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IL CAVALIERE

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

Reception Fetes Diplomats

The American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit's annual reception in favor of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 19, 2011. It will be held at the Society's Columbus Townhouse headquarters in New York. The reception pays tribute to those assigned to the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Italian Mission at the United Nations in New York, and the various Italian Consulates and specialized offices throughout the United States, all of whom are invited guests.

On hand will be the Ambassador of Italy to the United States, H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, H.E. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, and the Consul General of Italy in New York, Hon. Francesco Talò. Numerous ambassadors from Italy's neighboring countries will likewise be present. The tribute will again be hosted by Cav. Vincent Viola, KSG, a leading member of the Society's Companiate.

"This is always a delightful annual event," observes Cav. di Gran Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo, President of the Society. "It is a well deserved acknowledgment of the high caliber of truly important work performed by those in the foreign service on behalf of Italy abroad."

Uff. Congressman William J. Pascrell, Jr., of New Jersey, a long-time member of the Society and chairman of the Italian American Congressional Caucus, will chair the reception.

A native of Paterson, Congressman Pascrell was first elected to the United States House of Representatives from New Jersey in 1996. He is currently serv-

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Napolitano Received in New York

Three days of important events -- a luncheon with the Italian American leadership in New York, an address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, and a lecture at New York University -- saw Italy's head of state, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano, who by virtue of office is "Head" of all Italian orders of chivalry, in New York.

Escorted by H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, the Ambassador of Italy to the United States, and, at the United Nations, by H.E. Cesare Maria Ragaglini,

This magnificent gathering to celebrate together the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy.

Italy's Permanent Representative to the world body, the opening Sunday luncheon, in the brightly sunlit roof garden of the St. Regis Hotel off Fifth Avenue, saw

150 Italian American organization presidents and chief executives gathered to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of Italian unification.

The Luncheon

In bringing President Napolitano to the podium, Ambassador Terzi intoned "the emotion which all of us feel today in celebrating with our Head of State. Here, Mr. President," he gestured, "are the organizations which have done so

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Welcoming Italy's president, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano (center) on behalf of the Italian American leadership are seen presenting a silver plaque to mark the occasion (from left): Cav. Quintilio Cianfaglione; Uff. Joseph Sciame; Cav. di Gr. Croce Justice Dominic R. Massaro; President Napolitano; Cav. di Gr. Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo; Frank Fusaro; and Cav. Dott. Claudio Bozzo



Reception Fetes Diplomats

CONTINUED FROM COVER

ing his eighth term. A nationally recognized leader in Congress on the issue of fire safety, in 2007 he was appointed to the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which oversees numerous economic issues.

After earning a bachelors degree in journalism and a master's degree in philosophy from Fordham University, the Congressman taught history at Paramus High School as well as at Fairleigh Dickinson University as an adjunct professor. He served as president of the Paterson Board of Education and as a board member of Passaic County Community College.

With military service in the U.S. Army behind him, his political life began in 1987 when he was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly, where he eventually became Minority Leader. In 1990, he was elected Mayor of Paterson, New Jersey's third largest city. His efforts, both as an assemblyman and as a mayor were recognized in 1996 when he was named New Jersey's "Legislator of the Year" by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and as "Mayor of the Year" by his fellow mayors. In

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2002, he was named *Ufficiale* in the Italian Order of Merit. He is married and the father of three.

"Bill Pascrell has been at the center of every Italian American initiative both in and outside of Congress," notes Dr. Caputo. "His support has proven



*Congressman
William J. Pascrell, Jr.*

pivotal from his very first days in the House during the mid-nineties, more especially respecting the effort not to see Italy marginalized at the U.N. Security Council when Germany and Japan were being advanced at Italy's expense."

Said the Congressman: "I consider it a high station to chair this year's reception in tribute to the Italian foreign service in the United States and at the United Nations. I am gratified the Society requested that I do so. These professionals perform so very well in what is perhaps the two most important, challenging and difficult postings in the diplomatic world. They speak volumes to the high caliber of Italian diplomacy abroad." ♦

Board Actions

(Editor's Note: The last issue of Il Cavaliere carried a truncated version of this article. It is reproduced here in its entirety.)

Welcomed by Italy's Consul General in New York, Minister Francesco M. Talò, at the imposing Park Avenue Consulate General, the Society's Board of Directors convened its 45th annual meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2010. As reported to the General Membership meeting which followed, its actions included:

- election of a new president, secretary-general and two directors for terms ending December 31, 2012;
- continuing approval for the Companion(s) of Merit program open to members of other recognized chivalric orders;
- continuing approval for the Distinguished Member(s) pro-

gram open to accredited diplomats and commissioned military officers;

- reassessing the Mini Grant program;
- continuing to monitor United States support vis-a-vis the non-marginalization of Italy in any reorganization of the United Nations Security Council;
- continuing support for the repatriation of Italian art and artifacts illicitly in the United States;
- supporting the reinstatement of testing by the American College Board for Advanced Placement Italian Language and Culture credits;
- reinstating the office of chair of the board;
- establishing the office of regional director(s);
- expanding the Society's website. ♦

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT



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Hon. Francesco M. Talò, *ex officio*

Message From the President...



Cav. di Gran Croce
Dr. Lucio Caputo

I am very honored to have been elected president of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, and I look forward to the great future of our organization. It is now my mission to continue to improve our Society by making its resources and initiatives even more beneficial and relevant. This year our focus will be on incorporating Society members to a greater degree, strengthening their local bonds with each other while revitalizing our internal structure so that we function as efficiently and effectively as possible. Indeed, we have already begun cutting costs. We are computerizing our mailing list(s); establishing an e-mail alternative. Soon we shall update our website with additional information for the benefit both of our membership and also those interested in learning more about the Society's good works.

We are deeply indebted to our outgoing president, Justice Dominic Massaro. His six years of leadership were exemplary. I look forward to continuing to work with him. Through his efforts the Society regained high recognition as the most prestigious Italian American entity in special status with Rome. I will strive to build on his achievements by reinforcing our operating structure to support continued growth and progress. Justice Massaro achieved these accomplishments for us by focusing on the Society's noble mandate and sense of purpose. I will continue in this direction by fostering a wider understanding of our goals, all the while streamlining operations. In so doing, the Society will make available more information to the community at large while increasing the charity it provides.

To achieve this end, it is my goal to organize more local events at the regional vice presidents level and to improve our regular bi-annual events to make these galas more prominent and rewarding for our distinguished membership. Through firm financial management, I believe that the Society will be able to gain even more recognition and prestige by increasing its contribution to cultural and humanitarian endeavors. We shall, of course, continue to support our outreach to the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps assigned to the United Nations and the United States. Likewise, to our Companionate for members of other recognized chivalric orders as well as to ambassadors from Italy's neighboring states throughout the Mediterranean. Our firm stance on the reinstatement of the Advanced Placement Italian Language examination is but one example of the Society's continuing moral commitment to community activism.

In conclusion, I am very grateful for being chosen as President, and I look forward to leading our organization toward realizing its maximum potential as dedicated by charter, that is, "to strengthen the traditional friendship and good will existing between the people of the United States and Italy." ♦



Napolitano Received in New York

CONTINUED FROM COVER

much... organizations such as the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, which includes eminent personalities whom Italy has recognized as being particularly praiseworthy.”

Praising the Italian American leadership for having organized “this magnificent gathering to celebrate together the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy,” the President began, “it is particularly touching for me to share such a historical moment. The Italian unification represented an extraordinary historical accomplishment, despite severe difficulties and gloom forecasts in the centuries-long path of the idea of Italy,” he observed.

“Next Tuesday, I will pay tribute to Ellis Island and the four million Italian immigrants that arrived there. Italy will never forget her sons who were obliged to leave their country in search of a better future. The historical record is crystal clear: before unification, the living conditions in 1861 Italy were mostly painful and unsatisfactory, with high rates of disease, illiteracy, poverty. The newly born State created the premises for the modernization of the country and for gradual social progress, but could not, for quite a long time, afford to provide an acceptable future for all Italians. Emigration sadly became a necessity,” he recounted.

“Songs, poems, novels and films have masterly depicted the sorrow of the departure, the difficulties of the arrival, the opportunities opened by the new life. You know it all too well: the pain, the struggle, the success,” he said continuing.

“Italy is grateful to the United States for the opportunities given to our citizens. Far from the rigidity of the European social structure, America was ready to reward hard work and commitment, to promote social advancements, to celebrate the self made man. More generally, America was able to create an intense feeling of belonging and allegiance in the individual while recognizing his pursuit of happiness,” he stated.

On a more personal note directed to the 150 Italian American organization presidents and chief executives brought together for the 150th Anniversary, the President observed, “I have today the pleasure of being in front of you and, out of your positions and contributions to the American society, I can immediately grasp the immense results attained by the community of Italian origin. I am profoundly touched by the genuine affection that you yet feel toward our Country. You have a major and successful role in promoting values and qualities associated with Italy.” The President paid moving tribute to Geraldine Ferraro (who had died the day before) as “embodying the Italian contribution to the American dream.”

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 geography and culture
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 Mediterranean;
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 the Mediterranean.*

Turning to another subject, President Napolitano singled out for thanks the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations “for invaluable help in attaining an essential result, the re-insertion of the Italian language in the Advanced Placement program and thus in the secondary education here in the States. The Italian idiom is one of the most ancient and noble cultural forces that have united our Country and kept our citizens together and cohesive abroad.”

Many will recall that the Society was the first, in December, 2009, to step forward in the revived campaign to raise counterpart funding for the American College Board to reinstall AP Italian testing. The Society likewise moved the Conference of Presidents to adopt the project as an agenda item, and to partner with the Embassy of Italy to realize three million dollars to effectuate the reinstatement.

Following the luncheon, the President met with Italian artistic and intellectual personalities at Fabrizio Ferri’s Industria Super-studio in lower Manhattan.

At the United Nations

Before the United Nations on the following day, Monday, President Napolitano was introduced by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who presented him as “the embodiment of post-war Italian history who has always played a decisive role in moral leadership.” The President opened with strong words and bold challenges: “We are witnessing significant threats



At a stopover at the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, President Napolitano received the Casa’s medal. From left: Casa director Cav. Dr. Stefano Albertini; President Napolitano; Cav. di Gr. Croce Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò, the Casa’s founder and chair; and Cav. di Gr. Croce Justice Dominic R. Massaro, long-time Casa trustee.



to international peace and security, hotbeds of political instability, economic and financial turmoil and unprecedented natural disasters. Winds of freedom, human dignity and social justice are blowing strongly across the world. We need to uphold human rights as a foundation of political stability and sustainable growth. We need to strengthen international legitimacy and the rule of law. We need to renew our commitment to a multilateral system of international relations. We need the United Nations," he stated with authority.

Speaking to Italy's pivotal role in the Mediterranean, he observed, "Italy's history, geography and culture are rooted in the Mediterranean. Europe's fortunes rise and fall with the Mediterranean. We, Italians, Europeans, see ourselves as part of the Mediterranean. Seas and oceans unite peoples and destinies. Our future lies in a shared partnership with our friends in North Africa, in the Middle East, in the Gulf." Napolitano took a strong stance on Italy's former colony Libya, condemning Gaddafi's regime and his repressions while defending the right to intervene internationally.

On the issue of reform of the Security Council, the President noted, "In order to strengthen the maintenance of international peace and security, any reform of the Security Council should enable the Council to be more representative, efficient and accountable to the Member States. We need consensus, more than in any other provision of the charter. We all share the goal of international governance, peace and security. The entire membership must be able to claim ownership of the Security Council reform.

The Society, of course, has long stood for the non-marginalization of Italy in any reorganization of the Security Council as a top priority. This as far back as confronting the Clinton administration with an "Italy Lobby" that included a full array of the organized Italian American community - - more than 3,500 local Italian American clubs, societies, lodges and such from coast to coast in the campaign to not have the United States support Germany and Japan for permanent seats on the Security Council at the exclusion of Italy. Due to this outpouring, the issue was never put to a vote.

The President further observed in defense that "Italy has been unstinting in its support of the United Nations, as it is the most legitimate forum for promoting the fundamental values of humankind. A robust and credible UN serves the best interests of the international community. The sixth contributor to the regular budget and to peacekeeping operations, Italy also contributes with more 'Blue Helmets' than any other European country," he noted. "Not only do we financially support the United Nations' missions, we also provide human resources, equipment, and the know-how to effectively implement Security Council mandates."

Concluding, the President pointed out that "eight thousand

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and at this stage
in my life (he's 86),
I really cannot
afford to be
pessimistic.*

Italian women and men in uniform are at the service of UN or UN-authorized peace operations." He identified the Brindisi Logistics Base and the recent cooperation agreements between the *Carabinieri* Corps and the UN for the training of Blue Helmets as examples of Italy's response to allow the UN to fulfill its mission. "Our long, distinguished and challenging history of participation in UN missions includes the highest sacrifice bravely paid by Blue Helmet-wearing Italians," he concluded.

The Lecture

On Tuesday, following a visit to Ellis Island and one to the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University, Napolitano partook in an hour-long fire-side chat at the University's Law School. There he gave some meaningful, and many rather enjoyable, insights into his long career in Italian political life, beginning as a communist activist following World War II and slowly moving away from the extreme left and, since 2006, serving as head of state.

The event was entitled "The State of the European Union" but the discussion was not limited to political themes. The President answered questions of a personal nature about his childhood in Naples, the war, music, and his love of poetry and soccer.

On the bombing in Naples during World War II, he said that "fear made everyone equal." On his relationship with his father, he said that initially his father did not approve of his political choices. Napolitano even revealed some personal preferences. "On a deserted island, I would take Beethoven, Mozart, and Bartok," he said, and his favorite dish: "Spaghetti." Prison Notebooks by Antonio Gramsci is Napolitano's favorite book. "This book represents a link between politics and culture," said the President.

Among the responses Napolitano gave is one where he was asked if he was pessimistic or optimistic about the future of the EU: "In my position, and at this stage in my life (he's 86), I really cannot afford to be pessimistic." He confessed, however, that he was "impatient" to see a fast-moving Europe, "but then it's only been 60 years since we changed centuries of history." As for the continuous landing of immigrants on Lampedusa, he said: "Lampedusa borders Italy but it also borders Europe. We need a common policy among the 27 countries within the EU, not 27 national policies."

His response to anti-American sentiment in Italy was sharp. "Italians have never been convincing anti-Americans; it's not the same as it is for some other European countries, those with a superiority complex." He then recalled the years during the Cold War and the difficulties of that period to close the discussion by observing, "We Italians have so much of our blood in America."

To great applause the President was then presented with the NYU Medal, the university's highest accolade. ♦



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 Merit of the Italian Republic and the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity:



Cav. Alberto Cribiore
New York

Cav. Ernesto Denofa
Pennsylvania

Cav. Frank Giordano
New Jersey

Cav. Bernard Kreilman
New Jersey

Cav. Roberto Marisa
California

Cav. Raul Pagin
Pennsylvania

Cav. Vince Papale
New Jersey

Cav. George Pataki
New York

Cav. Ciro Poppiti
Delaware

Cav. Gaetano Puglia Marrone
New Jersey

Cav. Michael Rienzi
New York

Cav. Alberto Zamperla
New Jersey



Cav. Brando Ballerini
Texas

Cav. Antonio Cardillo
New York

Cav. Quintilio Cianfaglione
Connecticut

Cav. Luigi Colombo
Texas

Cav. Andrea Duchini
Texas

Cav. Alberto Ferruzzi
Texas

Cav. Sal Gargiulo
Texas

Cav. Sam Greco
Texas

Cav. Umberto Lamatta
Texas

Cav. Michael Massimino
Texas

Cav. Serena Scaiola
Ohio

Cav. Clara Vick
Texas

Cav. Angelo Vinciguerra
New York

Cav. Patrick Warden
Texas

Cav. Walter Widrig
Texas

New Members

As the Class of 2010 comes to a close, the Society likewise welcomes four new members joining the ranks of merit and distinction:

Companion of Merit

**Cav. Julius Demarcus
Jackson (KHS)**
Washington, D.C.

Distinguished Associates

**Assoc. Carla Priola
Anisman**
California

**Assoc. Domenico
Carlucci, Esq.**
New York

**Assoc. Frank J.
Desiderio, Esq.**
New York

45th Annual Dinner Revisited

The 45th Annual Dinner of the Society at Park Avenue's prestigious Union League Club in New York City was a truly elegant affair. Full coverage of the event was reported in the last issue of Il Cavaliere. Here we present another round of photographic remembrances of a splendid evening enjoyed by all those in attendance.



1. **Lisa Santangelo**
 2. Cav. **Fabio Catassi**
 3. Uff. **Mico Dellanova Licastro**
 4. Cav. Dr. **Dominico Mignone**
 5. Cav. di Gran Croce Dott. **Claudio Gorelli**, Chief of Staff of the Undersecretariat to the Prime Minister
 6. **Luisa Caputo**
 7. Dott.ssa **Laura Aghilarre**, Deputy Consul General
 8. **Frank J. Cerza**, Esq. and **Lorenzo Marcelli-Flori**, Esq.

9. **Ornella Talò** and Comm. Dr. **Fabrizio Michelassi**
 10. **Bruno De Giovanni** and Dr. **Stefano Albertini**
 11. **Marie Tamburri**
 12. **Alberto Michelassi** and **Nicola Mussini** with **Riccardo Costa**
 13. Cav. Dott. **Claudio Bozzo**
 14. **Filomena Ricciardi**
 15. Carabinieri honor guards **Gianluca Arcangioli** and **Francesco Maria Cantone**

Photos by Cav. Vito Catalano

Hold the Date...

Thursday, December 1, 2011 46th Annual Meeting

Friday, December 2, 2011 46th Annual Dinner

New York City

Cavalieri Whereabouts???

The Society has lost contact with the following cavalieri. If you know of any current home address or whereabouts, please let us know at: (646) 430-0481 or info.asilm@yahoo.com.

Cav. Francesco Camera, Texas
 Cav. Maria Rosaria Corbo, New York
 Comm. Luigi Maria De Luca, Maryland
 Gr. Uff. Valter Della Nebbia Texas
 Cav. Alessandro Di Bagno Guidi, Texas
 Cav. Robert Freda, New Jersey
 Cav. Abele Galletti, California
 Uff. Dr. Vincenzo Genovese, Pennsylvania
 Col. Eugene V. Lombardo, New York
 Comm. Anthony Magliulo, New York

Comm. William Mason, Illinois
 Uff. Albert R. Materazzi, Maryland
 Cav. Frank Micale, California
 Uff. Paul M. Montrone, New Hampshire
 Cav. Leo Moriconi, Michigan
 Comm. Anthony Piccinini, Michigan
 Cav. Daniel M. Rendine, Esq., Pennsylvania
 Cav. Serena Scaiola Ziska, Ohio
 Cav. Paul Sorvino, Pennsylvania
 Cav. Sadowa Spadola, New York
 Comm. Giuliano Testa, Illinois
 Comm. Gianfranco Zaccai, Massachusetts

HELPCORNER

Cavalieri who may wish to display their miniature medals in best fashion with a miniature medal bar are invited to write: Comm. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, Chief of Protocol, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, Eight East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021. Miniature medal bars are available at nominal cost according to the number of medals (from two to ten) wished to be displayed.

Looking Back...

... to 1970, the 5th annual dinner of the Society held at The Union League Club. Shown from left (seated): Mrs. Mario G. Remo and Mrs. Charles J. Re; (standing): Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri, Consul General of San Marino Charles J. Re and Terence Cardinal Cook, Archbishop of New York. ♦





Long Live Italy

By Francesco Nicotra*

While Italy is celebrating, albeit timidly, the 150th anniversary of the unification, the controversy between “Northerners” and “Southerners” is not fading: the former who are members or supporters of the Northern League - - so goes the old story - - always argue that the South, from Campania to Sicily, is an albatross for the rich and industrious regions of the North; the latter reply that the unification of Italy is the reason why the regions of the South are still underdeveloped and more heavily affected in the current economic crisis.

According to this view, endorsed by a number of books published recently, after the annexation of the Bourbon Kingdom to Italy, “substantial financial resources” made their way North, especially after the seizure and sale of church property. And only a small part of these resources were reinvested in the South. One example often cited is that of the railway: from 1863 to 1898, 1,400,000,000 liras were spent for Northern Italy while only 750,000,000 for the South and the islands. Did the unification of the country, therefore, stifle the development of the South?

In reality it was the free market that damaged the industry in the South. Obsolete and improvised, the few industries in the South produced goods at very high costs. When the Bourbons’ tariffs that protected them fell (and the same goes for the former Papal States), the market was invaded by the products of the North, higher in quality and less expensive. It’s certainly questionable, therefore, the argument that in 1861, the year of the unification, there was no real difference between the regions of North and South. The differences existed and to deny them, so-called *neoborbonici*, have to climb on mirrors.

The illiteracy statistics are also indicative. According to the Research Center Svimez, people older than six who could neither read nor write, were 42% in Piedmont, 45% in Lombardy and nearly 65% in Veneto. But in Campania they were 80%, 82% in Puglia, 85% in Sicily, 87% in

*Italy emerged from
within the verses of
Dante and Petrarch
and the paintings
of Piero della Francesca
and Titian.*

Calabria and 88% in Basilicata, almost twice the rate of Piedmont. Not to mention infrastructure. In 1861, the North had 1801 km of railway track, the Bourbon Kingdom 184, ten times less. Of course, the first Italian railway, the Naples-Portici, was inaugurated in 1839, but it was only a toy for the Two Sicilies king.

Nor is it believable that the South was abandoned by the Italian State. From 1851 to 2007, the “additional costs” for the South, calculated in today’s currency, would have been 382 billion 510 million. Was too much money given away with the result of “accommodating the laziness of the South” as many Northerner claim? Maybe it is not really the case. After 1989, Germany has poured 1.5 trillion Euros, 75 per year, in the effort of putting back on track its former communist side. Ten times more than the Italian state has paid for the South.

Today, however, with the introduction of fiscal federalism, strongly backed by the League, the regions of the North can no longer accuse the South of draining their resources with the complicity of “Mamma Roma,” which the same Northern League called “the thief” to the delight of the Romans, as you can imagine. With the new state structure, in fact, each region will administer its own resources contributing to the state only the amount due for general expenses (defense, public order, justice, etc.) and to a solidarity fund to support the weakest regions. Will the league then abandon its grotesque threats of secession which in the South, especially in Sicily, have caused negative attitudes

towards the unification of the state, the Risorgimento and Garibaldi?

We hope so, since, after all, the majority of Italians do believe in Italy because they are proud of their history, their culture, their literature, and the so many beautiful sites that the world envies. Many have realized that they can be a Milanese, a Lombard and an Italian with the same intensity. One’s small hometown does not preclude but integrates the common Country. It was not casual the wish of former President Francesco Cossiga who wanted both the Italian flag and that of his native Sardinia tied together on his coffin. “The region is the nation,” was the formula of political scientist and anti-fascist priest Don Luigi Sturzo, a Sicilian and a great Italian.

And the Risorgimento? Not seen as it should in view of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the unification, but they are beginning to talk about it in a positive way. On the other hand, how can we forget that in 1848 the whole of Italy revolted against the small-time tyrants who, protected by Austria, oppressed the people in their small states? Or that the First World War, which completed the Risorgimento with the annexation of Trento and Trieste, cost 600,000 deaths and a million wounded? Who, be it from ignorance or personal gain, proposes a divided Italy, forgets that Italy is much older than 150 years. Italy emerged from within the verses of Dante and Petrarch, and the paintings of Piero della Francesca and Titian; it has become a nation thanks to the many, often forgotten, heroes who in the battle, on the scaffold or in front of a firing squad had the courage to shout “Long live Italy.” ♦

• 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.



FRANCESCO NICOTRA



In Memoriam...

Comm. Dino Anagnost
New York

Comm. S. Joseph Avara
Maryland

Col. Eugene V. Lombardo
New York

Cav. Vincent J. Peters
New York

Cav. Anthony Seminerio
New York

Cav. Francesca Sirianni-DePietro
California

Cav. Guy J. Vellella
New York

Uff. George Weissman
New York

Joseph Cerrell *Political Consultant*

Gr. Uff. Joseph Cerrell, credited with helping to create the field of modern political consulting, died at his beach home in Oxnard, California, following complications from pneumonia. He was 75.

During a storied six-decade career, Cerrell played key roles in presidential campaigns - - Kennedy, Johnson, Humphrey, Bentsen, Glenn and Gore - - all the while building Cerrell Associates, a Los Angeles based public affairs firm known not only for expert political campaign management, but also for its public relations services to corporate and non-profit clients.

Born Joseph Cerrella in Queens, New York, the son of a New York City fireman, his grandparents were immigrants from Calabria. In 1941, when being enrolled in school, the letter "A" was dropped from his last name due to the looming outbreak of World War II and the discrimination against Italian Americans.

Notwithstanding, he became extremely proud of his Italian heritage and actively involved in the Italian American community. He rose to president of the National Italian American Foundation (1999-2005), served as vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, and was appointed to the California Italian-American Task Force by Governor Pete Wilson.

A long-time regional vice president of the Society, he was first decorated by Italy in 2002. That year he also received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; in 2007, the Italian-American Lawyers Association named him to its Hall of Fame. ♦

Geraldine A. Ferraro *VP Nominee*

Uff. Geraldine A. Ferraro, a New York congresswoman who, in 1984, was the Democratic nominee for vice president - - the first woman nominated for national office by a major party - - has died at 75. The cause was complications from blood cancer.

As Walter Mondale's surprise choice, Ms. Ferraro rocketed to national prominence, propelled by feminist support. Notwithstanding spirit and canny political skills, her campaign proved difficult. The incumbent Reagan-Bush ticket presented a formidable challenge.

Geraldine Ferraro was born in 1935, in Newburgh, the fourth child of an immigrant family. With proceeds from the sale of property in Italy, she was sent to Marymount, an exclusive Catholic boarding school. Her outstanding grades earned her a scholarship to Marymount College. After graduation, Ms. Ferraro taught in public school. She was one of only two women in a Fordham Law School class of 179, receiving her law degree in 1960.

Married to real estate executive John Zaccaro, whom she leaves behind, she devoted herself to family while dabbling in local politics. In 1970, she was elected president of the Queens Women's Bar Association. In 1973, named a district attorney there. In 1978, elected to Congress, soon named secretary of the Democratic caucus, and, in 1984, chairwoman of the party's Platform Committee. In 1993, President Clinton named her Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. ♦

Amedeo Giuliet *"Devil Commander"*

Cav. di Gran Croce Baron Amedeo Giuliet, the famed Army commander in Africa and one of the great protagonists of Italian diplomatic history, who served in the ambassadorial corps for more than 20 years, is dead in Rome at the age of 101. With three wars behind him, the five-times wounded military hero was highly decorated.

Born in Piacenza in 1909, Giuliet was an officer in the Royal cavalry, an equestrian champion (chosen for the team that competed at the Berlin Olympics), but more than anything a courageous soldier. Veteran of the conquest of Ethiopia in 1936 and of the Spanish Civil War, Giuliet was in Eastern Africa at the start of World War II where the Viceroy, the Duke of Aosta, had given him the command of the mounted "Gruppo Bande Amhara," an indigenous troop made up of Eritreans, Ethiopians and Yemenites.

His style of command and perfect mastery of the Arabic language soon made him a legendary fighter and a revered figure who later became known as the "Devil Commander." When he decided to continue the war against the British despite a surrender ordered by Rome, his fame soared. Gathering around him growing numbers of loyal former indigenous soldiers, he wreaked havoc on the enemy for years.

His numerous civil and military decorations, from the Monarchy as well as the Republic, included the grand cross of both the Order of Military Merit of Italy and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy. In Memoriam. ♦



Terzi Guest



On hand in New York for a Gruppo Esponenti Italiani (GEI) luncheon in favor of H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Italy's ambassador to the United States, are seen (from left): Cav. di Gran Croce Congressman Frank J. Guarini; Ambassador Terzi; Cav. di Gran Croce Justice Dominic R. Massaro; and Cav. di Gran Croce Dr. Lucio Caputo, President of the Society. ♦

Did You Know?

Italy's Villa d'Este Hotel on Lake Como has been selected by Forbes magazine as the world's best hotel. It was also chosen as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for its Renaissance architecture and gardens.

Built in 1568 for Cardinal Ippolito II d'Este, it was later the summer residence of Cardinal Tolomeo Gallio before it was turned into a hotel in 1873. With 152 rooms priced at \$1,000 a night during high season, the Villa d'Este is the first Italian hotel to have received top billing. It bested the famed Four Seasons Hotel in London and George V in Paris. ♦

Board Change

As the Society concludes its 45th year, it identifies an individual who has helped it mature as the duly recognized representative of those accorded high distinction by the Republic of Italy. Past and current Society board members include the essence of Italian American excellence and leadership.

On December 31, 2010, a distinguished personage on the Society's board of directors completed his term of office: Cav. Alfonso E. Panico, of Connecticut.

A sincere "thank you" to him. ♦



Cavalieri *in the news...*

Comm. Stefano Acunto (New York) honored by The Dante Society; elected Chairman of The Montfort Academy.

Cav. di Gran Croce Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. (Washington, D.C.) received the Lido Civic Club Public Achievement Award.

Uff. Nicholas J. Bartilucci, KOML (New York), received the Order Sons of Italy in America 2011 Golden Lion Award.

Gr. Uff. Matilda Raffa Cuomo (New York) honored by 100 Black Men.

Comm. Frank J. De Santis (California) acknowledged with a Lecture Series at California State University at Long Beach.

Comm. Prof. Marco Grassi (New York) addressed the Circolo Dell'Unione di Florence on the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy.

Comm. Prof. Eric J. Ierardi, KCMS (New York), admitted as *Cavaliere* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus.

Comm. Peter S. Kalikow (New York) honored by the Center for Italian Studies, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Cav. di Gran Croce Justice Dominic R. Massaro (New York) given the "Four Freedoms" Award by the Italian Labor Council.

Comm. Mayor Pasquale Menna, KCML (New Jersey), promoted to Knight Commander with Star in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Comm. Malcolm Rogers (Massachusetts) accorded the 2010 Foundation for Italian Art & Culture Award.

Uff. Joseph Sciame (New York) promoted *Ufficiale* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; elected chairman of the Bedford Stuyvesant Charter School.

Comm. Angelo A. Sedacca, KCHS (New York), promoted *Ufficiale* in the Order of Merit of Savoy; granted Coat of Arms by H.M. Elizabeth II.

Uff. David V. Skoblow, Esq., KOML (New York), admitted as *Cavaliere* in the Order of Merit of Savoy.

Cav. di Gran Croce B'ssa. Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimo (New York) awarded the New York University Medal.

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.

Companion, Associate Class of 2011 Opens

Worthy individuals who have been conferred by a recognized Order of Chivalry, other than one conferred by the Republic of Italy, and who profess adherence to the purpose(s) of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit "to do everything to maintain the cordial relationship and tending to strengthen the traditional friendship and good will existing between the people of the United States and Italy," can be admitted as a "Companion" of the Society. Candidates for the Class of 2011 will be accepted until the first day of Fall.

While the Society's "Regular" membership is comprised exclusively of those who because of some personal quality or the rendering of some special service have been decorated with a chivalric Order conferred by the Republic of Italy, the Society revamped its associate membership program with the attach-

ment of a Companiate open to a select number of knights and/or dames of other recognized Orders. Such individuals may directly petition the Society for admission in a category of "merit." From time to time, accredited diplomats are invited to the Society in a category of "dignity."

Distinguished Associate membership is likewise available for spouses or lineal descendants of deceased *cavalieri*, as it is for officialdom otherwise recognized by Italy, commissioned military officers and high prelates.

Cavalieri aware of individuals of meritorious character or high regard who qualify for consideration as either a Companion or a Distinguished Associate and who wish to advance them for membership in the Society may obtain details from *Gr. Uff.* RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, chief of protocol. ♦

COPILAS Honoree

Numerous *cavalieri* gathered in Washington, D.C. at the Council for the Promotion of the Italian Language in American Schools (COPILAS) black tie gala to honor Italy's ambassador, *Cav. di Gr. Croce* Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata.

Ambassador Terzi was cited for his leadership. He secured counterpart funding from the Italian Government that guaranteed the attainment by the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations of re-inserting Italian Language testing for Advanced Placement credits by the American College Board. ♦



Seen (from left): *Uff. Fr.* Lydio F. Tomasi; Anita McBride; Ambassador Terzi; Council president Daniel L. Stabile, Ph.D.; his wife Monica Stabile; and the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

REMINDER

Thursday, May 19, 2011 - Reception
Diplomatic and Consular Corps
(see cover story)