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IL CAVALIERE

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

Fini, Pelosi Accept Society Medal



The 2009 Gold Medal of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit has been presented to the Honorable Gianfranco Fini, Speaker of the Chamber of

Deputies of the Italian Parliament. Speaker Fini joins a sterling list of prior recipients, including his American coun-

*You, Gianfranco Fini,
have given long
and splendid service
to the Republic . . .
articulator of a
conservative political
agenda . . . prime
spokesman for
ordered liberty.*

terpart, 2008 designee Speaker Pelosi, as well as President Napolitano (2007), President Bush (2006) and President Ciampi (2005).

Struck by the Society as a chivalric medal to commemorate its Fortieth Anniversary in 2005, the Gold Medal is its highest accord. It is reserved for heads of state and personages of similar station: heads of government, of supreme organs of state, of thrones, principalities and sovereign entities internationally recognized. Speaker Fini, like Speaker Pelosi before

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Annual Gathering Set for New York

The upcoming Annual Dinner of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2009, at The Union League Club in New York City. *Cavalieri* throughout the United States will come together for the black tie gathering. It will open with a gala cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, and a concert followed by dinner.

The annual event will be under the high patronage of H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, newly posted as Italy's ambassador in Washington, D.C. The din-

*The dinner will
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American
University of Rome.*

ner will also celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the American University of Rome. Leading *decorati* drawn from all walks of life will mix with members of the diplomatic corps from Italy and neighboring countries. The formal din-



COMM. ROSEMARIE GALLINA-SANTANGELO

ner is the culmination of the Society's annual gathering (December 3-4), which will feature business and social events at the Consulate General of Italy, the Columbus Townhouse and The Union League Club.

Overall chair for the two-day program is *Comm.* Rosemarie Gallina-Santangelo, Society president emerita.

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Revisiting: The Union League Club

Site of the Society's annual dinner since 2007, The Union League Club will, by popular demand, serve again this year. The prestigious venue was erected on the corner of Manhattan's Park Avenue and 37th Street in 1931; the structure was designed by noted architect Benjamin Wyster Morris. The Georgian exterior, with its symmetrical red brick facade, reflects familiar motifs of brownstone mansions that once lined the avenue, but on a multi-storied grand scale. The architectural ensemble formed by the entrance foyer and grand staircase stands as a New York landmark interior. The edifice contains 60 bedrooms for members and guests, a variety of meeting rooms for business and social functions, and one of the most extensive private reference libraries in New York City. The Union League is home to a distinguished art collection and features an on-going exhibit gallery. The fitness center features all the amenities of a first class sports club, including international squash courts. Its main ballroom is one of the most sought after in the city. ♦



Auriana Awardee



Numerous *cavalieri* joined the oldest local lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in American, Loggia Uguaglianza No. 83, of The Bronx, at the Consulate General of Italy in New York to witness the presentation of the lodge's 98th Anniversary "Equality Award" to *Comm.* Lawrence E. Auriana, chairman of the city's Columbus Citizens Foundation and president of Boys Town of Italy.

Shown at left presenting the award is *Cav. di Gran Croce* Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Society, who introduced the Wall Street mutual fund guru and philanthropist to the assembly. ♦

Kalikow Named *Commendatore*



Calling him "an exceptional leader when it comes to Italian culture and causes," Consul General Francesco M. Talò confers the rank of *Commendatore* on New York real estate developer Peter S. Kalikow. The philanthropist was specifically cited for his "long-time contribution to Italian car making as an art form," reflecting an over 40-year relationship with Ferrari as a collector, enthusiast and promoter. ♦

Valenzuela Farewell



Bidding farewell at Hudson Cliff House, the Yonkers home of *Comm.* Stefano E.B. Acunto, to Ambassador Fernando Valenzuela, Permanent Observer of the European Union to the United Nations are seen (L-R): Italian Consul General in New York Francesco M. Talò; Peruvian Ambassador Carlos Alzamora; Dr. Ernest Manaldino; Ambassador Valenzuela; *Comm.* Acunto and *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro. ♦

IL CAVALIERE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT



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Thorne to Rome; Terzi to Washington



David Thorne

David Thorne, of Boston, is America's new Ambassador in Rome. He has a lifelong connection to Italy, first residing there in 1953, when his father was appointed by President Eisenhower to administer the Marshall Plan for Italy. He grew up in Rome fluent in Italian and nurturing an appreciation for Italy's culture. After leaving the Foreign Service, his father published the *Rome Daily American*, established the Italian branch of Bankers Trust Company, and served as trustee of the American Academy in Rome. Ambassador Thorne continues to support the Academy until this day. During his years in Italy, the new appointee was infected by soccer. He played back home in college and continues to play league soccer.

Ambassador Thorne is co-founder of Adviser Investments, specializing in mutual funds. An investor and entrepreneur in a wide variety of business ventures, including marketing, real estate and financial services, he recently sold his publishing business to Martha Stewart. Ambassador Thorne is a former president of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. A graduate of Yale in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in American History, he received a masters in Journalism from Columbia in 1971. The envoy served in the U.S. Navy from 1966-1970 and is author of *The New Soldier* (Macmillan, 1971). He is married and has two children.

Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata transfers from New York to the nation's capital as Italy's new Ambassador to the United States. For the past year he has been serving as Italy's Permanent Representative at the United Nations. Well known to the Italian American leadership, he graduated in International Law from the University of Milan and joined the Italian Foreign Ministry in 1973. Before taking up his duties at the world body in 2008, Ambassador Terzi was Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry in Rome. With extensive previous assignments both at the Ministry and abroad, his foreign service posting include Ambassador to Israel (2002-04).



Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata

From 1993 to 1998, he was at the Mission of Italy to the U.N. in New York, under then Ambassador F. Paolo Fulci, now the Society's Special Representative in Rome. It was during this period that Italy was confronted with marginalization at the Security Council, the highest level of the world body. The issue led to cacophonous outcry from the organized Italian American leadership to the Clinton White House that United States interests would not be best served by supporting any such plan. This during a time when Ambassador Terzi worked in parallel with the Society in forestalling that occurrence. The issue was not pushed by the U.S. and never brought before the U.N. for a vote.

A *Grande Ufficiale* of Italy's Order of Merit, the ambassador's hobbies are chess, cycling and swimming. He is the father of two-year-old twins: a boy and a girl. ♦



Mini Grants Top \$200,000.00

For a fourth year, the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit will award fifty \$1,000 mini grants to focus attention on worthwhile endeavors that comport with its constituted purpose. It will raise to \$200,000 the amount awarded under the program since it was launched in 2006. According to *Cav. di Gran Croce* Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, of Michigan, chair of the Society's Charities Board, "the Board continues to increase attention to humanitarian endeavors, more particularly in countries bordering Italy, especially where children are involved."

Assisting Ambassador Secchia with the Charities Board task are: *Cav.* John F. Calvelli, Esq., of New York, executive vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society; *Cav.* Cesar Taormina, of New York, building and real estate developer; and *Uff.* Senator Renato G. Turano, of Illinois.

"It must always be remembered," said Society President, *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Masaro, that the mini grant program "does not so much represent financial largess as, rather, a sign of the interest and esteem of the Society for the particular grantee ... a moral identification with efforts that go toward a wider appreciation of the Italian cultural contribution, as well as symbolic but nonetheless direct assistance by way of beneficence for the needy and less fortunate." The jurist stated that the Society serves as a "moral center" in sharing awareness, generating appreciation and encouraging further support by others.

While the Board is still vetting potential 2009 grantees, approved thus far are:

Abruzzo Relief Fund (Washington, D.C.), for focusing attention on rebuilding the region's infrastructure;
 American Italian Communications (Washington, D.C.), for movement of facilities to the internet;
 Association for the Support of Persons with Mental/Physical Development Disabilities (Montenegro), for humanitarian concern for the disabled in Italy's neighbor;
 Center for Italian and Italian American Culture (New Jersey), for preserving and promoting the culture and heritage of Italy;
 Consulate of Italy Cultural Bridge (New Jersey), for developing a network for sharing cultural exhibits and programs;
 Federazione Siciliana del New Jersey (New Jersey) for promoting relations between Sicily and New Jersey;
 Fieri National (New York), for celebrating FIERI's 25th Anniversary;

Fondazione Azzurra (California), for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Marinetti's "Futurist Manifesto";

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts (New York), for encouraging children in the performing arts;

I Giullari di Piazza (New York), for performing Italian folk music and dance;

Institute for Education/Professional Rehabilitation of Children and Young People with Disabilities (Montenegro), for humanitarian concern for the disabled in Italy's neighbor;

Istituto Professionale de Canossa (Rome), for rural schooling of children in third world countries;

Italian American Civic League (Utah), for providing needy children with proper school clothing and books;

Italian Cultural Center (Illinois), for augmenting material on the Italian American contribution to the defense of the United States;

Italian Journal (New York), for relaunching a scholarly publication of binational social and business concerns;

Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America (New York), for promoting research and development interaction toward the betterment of the human condition;

Italian Wine & Food Institute (New York), for the translating of literature to further strengthen the understanding of Italian culture;

Italidea (Illinois), for organizing "Italian School Day" as a form for learning at the University of Illinois;

Mission San Juan Capistrano (California), for an Italian language audio tour project;

National Italian American Academy (Washington, D.C.), for highlighting the values of classical education;

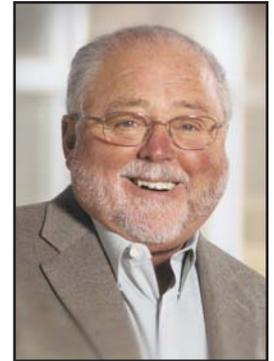
National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame (Illinois), for continuing the Italian American legacy in sports;

Philip Mazzei Association (Florence), for producing a docu-drama video about Antonio Meucci;

Resource Center Italiano (Arizona), for creating an administrative support system to enhance cultural education;

Roman Academy (New York), for launching an Italian interdisciplinary program aimed at school age children;

St. John's University (New York), for printing materials in celebration of Italian Heritage and Culture Month. ♦



*Cav. di Gran Croce
Ambassador Peter F. Secchia*



Cav. John F. Calvelli, Esq.



*Uff. Senator Renato
G. Turano*



Cav. Cesare Taormina



Fini, Pelosi Accept Society Medal

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Cav. di Gran Croce Dominic R. Massaro (at left), President of the Society, presents its Gold Medal to Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Gianfranco Fini, in Rome.

him, enjoys leadership in the Legislature, one of the three branches of both the United States and Italian Government.

With arrangements concluded by *Cav. di Gran Croce* H.E. F. Paolo Fulci, the Society's Special Representative in Rome,

You, Nancy Pelosi, are the essence of achieving womanhood . . . the first of your gender and of our heritage to reach the heights . . . a steady and liberal hand of leadership.

Ambassador Fulci accompanied a delegation headed by Society President *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro, which was received at Parliament to make the presentation.

Intoning the recipient as "a political leader of the first rank, Member of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs," Justice Massaro observed "as President of the Chamber of Deputies you are Speaker of the popular house of the legislative branch of Italian governance." Citing "long and splendid service to the Republic," he credited Fini as Italy's "foremost articulator of a conservative political agenda and the prime spokesperson for ordered liberty . . . an exponent of principles fundamental and crucial to the underpinnings of a democratic state."

The occasion updated Speaker Fini on the Society's efforts in the diplomatic arena, as well as noting its increasing levels of charitable beneficence, its work for Italian language and cultural preservation and its wider concern for humanitarian causes,

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Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy D. Pelosi (center left) receives the Society's Gold Medal from *Cav. di Gran Croce* Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Society.

Pictured at the Washington event (from left): *Comm.* Joseph Colagiovanni, Esq., *Cav.* Giuseppe A. Cicala, *Uff.* Rev. Lydio F. Tomasi, *Cav.* Alfonso Panico, *Cav. di Gran Croce* Ambassador Giovanni Castellaneta, *Cav.* John F. Calvelli, Speaker Pelosi, Justice Massaro, *Comm.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, *Comm.* Dr. Aileen Riotto Sirey, and *Comm.* Carmelo Cicala.

Fini, Pelosi Accept Society Medal

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particularly in Italy's neighboring countries.

Also attending the Rome event were *Comm.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, the Society's protocol chief, *Cav.* Joseph Del Raso, Esq., and *Cav.* Michael L. Santangelo, Esq.

In the instance of the Honorable Nancy D. Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, Justice Massaro observed at her presentation at the Capitol in Washington, "you were born into a family tradition of public service" (her father likewise served in Congress and later as Mayor of Baltimore, as was her brother) . . . "daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, you are, in addition and nonetheless, the essence of achieving womanhood, the first of the your gender and of our heritage alike [not only] to reach the heights in direct line of succession to the presidency of the United States, but also to apply with high comportment and

sterling rectitude a steady liberal hand of leadership in legislating for the best interests of our beloved commonweal."

On the occasion, Speaker Pelosi was informed of the Society's continuing concern for the dignity of the human persona and for the preservation of the Italian language both at the primary and secondary school levels as well as advance placement credits for students pursuing higher education.

The medal, which is a full size medallion, depicts the Great Seal of the United States, indicative of the American quality of the Society, with the Society's name in the round. The reverse is inscribed with the recipient's name. Suspended by a ribbon suitable for neck collar wear, it features both the Italian and American colors, symbolic of the shared values and traditional bonds between the two nations. A miniature of the medallion, likewise a chivalric medal, is available to Society members who may wish to display it whenever invitations call for the wearing of decorations. ♦



Courtesy Call

Received at the United States Embassy in Rome for a courtesy call on H.E. David Thorne, America's new Ambassador to Italy, the society delegation included (from left): *Cav.* Michael L. Santangelo, Esq., *Comm.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, *Amb.* Thorne, *Cav.* di Gran Croce Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Society, and *Comm.* Joseph Del Raso, Esq. The 40-minute discussion touched upon an array of issues important to continuing the strong U.S.-Italy partnership in the best interests of both nations. ♦

Italian Audio Tour

Los Angeles regional vice president Frank J. De Santis (second from left) presents a Society mini grant to Victoria Carabini, representing the San Juan Capistrano Mission. Pictured (from left): *Cav.* David A. Prisco, *Comm.* De Santis, Mrs. Carabini and Italian Consul General Nicola Faganello. The grant will fund an Italian language audio tour of the famed Mission ♦





Society Granted United Nations Status



The American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit has been formally granted special consultative status as a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

The status follows consultations with the world body's member states and on the heels of the Society's expanded grant program addressing humanitarian as well as cultural preservation concerns. Entitled to representatives at United Nations headquarters in New York, *Cav. di Gran Croce* Justice Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Society, has named *Gr. Uff.* Congressman Frank J. Guarini, a former United States delegate to the UN's General Assembly, and *Uff.* Commissioner Livia S. Sylva, former head of the New York City Commission on the United Nations and the Consular Corps to serve as Permanent Representative and Deputy Permanent Representative, respectively. *Cav.* John Leopoldo Fiorilla, Esq., who guided the designation through the qualifying process, will serve as counsel to the delegation. ♦



*Congressman
Frank J. Guarini*



*Uff. Commissioner
Livia S. Sylva*

Catalano Named Cavaliere

Vito Catalano, long time official photographer for *Il Cavaliere*, has been decorated with Italy's Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity. The "photographer of the community," according to Italian Consul General Francesco M. Talò, "always present at every private and public event of the huge Italian American presence in the Tri-State area, immortalizing with his camera over the course of 25 years of work, a true historical archival. Always professional, always discreet, Vito Catalano is loved and respected by all." ♦



*Cav. John Leopoldo
Fiorilla, Esq.*

Invitation to Eritrea

Members of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit will be received at the highest levels during a week long trip to the former Italian colony of Eritrea in January, 2010. Located on the horn of Africa, Eritrea was the first born of Italy's colonies and is home to the beautiful city of Asmara, often referred to as Piccola Roma for its quintessential Italian character and ambiance. Asmara boasts one of the largest collections of art deco architecture in the world, largely designed by avant garde Italian architects in the 1930's. The delegation will be studying ways to help preserve

this irreplaceable Italian architecture which still defines the city. A 2008 Society mini grant commenced the relationship.

The port city of Massawa and the town of Keren, sight of one of the largest battles of the East African campaign during World War II, will also be visited. The delegation will be led by Chicago's regional vice president *Comm.* Robert Allegrini and *Comm.* Dr. Sal Rotella, a native of Asmara. Final details are now being formulated. If you are interested in learning more, please contact *Comm.* Allegrini direct at 312-663-6516. ♦



Annual Gathering Set for New York

CONTINUED FROM COVER

She anticipates a “sell out.” Assisting her as dinner co-chairs: *Gr. Uff.* Marco Cangialosi, *Cav. di Gran Croce* Valerie E. Mastronardi, KGCHS, and *Uff.* Commissioner Livia S. Sylva. Ms. Vivian Cardia serves as silent auction chair and *Cav.* Richard Torrenzano as live auction chair.

Cav. di Gran Croce Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò of New York and Monte Carlo will again serve as the event’s honorary chair.

On Thursday, December 3, meetings of the Society’s board of directors and general membership, at the invitation of Italian Consul General Francesco M. Talò, will be held at the Consulate. A lecture, “The Venus Fixers: The Rescue of Italian Art During World War II,” chaired by *Comm.* Prof. Marco Grassi, will then be offered by journalist and author Ilaria Dagnini Brey at the Society’s Columbus Townhouse headquarters. This in turn will be followed by a reception hosted by *Comm.* Lawrence E. Auriana, chairman of the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

On the following evening, the reception, auctions, concert and annual dinner will be held in the main ballroom of The Union League Club. ♦

The American University of Rome

The American University of Rome is a private, independent, not-for-profit liberal arts university that uses Rome as its campus. Its roots were planted after the Second World War with increasing interest on the part of American students in Italian culture. Classes grew gradually, and AUR was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1969. 2009 marks its 40th Anniversary. Licensed as a degree-granting institution by the Education Licensure Commission in 1986, it has consistently been accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. AUR is the oldest degree-granting American university in Rome.

In 1993, AUR moved to its current site, a dedicated set of buildings in a prestigious neighborhood within walking distance of the center of “the Eternal City” - - an appealing combination of residential urban living and the amenities of cafes, shops and outdoor markets.

Today AUR enrolls some 500 students each semester, of which 40% are matriculating students and 60% (mostly Americans) are study abroad students. Small, selective and internationally recognized, 35 different nationalities are represented at AUR, coming from 40 countries on five continents. AUR prepares them to live and work across cultures as skilled and knowledgeable citizens of an interconnected and rapidly changing global community. ♦



Benvenuti Cavalieri

The President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano, “Head” of all Italian chivalric Orders, has decreed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following names for conferral of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity:



- Cav. Prof. Lucian Cardigno**
Texas
- Cav. Prof. Alessandro Carrera**
Texas
- Cav. Vito Catalano**
New York
- Cav. Luigi Cutraro**
Michigan

- Cav. Diego D’Ambrosio**
Virginia
- Cav. Dr. Ralph A. De Fronzo**
Texas
- Cav. Luisa Del Guidice**
California
- Gr. Uff. Dr. Walter Della Nebbia**
Texas
- Cav. Alessandro Di Bagno Guidi, Esq.**
Texas
- Cav. Italo Guidotti**
Texas
- Cav. Andrea Laguini**
California
- Cav. Roberto Marchesi**
Texas
- Cav. Cosimo Matassa**
Louisiana
- Cav. Paolo Nespoli**
Texas
- Cav. Dr. Fernando Stein**
Texas
- Cav. Luciano Topi, Esq.**
Texas



Negative Reporting About Italy

By Francesco Nicotra*



FRANCESCO NICOTRA

I have been a journalist for many years and have written for many Italian and American newspapers and periodicals and know many colleagues all over the world. Thus I feel comfortable in answering this question correctly: Why are some foreign reporters - - from important newspapers - - only interested in the negative aspects of Italy? Let's face it: I know Italy has its faults, peculiar to this country; and I also know that criticism is healthy, besides the fact that everyone has the right to criticize. But, ever since learning to read, I've found almost exclusively denigrating news about Italy from abroad.

So how do we explain this attitude, more often than not unjustified, as was seen again in occasion of the G8 at L'Aquila, which then was demonstrated to be an unquestioned international success for our country (and its Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi) despite the criticism of the day before? The first answer which comes to mind is an ancient common proverb which goes: "He who is the cause of his own misfortune must blame himself." Let me explain: Italians themselves have always had the deep-rooted habit of speaking badly of their own country and the Italian newspapers, not all but almost all, race to get this bad news published, forgetting and minimizing the credits and success of a country that has its place among the world's important nations, and keeps its first rate level in many fields.

As the primary news sources are the local papers it's quite clear that foreign correspondents will feed their readers with what they find, coloring it and dusting it up with old and by now completely groundless Italian stereotypes (pizza,

*Italians themselves
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deep-rooted habit of
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Italian newspapers
race to get this
bad news ...*

spaghetti, sex, mandolin and ... mafia). The former editor of the Economist, Bill Emmott, has recently admitted in an interview of the *Corriere della Sera*: "We can't wait to find an excuse to throw in the usual biased Italian cliché. We want to talk about sex, beautiful women and the Italian football mania ... and we love to mention the mafia ..."

I have been speaking only in a generalized manner up to this point. The news now is that a good number of the above-mentioned clichés have been brought up by foreign media in the days preceding the G8 in Aquila, on the trail of a relentless campaign driven by Italian newspapers of the opposition against Berlusconi, accused of having organized parties in his private residence and having invited a few beautiful girls.

The opposition has set up a sort of law court in "Inquisition" style against the premier who has been separated from his wife for a long time. With obsessive insistence they have published questions of personal matters "of the inquired" with the idea that he

would have been obligated to answer as a public figure, which Berlusconi did once and for all, denying with an oath sworn upon his children, to have ever committed crimes against the law, such as intimate relations with underage girls, which - - this was the objective of the left wing - - in fact would have compelled him to resign from his position as Head of Government.

Dabbling in gossip, the Italian left wing and certain foreign newspapers transformed themselves into a firing squad against Berlusconi and his government. A few foreign newspapers went as far as saying Italy should resign from the G8, others criticized the preparations for the encounter in L'Aquila, foreseeing a disaster, whereas the event was a total success, acknowledged by everyone, mainly due to Berlusconi's organizing skills.

We cannot be too surprised by the foreign newspapers when during the days of the G8 a leader of the Italian opposition, Antonio Di Pietro, went as far as buying entire pages of important foreign newspapers to ask for the help of international public opinion against Berlusconi, depicted more or less as a dictator similar to Mussolini, or a new Nero. This initiative is criticized even by the Italian left wing, which, in the long run, will end up promoting the premier, undisputed winner of the recent elections for the European Parliament and for the renewal of many local councils. ♦

• 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.

In Memoriam...

Ertugrul Osman, Last of the Ottomans

His Imperial Highness Prince Ertugrul Osman, a friend of the Society who might have ruled an empire, but instead spent all his adult life in New York, has died. He was 97.

A descendant of Osman I, the Anatolian ruler who in 1299 established the kingdom that captured Constantinople in 1453 and eventually encompassed parts of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, would have eventually become Sultan but for the establishment of the Turkish Republic, proclaimed in 1923. For the last sixty-odd years the prince lived on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Born in 1912, he was the last surviving grandson of an Ottoman emperor: his grandfather Abdul Hamid II ruled from 1876 to 1909. In 1924, the royal family, then headed by his cousin Mehmed VI, was deposed by Kemal Ataturk, who led a revolution and founded the Turkish Republic. "The men had one day to leave," the prince once observed. "The women were given a week." Schooled in Vienna, he moved to New York in 1939. He returned to Turkey for the first time 53 years later, in 1992, at the invitation of the Government. On that trip, he went to see the 285-room Dolmabahce Palace, which had been his grandfather's home and where he had played as a child.

As a young man, the royal ran a mining company, Wells Overseas, which required him to travel frequently to South America. Because he considered himself a citizen of the Ottoman Empire, he refused to carry the passport of any country. In 2004, he accepted a Turkish passport for the first time.

The prince married in 1947. His wife died in 1985. In 1987, he met Zeynep Tarzi Hanim, an Afghan princess nearly 30 years his junior. She had been raised in Istanbul and was living in New York. They married in 1991. He has no other survivors. ♦

Looking Back...

... five years ago to the Holiday Party at the Society's Columbus Townhouse headquarters. Seen (from left): Gr. *Uff.* Peter F. Bonafede, his wife Lucia, Cav. Dr. Richard J. Bellucci and Cav. Joan Migliore.



Hold the Date...

Thursday

December 3, 2009

44th Annual Meeting

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Friday

December 4, 2009

44th Anniversary

Dinner

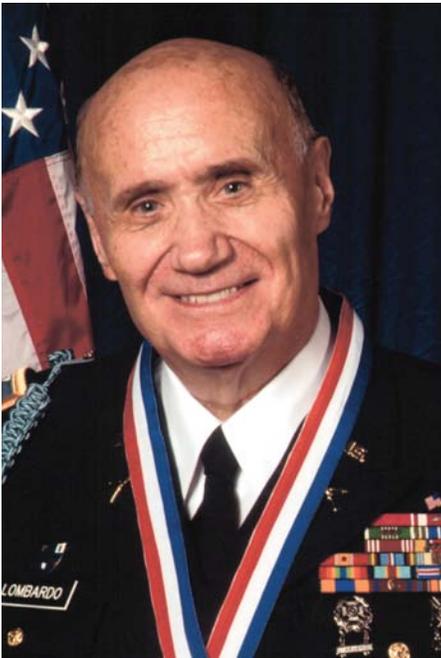
New York City

HELPCORNER

Cavalieri who are honorably discharged and retired United States veterans may wear miniatures of their military medals at formal Society events. Miniature military medals are available at nominal cost for display or for a miniature medal bar. Write: Chief of Protocol, American Society of Italian Legions of Merit, Eight East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021. Include a copy of order(s) of entitlement or certificate(s) of award.



Lombardo Named Distinguished Associate



Col. Eugene V. Lombardo (ret.), of New York, is the Society's newest Distinguished Associate, a category of membership which includes commissioned military officers. He retired from the U.S. Army following a 32-year career, rising from private to colonel. Above, he wears the Ellis Island Medal of Honor awarded him last year. ♦

Cavalieri *in the news...*

Comm. Stephen Acunto (New York) special guest at the dedication of the Brockton (MA) Post Office in honor of Rocky Marciano

Cav. Paul Alongi (New Jersey) bestowed UNICO's highest membership Vastola Award

Comm. Peter Caruso (New Jersey) Coccia Foundation 2009 Golf Classic honoree

Comm. Joseph Coccia, Jr. (New Jersey) honored by the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

Comm. Richard L. Cosnotti, KCSML (Florida) promoted to Commander of the Most Venerable Order of St. John (England)

Uff. Roy De Barbieri (Connecticut) named Fellow of the Commercial College of Arbitration

Cav. Theodore "Ted" H. Jacobsen (New York) promoted to Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of Savoy

Uff. Mico Dellianova Licastro (New York) appointed representative in the United States for the Italian National Olympic Committee

Cav. Hon. Pasquale Menna, Esq., KSML (New Jersey) invested with the Most Venerable Order of St. John (England)

Comm. Dr. Robert V. Piluso, KCHS (New York) invested with the *Ordre des Palmes Académiques* (France)

Cav. Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa (New York) recipient of UNICO National's Ciance Humanitarian Award

Uff. Vincent Zuccarelli, KCHS (New York) honored with OSIA Golden Lion Award

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:

June 9, 2009: by invitation of *Gr. Uff.* H.E. Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, on the occasion of the 2009 Path to Peace Award Dinner.

July 20, 2009: by invitation of Hon. Branko Mili, Consul General of Montenegro in New York, on the occasion of a reception celebrating Montenegrin National Day.

September 14, 2009: by invitation of *Gr. Uff.* H.E. Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, on the occasion of the opening of the 64th Annual General Assembly.



OFFICIAL NOTICE



TO: *Cavalieri*
FROM: *Gr. Uff. B.ssa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò*
RE: **Vacancies in Office; Nominations and Elections**

Pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 3, of the By-Laws, the following vacancies in office are certified, effective on January 1, 2010:

Four (4) Directors
(for terms expiring December 31, 2011)

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Pursuant to Article V, Sec. 1, of the By-Laws, the following members are hereby appointed to the Nominating Committee:

Gr. Uff. Hon. Frank J. Guarini, Chairman

Comm. Prof. Marco Grassi
Comm. George M. Pavia, Esq.

Cav. Prof. Irma B. Jaffe
Cav. Michael Santangelo, Esq.

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Pursuant to Article V, Sec. 1, and Article VI, Sec. 2, of the By-Laws, the following members are hereby nominated by the Nominating Committee for the office(s) of Director for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2011:

1. *Comm.* Robert J. Barbera (California)
2. *Comm.* Joseph Colagiovanni (Missouri)
3. *Comm.* Beatrice H. Guthrie (Florida)
4. *Cav.* Marcella Leonetti-Tyler (California)

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Pursuant to Article V, Sec. 2, of the By-Laws, "candidates other than those nominated by the Nominating Committee may be proposed by any regular active member from the floor by letter to the Secretary General, on fifteen (15) days prior [to the December 3, 2009 annual meeting of the Board] written notice, containing the name of the nominee and his/her nominator, the office for which the nominee seeks election, the nominee's biographical data, and the signature of seven (7) members of the Board of Directors or of fifteen (15) regular active members as second . . . [and the Secretary General] shall, upon receipt, add any such nominee(s) to the list of nominations provided by the Nominating Committee to the Board for election."

Did You Know?

There are 15,730,277 reported Italian Americans, representing 5.5% of the population of the United States. The geographical map clearly shows that the highest percentage of Americans of Italian descent is to be found in the North East region. States with the highest percentage of Italian Americans, in descending order, are Rhode Island (19.0%), Connecticut (18.6%), New Jersey (17.9%), New York (14.4%), Massachusetts (13.5%), Pennsylvania (11.6%), Delaware (9.3%), and New Hampshire (8.5%). There are also high percentages of Italian Americans in Nevada (6.6%),

Vermont (6.4%), Florida (6.3%), Illinois (6.0%) and Ohio (6.0%). At the other end of the scale, North Dakota ranks last among the states at 0.8%; and, in ascending order, South Dakota at 1.0%, Alabama and Arkansas tied at 1.3%, and Mississippi at 1.4%.

California has 1,450,854 Italian-American residents, but only 4.3% of the population is of Italian ancestry. Despite this relatively low percentage, it ranks among the top five most numerous states with one million or more Italian Americans residing within the state along with New York (2,737,115), New Jersey (1,503,637), Pennsylvania (1,418,465), and Florida (1,003,967). Half of the states have less than 3 percent of their population who are of Italian ancestry. ♦