27. Ambassador **Gian Lorenzo Cornado**
- 28. **Guy and Lois Lodico**
- 29. Colonel **Giuseppe and Krista H. Coco**
- 30. Gr. Uff. Bishop **Nicholas Di Marzio** and Gr.

- Uff. Dr. **Angelo Gimondo**
- 31. Ambassador **Ivan Barbalic** of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 32. Uff. Justice **Marie L. Garibaldi** and Dean **Elizabeth Defffeis**, Esq.
- 33. Cav. **Antonio Rummo**, KHS and Comm. Dr. **Vincento Zuccarelli**, KCHS
- 34. Deputy Consul **Marco Alberti**
- 35. **Susy Musella**

Photos by Vito Catalano



Dialects and The Unity of Italy

By Francesco Nicotra*

There was not a single participant from the Northern League at this year's traditional holiday parade held on 2 June in Rome to celebrate the founding of the Italian Republic. This despite the presence of senior members of the party who serve in the present government, including the Minister of the Interior, Hon. Roberto Maroni, and the party's founder and leader, Hon. Umberto Bossi, who is the Minister for Institutional Reform. By declining to participate, the League is yet again underlining its identity as the party backing autonomy, the one that only embraces the concept of Italy as a united state if it operates within a strictly federal framework. The League has increased its efforts to bring about autonomy in recent times. One of its latest initiatives has been to draft a law that makes it obligatory for elementary and middle schools to teach local dialects, while another proposal set out within the same law would give the Education Minister the authority to increase the number of dialects to be promoted and protected within the national education system. According to the League, the teaching of dialects is an inevitable consequence of federalism, as inferred from the system extant in the Spanish region of Catalonia, on which the League has modeled its own proposal.

The Education Minister's latest report on the use of dialects reveals that some 194 school projects focusing on the issue have already been funded: 25 of these are centered on children who come from the Albanian speaking minority, one is for those who speak Croatian, four are for French speakers, and 58 are for those who come from the Friulian speaking minority, while a further five cater for the German speaking minority, 11 for Greek speakers, ten focus on Ladino (a Judaic-Spanish language primarily spoken among Sephardic Jews), 17 on Occitan (a

Romance language originating in Southern France and spoken in part of Calabria), 52 on Sardinian, considered to be a language in its own right, and 11 are for those speaking Slovene. Friuli is the region running the lion's share of these projects - - some 72 in all, followed by Sardinia with 52, 18 in Calabria, 15 in Piedmont, 13 in Apulia and 10 in the Veneto.

It is apparent, sadly, that Italian as a first language is losing ground in several of the country's regions. According to a study published by Franco Angeli, based on research carried out by Professors Santipolo and Tucciarone in Bari and Venice, respectively, over the last twenty years the Veneto in particular has redefined its dialect as a veritable "we-code" - - something that defines the collective identity - - to the extent that practically all of the 1,030 adults interviewed (all of whom had school-age children) described themselves as being bi-lingual. Indeed, 68% of younger mothers all speak to their children in dialect.

If it is true that the most important factor to unify a people is a common language, then next year's 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy will take place in a confused and bewildered nation in the midst of an identity crisis. Several esteemed writers and academics have pointed out that promoting the concept of the compulsory study of dialects in schools is somewhat absurd as these often vary quite considerably from one part of a region to the next, and what is more, it could lead to Italy turning into a sort of national Tower of Babel like no other anywhere else in the world. Others stress that while the use of dialects need not be discouraged, it is important to ensure that Italian is studied with greater intensity, given that all too often the Italian spoken by younger members of society is full of howling errors. The fact that English is becom-



FRANCESCO NICOTRA

ing ever more important should also not be overlooked. It has after all become the indispensable international language, although when it comes to teaching it, Italy is lagging behind.

Even so, setting aside the League's provocative initiatives and the question of dialects for a moment, it does not seem as if the unity of the nation is really under threat. It is true that the reasons behind the Risorgimento are beginning to get lost in the mists of time and that much of the history relating to that period has been rewritten, but nobody is seriously considering a return to an Italy divided into a collection of smaller and larger states that would considerably weaken its position among its European partners.

That said, it should also not be forgotten that the Northern League, which is after all part of the governing coalition headed by Silvio Berlusconi's *Popolo della Libertà*, is gaining support beyond its traditional catchment area and this is thanks to several measures successfully introduced by ministers drawn from its ranks. The use of the navy to intercept the convoys of illegal immigrants from North Africa is one of them, and one that has full European support to boot! Another focuses on the security of our cities which have, in recent years, experienced an increase in the crime rate - - robberies and rapes in particular - - that can be attributed to out-of-work immigrants who have entered the country illegally. Yet another factor is the huge blows inflicted by the forces of law and order on organized crime in the country's southern regions, carried out as a result of the

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In Memoriam...

Uff. Michael Stern
NEW YORK

Cav. Joseph A. Giamboi
NEW YORK

John Marchi, Senator 50 Years



Comm. Senator John J. Marchi

Comm. Senator John J. Marchi, whose 50 years representing Staten Island in the New York State Senate arguably made him the longest-serving legislator in the nation's history, died while on vacation in Lucca, Italy. He was 87.

Sen. Marchi, a supporter of many Church priorities in Albany, was honored in retirement with the New York State Catholic Conference's 2007 Cardinal O'Connor Award for Extraordinary Service. The first layman to receive the award, he was cited especially for his commitment to the dignity of human life and Catholic education. Among his honors, a new Staten Island ferry was christened in his name in 2004, and in 2006 a building on the campus of the College of Staten Island, which he helped to develop, was named for him.

Sen. Marchi, a Republican who often ran with the backing of Democrats as well, retired in 2006 after an exceptionally active legislative career. A pro-life legislator, he consistently opposed abortion, the death penalty and physician-assisted suicide. He introduced legislation to provide tax relief to parents of public and nonpublic school children, and fought New York City's plan to distribute condoms in public high schools. He also sought to enact a legal definition of the term "family" in its traditional sense after a ruling in 1989 expanded the definition to include unrelated couples of the same or opposite sex.

He tirelessly championed his beloved borough, sponsoring a 1995 bill that would have allowed Staten Island to secede from New York City. But at the same time he was a strong advocate for the city, crafting laws that saved it from bankruptcy in the mid-1970's and making forceful arguments for federal loan guarantees to a reluctant Republican administration in Washington.

Sen. Marchi drew citywide notice in 1969, during a time of racial tensions and anti-war protests, by challenging incumbent Mayor John V. Lindsay, a liberal Republican, for their party's nomination. In an upset primary victory, Sen. Marchi won the Republican line in the mayoral election, but Lindsay was re-elected on the Liberal Party line in a three-way race. A second race for mayor in 1973 was lost.

In statements on Sen. Marchi, New York City Mayor Bloomberg called him "one of the true giants of public life," and Gov. Patterson praised him as "a great public servant."

Sen. Marchi was born on Staten Island to Italian immigrants from Lucca, in Tuscany. He attended Catholic schools, where a nun suggested he use the name John instead of Giovanni. He graduated from Manhattan College and earned law degrees at St. John's University and Brooklyn Law School. He served with the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II on antisubmarine duty in the Atlantic, and with the U.S. Navy in the Okinawa campaign in the Pacific.

The public official is survived by his wife and two daughters. ♦

Sorriso Named Grande Ufficiale

Italian Consul Andrea Barbaria confers the *Grande Ufficiale della Solidarietà Italiana* on businessman Augusto Sorriso in Newark. Born in Sicily where he served as mayor of his home town, he came to the United States in 1994. A member of the General Council for Italians Abroad (CGIE), he is a co-founder of Sicilians in New Jersey.



HELPCORNER

Cavalieri who may wish to receive recognition by and parity in another order of knighthood are invited to write: Chief of Protocol, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, Eight East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021. (Please include a telephone number.)

Confidential advice is available respecting qualification and sponsorship for any number of recognized dynastic, religious and/or confraternal orders of chivalry for those desirous of informing themselves about same.

Hold the Date...

Thursday
December 3, 2009
44th Annual Meeting

Friday
December 4, 2009
44th Annual Dinner

New York City



Dialects and the Unity of Italy

CONTINUED FROM 9

firm and decisive leadership of Interior Minister Maroni, who is, as previously mentioned, an important member of the League's hierarchy.

All of these successes have inevitably increased the public's faith in the State, although some say that the basic problem faced by Italy today remains unchanged and that the country will never truly be united until the South manages to shake loose the grip of organized crime that stands in the way of development and is the reason that the Northern regions want to keep their distance. ♦

• *A keen and balanced observer of the Italian scene, Francesco Nicotra is the publisher of Italy Italy magazine. His articles often appear in leading media outlets on both sides of the Atlantic.*

Cavalieri *in the news...*

Cav. Arthur J. Furia, Esq. (Florida) promoted Ufficiale in the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity

Gr. Uff. Hon. Frank J. Guarini, Esq. (New Jersey) honored with campus naming by John Cabot University in Rome

Cav. Theodore H. Jacobsen (New York) invested with the Most Venerable Order of St. John

Cav. Angelo A. Secacca, KHS (New York) promoted Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Uff. Nicholas Spilotro (New York) honored with the Covello Award of the Italian Teachers Association

Cav. Hon. Francesco M. Talò (New York) promoted *Commendatore dell' Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana*

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

Editor, *Il Cavaliere*, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit
Eight East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021.

Cronaca

Since his election by acclamation on November 29, 2004, the President of the Society, Cav. di Gran Croce Hon. Dominic R. Massaro, continues to represent it at the following chivalric, diplomatic and beneficent events:

April 3, 2009: by invitation of *Comm.* Hon. Francesco M. Talò, Consul General of Italy in New York, on the occasion of a reception in favor of the Italian Minister of Justice Hon. Angelino Alfano.

April 8, 2009: by invitation of H.E. Adrian Neritani, Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations, on the occasion of a social dinner party.

April 16, 2009: by invitation of *Gr. Uff.* H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, on the occasion of a social dinner party.

April 17, 2009: by invitation of *Gr. Uff.* H.E. Ceslestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, on the occasion of a reception commemorating the first anniversary of the visit of H.H. Pope Benedict XVI.

April 21, 2009: by invitation of *Comm.* Hon. Francesco M. Talò, Consul General of Italy in New York, on the occasion of the conferral "Grande Ufficiale dell' Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana" on Rabbi Arthur Schneider.

April 29, 2009: by invitation of *Comm.* Hon. Francesco M. Talò, Consul General of Italy in New York, on the occasion of convening the advisory board for the Italian American Digital Project.

April 29, 2009: by invitation of Hon. Aniello Musella, Italian Trade Commissioner for North America, on the occasion of a dinner in favor of the presentation "Mille Miglia 2009."

May 13, 2009: by invitation of *Comm.* Marco Grassi, President of the American Foundation of Savoy Orders, on the occasion of the Festa della Primavera, under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Victor Emanuel of Savoy.

May 13, 2009: by invitation of *Cav. di Gran Croce* Dr. Lucio Caputo, President, Gruppo Esponenti Italiani (GEI), on the occasion of a luncheon in favor of Italian Minister of Environment Hon. Stefania Prestigiacomo.

May 20, 2009: by invitation of *Gr. Uff.* H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, on the occasion of a dinner in favor of the Accademia Italiana della Cucina.

June 10, 2009: by invitation of *Gr. Uff.* Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, on the occasion of a dinner in favor of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit.

June 23, 2009: by invitation of *Comm.* Francesco M. Talò, Consul General of Italy in New York, on the occasion of a farewell luncheon for Deputy Consul General Giovanni Favilli.

Justice Minister in New York



Receiving the Italian Minister of Justice, Hon. Angelino Alfano (center), at the Consulate General in New York (standing from left): *Uff.* Nicola Arena, *Comm.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, *Cav.* Deputy Salvatore Ferrigno, *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro, *Cav.* Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo, Minister Alfano, *Comm.* Consul General Francesco Maria Talò, *Uff.* Joseph Sciame, *Gr. Uff.* Silvana Mangione, *Cav.* Girolamo Puccio, *Comm.* Prof. Carlo Sclafani and *Cav.* Mario D'Elia. ♦

Did You Know?

To date, President Barack Obama has named seven Italian Americans to important posts in his administration. John Podesta, former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, co-chaired Mr. Obama's transition team.

Alyssa Mastromonaco, a former congressional press secretary, is now the White House director of scheduling and advance planning. James Messina, a former Senate aide, is the White House deputy chief of staff. Janet Napolitano, governor of Arizona, is Secretary of Homeland Security. Former Congressman Leon Panetta is head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Daniel Tarullo, professor of economics at Georgetown University, is a member of the Federal Reserve Board. And Philip Schirilo, a former congressional chief of staff, is now the White House director of legislative affairs.

Also, currently two men of Italian descent serve as governors: John Baldacci in Maine and Joseph Manchin, III, who was re-elected in West Virginia. ♦