



VOL. 8 NO. 4 OCTOBER 2012

# IL CAVALIERE

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

**FOR THE FIRST TIME**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**  
**H.E. GIORGIO NAPOLITANO**  
**GRANTS HIS HIGH PATRONAGE**  
**TO THE 47TH ANNUAL ASILM GALA**

Under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy, H. E. Giorgio Napolitano, the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit will hold its 47th Annual Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony on Friday, December 7, in the Grand Ballroom of The Pierre Hotel in New York City.

Every year, the Gala celebrates its members with an evening of music, socializing and superb dining. This year strives to reach even farther with a program that not only exalts members of the Society, but also emphasizes Italian excellence throughout the world.

Distinguishing this year's Gala is a memorable awards ceremony that promises to be a major highlight of the evening's program and one that will set the precedent for all future ASILM events to come.

This unique ceremony will showcase Italian excellence in a variety of fields, including art, medicine, business, politics and jurisprudence as it celebrates prominent individuals who have made enormous contributions, both in Italy and in the United States.

The most prestigious award of the Society, the "Grand Award of Merit," will be presented

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)*



*For the first time, President of the Republic of Italy, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano, grants his high patronage for the ASILM Gala, during which the following Guests of Honor will receive the "Grand Award of Merit": Comm. Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi; Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Arnaldo Pomodoro; Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Antonin Scalia and Amb. Gr. Uff. Hon. Ronald Spogli.*

## ASILM GALA

Friday, December 7, 2012  
 The Pierre Hotel  
 (2 East 61st St., NYC)

Reception (7 pm)  
 Garden Foyer

Dinner (8 pm)  
 Grand Ballroom

Awards Ceremony  
 & Dancing  
 (9 - 11 pm)  
 Grand Ballroom

Black tie with decorations

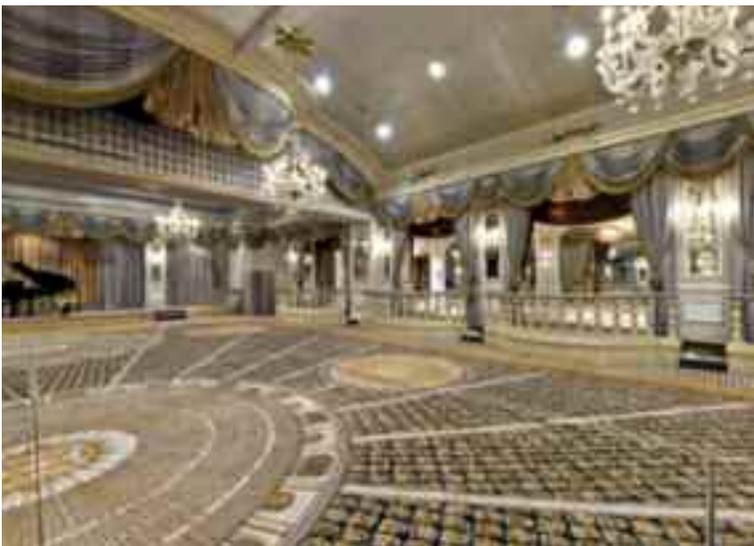


*Exterior of the prestigious Pierre Hotel, located across from Central Park in New York City.*

during this ceremony. The award is bestowed on outstanding individuals in their professions whose renown is worldwide.

For this year's Gala, the Italian and Italian-American recipients of ASILM's "Grand Award of Merit" are:

Comm. Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Surgeon-in-Chief at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Arnaldo Pomodoro, the Italian artist whose works stand prominently throughout the globe, from the Vatican Museums to the United Nations in New York; Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; and Gr. Uff. Hon. Ronald Spogli, former United States Ambassador to the Italian Republic.



*The Grand Ballroom of The Pierre Hotel, the setting of the 47th Annual ASILM Gala.*

The "Grand Award of Merit" is to be given in recognition of their accomplishments, dedication and leadership that have influenced and improved the lives of numerous Americans, Italians and Italian Americans (*see pages four and five for details*).

Previous recipients of the award are H.E. Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy, and Hon. George W. Bush, former President of the United States.

The awards ceremony will also honor five members of the Society with the "Medal of Merit," a prestigious award and the first of its kind offered by ASILM to be given to those who have had their present decoration for the longest period of time (*see page three for details*).

Another highlight of the Gala is the special dinner prepared by Le Cirque restaurant under the supervision of restaurateur, author and ASILM member, Comm. Sirio Maccioni (who will be opening his new restaurant at The Pierre Hotel). The dinner will be accompanied by some of the best Italian wines, further enhancing the evening.

Besides the awards ceremony and the dinner, the impressive location of the ASILM Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony will underline the prestige of the Society and its members. The Pierre is one of the most elegant hotels in Manhattan, recognized for its prime location along Central Park, its rich history and its unsurpassed hospitality, all of which distinguish it from other hotels in the city. The five-star hotel is therefore fitting as the new venue for the ASILM Gala.

The Gala will begin with a reception at 7 p.m. in the Garden Foyer of The Pierre. The Garden Foyer, whose walls are adorned with hand-painted murals from Versailles and lit by antique chandeliers, will provide a welcome setting for ASILM members and their guests upon arrival.

During the reception, ASILM members and their guests, many of whom will have traveled from across the nation to attend the Gala, will have the opportunity to join together and socialize over Italian wine, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

At 8 p.m. guests will make their way to the Grand Ballroom, where they will listen to the national anthems of Italy and the United States. Then ASILM members and their guests will join in a toast to the presidents of both countries by the Society's President, Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo.

An important message will follow the toast that will be presented on behalf of the president of the Republic of Italy.

Guests will then be treated to a three-course Italian dinner. The songs of Panorama Music, a performance group under the direc-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



## ASILM

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE  
ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

### OFFICERS

#### **PRESIDENT**

Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo

#### **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi

#### **SECRETARY**

Cav. di Gran Croce, Lawrence E. Auriana

#### **TREASURER**

Comm. Salvatore M. Salibello

#### **CHANCELLOR**

Gr. Uff. Hon. Guido Calabresi

#### **COUNSELOR**

Comm. George M. Pavia, Esq.

#### **CHIEF OF PROTOCOL & PRESIDENT EMERITA**

Gr. Uff. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo

### DIRECTORS

Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Dominic R. Massaro,

*Honorary Chairman*

Comm. Stefano Acunto '12

Gr. Uff. Amb. Daniele D. Bodini '13

Uff. John F. Calvelli '12

Uff. Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli '13

Cav. Berardo Paradiso '13

Cav. Joseph Perella '13

Cav. di Gran Croce, B.ssa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimo '13

Amb. Claudio Bisogniero, *ex officio*

Amb. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, *ex officio*

Min. Natalia Quintavalle, *ex officio*

### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Comm. Robert V. Allegrini, *North Central*

tion of Mr. Rino Minetti, will softly play during dinner, creating a melodic and warm atmosphere.

After the awards ceremony, the performance group will play lively dance music for the remainder of the evening. The dance music for all ages will range from jazz standards to current top 40 hits.

The dress code for the event is strictly black-tie with decorations.

The new format and location for the ASILM Gala promises an evening of much enjoyment and lasting memories, as well as recognition for the Society and its members. ■

## PRESENTATION OF "MEDAL OF MERIT" AT THE ASILM GALA

All active members who attend the Gala on December 7 are invited to apply for the "Medal of Merit" of ASILM, the first of its kind offered by the Society.

ASILM members who have been holding their current decoration for the longest period of time should inform ASILM (president.asilm@yahoo.com) of the **date** they received their decoration. The five members who have been holding their decoration the longest will receive the "Medal of Merit" of ASILM.

The deadline to submit this information is  
Friday, November 7, 2012



## GUESTS OF HONOR AT THE ASILM GALA AND RECIPIENTS OF THE “GRAND AWARD OF MERIT”



**Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi**

*Surgeon-in-Chief at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center*

Fabrizio Michelassi, M.D., F.A.C.S., is a world-renowned, board-certified gastrointestinal surgeon with a strong expertise in the surgical treatment of gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancers as well as inflammatory bowel disease, and has contributed new insight in the surgical treatment of pancreatic and colorectal cancers, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

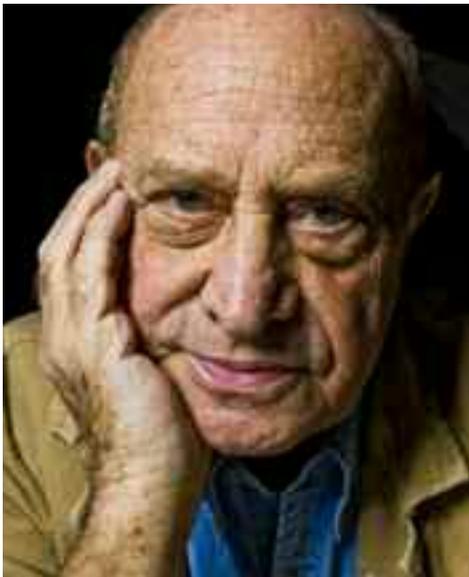
He has pioneered the development of important new techniques that ensure better outcomes and improved quality of life for patients with rectal cancer and ulcerative colitis.

Born in Pisa, Italy, and graduating summa cum laude from the University Pisa School of Medicine, Dr. Michelassi completed his

internship and surgical residency at New York University and a research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University.

In 1984, he joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago. He became Section Chief of General Surgery in 1994, tenured Professor in 1995, Vice Chair of the Surgery Department in 2000 and the Thomas D. Jones Professor of Surgery in 2001.

He moved to his current position at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2004. ■



**Maestro Arnaldo Pomodoro**

*Italian Artist*

Arnaldo Pomodoro was born in 1926 in Morciano, Emilia Romagna, Italy. From the mid-1940s until 1957 he served as a consultant for the restoration of public buildings in Pesaro, while studying stage design and working as a goldsmith. In 1954 Pomodoro moved to Milan, where his sculpture was exhibited for the first time.

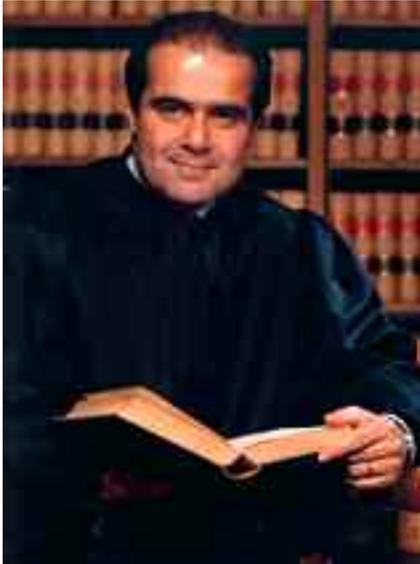
Pomodoro visited New York in 1956 and traveled around Europe in 1958. The sculptor traveled to Brazil on the occasion of his participation in the 1963 São Paulo Bienal, where he was awarded the International Sculpture Prize. A solo show of his work was included in the Venice Biennale of 1964.

Since the mid-1970s, Pomodoro has continued to gain renown for his unique engagement with fundamental geometric shapes, notably the column, cube, pyramid, sphere and disc. His work has been the subject of numerous exhibitions at

major museums, including Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville in Paris (1976), University Art Museum at University of California in Berkeley (1981), Centre of Arts in Cairo (1997), and Palazzo Magnani in Reggio Emilia (2005). In 1988 Pomodoro was invited to create a one-room installation for the Venice Biennale.

He is perhaps best known for his outdoor public installations and their dramatic alteration of familiar vistas, including Cortile della Pigna in Vatican City (1989–90), United Nations Plaza in New York (1996) and Palais-Royal in Paris (2002).

The Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, founded in 1995, for which Pomodoro serves as director, has been dedicated to the exhibition and funding of artists for over a decade. Pomodoro lives and works in Milan. ■



### Justice Antonin Scalia *Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court*

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1936, Justice Scalia received his A.B. from Georgetown University and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and his LL.B. from Harvard Law School, and was a Sheldon Fellow of Harvard University from 1960-1961.

He was in private practice in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1961-1967. He was a Professor of Law at the University of Virginia from 1967-1971, and a Professor of Law at the University of Chicago from 1977-1982, and a Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University and Stanford University. He was a chairman of the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law, 1981-1982, and its Conference of Section Chairmen, 1982-1983.

He served the federal government as General Counsel of the office of Telecommunications Policy from 1971-1972, and as Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States from 1972-1977.

He was appointed Judge of the United States Supreme Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1982.

President Reagan nominated him as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and he took his seat on September 26, 1986. ■



### Ambassador Ronald Spogli *Former U.S. Ambassador to Italy*

Ambassador Ronald Spogli was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 30, 2005 after his nomination by President George W. Bush, and served until February 26, 2009.

In 2008, he received the Sue M. Cobb Award for Exemplary Diplomatic Service, the only honor given by the State Department to a political appointee ambassador.

In 1983, together with Bradford M. Freeman, Ambassador Spogli founded Freeman Spogli & Co., one of the leading private equity investors in the United States. Based in Los Angeles and with offices in New York, Freeman Spogli & Co. has invested in 42 companies with aggregate values in excess of \$16 billion.

In the course of his activities with the company, Ambassador Spogli has served on the board of directors of over 20 different

companies. Born in Los Angeles on March 25, 1948, Ambassador Spogli received his A.B. in history from Stanford University in 1970 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. He earned an MBA degree from Harvard Business School in 1975.

Having lived and worked abroad in Florence and Milan for two years during his time at Stanford, he became fluent in Italian and developed a keen interest in international affairs. ■



## AN EXCITING PROGRAM FOR THE ASILM TRIP TO SICILY



*One of the eight temples in the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. The city of Agrigento is one of many highlights of the upcoming ASILM trip to Sicily in March 2013.*

Already spaces are filling up for the highly-anticipated ASILM trip to Sicily, which is set to take place from Saturday, March 9, to Sunday, March 17, 2013.

The trip follows on the success of the visit to Rome of the ASILM delegation in November 2011. As with the last trip, this one will offer the opportunity for members to meet and develop connections in some of the most beautiful settings in the world. Furthermore, the visit to Italy will provide a cultural experience for its members as they absorb knowledge about the history, art, food and wine that sets Sicily apart from anywhere else on the globe.

Beyond the cultural experience, the trip serves as a way to connect decorated Italians with the *decorati* in the United States, bridging the two countries in accordance with the Society's mission. A tentative reception is currently planned at which the mayor of Palermo will welcome the delegation at City Hall. This reception will serve to underline the importance of the Society; the relevant role the Society plays in the United States and in Italy; and the prestige of its members.

During the trip, members of the delegation will stay in two five-star hotels: Hotel Villa Igia in Palermo and San Domenico Palace Hotel in Taormina. They will also spend a night in Agrigento in the four-star hotel, Antica Perla Residence Hotel. Although each is distinct in character and architecture, these hotels share the stunning views of the cities and the seaside, luxurious rooms and the warmest Sicilian hospitality.

The travel program begins on March 9 in Palermo, the cultural and historical capital of Sicily. A welcome dinner will be organized in honor of the ASILM delegation at Donna Franca Florio Restaurant, which is located on the terrace of Hotel Villa Igia. As members of the delegation dine, they will take in the breathtak-

ing views of the Bay of Palermo beneath them. The panoramic view, the atmosphere and the conversation will ensure a most memorable evening.

Members will fully explore other cities near Palermo the following day. The delegation will be transferred by private coach to Monreale, a town on the slope of Monte Caputo, filled with fields of orange, olive and almond trees. Members will visit the city, its cathedral and cloister, before having lunch in a local restaurant and then departing for the town of Mondello.

After spending time at this seaside resort, members can share the day's experiences over dinner at Ristorante Alle Terrazze, the



*Ristorante Alle Terrazze in Mondello, where the ASILM delegation will dine on Sunday, March 10; after an afternoon at the beach resort town.*



most famous restaurant in Mondello.

The next day will be spent in the historic towns of Erice and Marsala. While in Erice, the delegation will sightsee through city and enjoy a lunch in a local restaurant. The day will feature a wine tasting and dinner at Cantina Florio, one of the oldest wineries in Sicily, established in 1833. Located in the Marsala region, the winery has a unique history; it was the place where John Woodhouse, an English wine merchant, created the Marsala wine style and then popularized it in the British market, selling great volumes of it to the British navy.

Of course the delegation cannot depart Palermo before taking a private coach tour of Monte Pellegrino, followed by a tour of the city of Palermo itself. During this tour, members will visit the city center, the famous cathedral, La Martorana, the city hall, Quattro Canti, Palazzo dei Normanni, Fontana della Vergogna, and other sites that make Palermo a major destination. On their last night in Palermo, members will have a free evening to enjoy the city before departing the next day for Agrigento on March 13.



*Palermo Cathedral is one of many sites the ASILM delegation will visit on its tour of the city.*

The Valley of the Temples is an archaeological park in Agrigento that consists of eight ancient temples: The Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Heracles, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Temple of Castor and Pollux, the Temple of Hephaestus, the Temple of Demeter, and the Temple of Asclepius. All of these mesmerizing temples are located along the sea, south of modern day Agrigento.

Antica Perla Residence Hotel, the hotel the delegation will stay in for the night of March 13, is located on the Mediterranean Sea and offers outstanding panoramic views.

Later that day, members of the delegation will visit the winery



*The delegation will visit the winery, Feudo Principi di Butera for a tasting and dinner.*

Feudo Principi di Butera for a tasting and dinner in their honor. The winery, which has been owned by Zonin since 1997, is situated in the province of Caltanissetta, recognized today as one of the best wine making regions in Sicily thanks mostly to its production of high-quality, prestigious red wines. During the tasting, the delegation will sample the best the winery has to offer.

Members will depart the following day by private coach for Piazza Armerina to visit the Villa Romana del Casale and its ancient Roman mosaics, which have recently undergone extensive renovation to restore them to their full splendor. Villa Romana del Casale is one of the 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Italy, containing the largest and most valuable collection of Roman mosaics in the world, and will likely be a favorite site for members.



*One of the ancient Roman mosaics found within the Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina.*



The tour will then depart Piazza Armerina for the beautiful city of Taormina, a popular tourist attraction known for its beaches, fine wine and cuisine. There they will arrive at the San Domenico Palace Hotel, the most renowned monastery-hotel in the world. After members settle into their rooms, they will head to its intimate restaurant to dine.

Taormina is famous for its close proximity to Mount Etna, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, and almost always in a constant state of activity. Indeed, tourists travel from across the globe to visit this dangerous yet breathtaking volcano, which also happens to be the highest mountain in Italy south of the Alps. The ASILM delegation will have the opportunity to visit Mount Etna by private coach, spending an entire morning there and eating at the Rifugio Etna.

Afterward, the delegation will depart for nearby Mazzarò and visit the coast, which offers some of the most enchanting views in Sicily.

Members will then spend Saturday, March 16, visiting the Greek theatre and other prominent sites in Taormina, such as the Medieval Quarter, Palazzo Corvaja, Badia Vecchia, the city's cathedral and Saint Pancra's Church, to name a few.

A truly special occasion on the trip will occur during the last night of the program when members will be treated to a farewell dinner at Casa Grugno. This charming restaurant offers the best local cuisine and will be the perfect place for members to reminisce about their experiences on the trip and to bid their goodbyes before returning to the United States.

Although the trip has a full program, the final cost is being maintained as low as possible. The cost of the land package (8 nights/9 days, double occupancy) will be around \$2,500.00. Airfare is not included in the land package. However, efforts are being made with Alitalia to provide a discount in airfare, as was done for the ASILM trip to Rome in November 2011 .

The program and the reservation form are both available on the ASILM website ([www.asilm.org](http://www.asilm.org)). If members wish to take part in this special trip, they are encouraged to complete the participation form and send it in as soon as possible, as space is very limited. ■



*After taking an excursion to Mount Etna, the delegation will visit nearby Mazzarò and the coast.*



*The beginning of the Medieval Quarter of Taormina.*



*San Domenico Palace Hotel with the active Mount Etna volcano in the background.*



## SICILY TRIP PROGRAM

March 9, 2013 - March 17, 2013

### Saturday, March 9, 2013

12:30pm: Arrival in Palermo - Hotel Villa Igiea

Free Afternoon

8:00pm: Welcome Dinner at Donna Franca Florio Restaurant  
(Terrace of Hotel Villa Igiea)

### Sunday, March 10, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

9:00am: Depart by private coach from Hotel Villa Igiea for Monreale  
(Visit of the city, cathedral, cloister and villa)

1:00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant

3:00pm: Transfer by private coach to Mondello and tour of the seaside resort

8:00pm: Dinner at Ristorante Alle Terrazze, Mondello

10:00pm: Return by private coach to Hotel Villa Igiea

### Monday, March 11, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

9:30am: Depart by private coach from Hotel Villa Igiea for Erice

11:00am: Arrival in Erice and visit of the city

1:00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant

3:00pm: Return to Palermo

5:00pm: Arrival at Hotel Villa Igiea

8:00pm: Dinner at La Scuderia

### Tuesday, March 12, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

9:00am: Depart by private coach from Hotel Villa Igiea for excursion to Monte Pellegrino

10:30am - 5:00pm: Tour by private coach of Palermo  
(Visit of the city center, cathedral, La Martorana, city hall, Quattro Canti, Palazzo dei Normanni and Fontana della Vergogna)

Free Evening

10:00pm: Return by private coach from Piazza Politeama to Hotel Villa Igiea

### Wednesday, March 13, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

9:00am: Depart by private coach from Hotel Villa Igiea for Agrigento

11:00am: Arrival in Agrigento & visit to the Valley of the Temples

1:00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant

3:00pm: Arrival in Antica Perla Residence Hotel in Agrigento

6:00pm: Depart hotel by private coach for Feudo Principi di Butera

7:00pm: Wine tasting and dinner at Feudo Principi di Butera

9:30pm: Depart by private coach Feudo Principi di Butera for Antica Perla Residence Hotel

### Thursday, March 14, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

8:30am: Depart Antica Perla Residence Hotel by private coach for Piazza Armerina

9:30am: Arrival in Piazza Armerina and visit to the Villa Romana del Casale and its ancient Roman mosaics

1:00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant

2:30pm: Depart Piazza Armerina by private coach for Taormina

4:00pm: Arrival in Taormina - Hotel San Domenico

8:00pm: Dinner at Hotel San Domenico

### Friday, March 15, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

9:00am: Depart Hotel San Domenico by private coach for excursion to Mount Etna

1:00pm: Lunch at Rifugio Etna

2:00pm: Depart by private coach Rifugio Etna for Mazzarò and the coast

6:00pm: Return by private coach to Hotel San Domenico

Free Evening

### Saturday, March 16, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

9:00am: Visit the Greek theater and walking tour of Taormina  
(Medieval Quarter, Palazzo Corvaja, Badia Vecchia, cathedral, St. Pancra's Church)

8:00pm: Farewell Dinner at Casa Grugno

### Sunday, March 17, 2013

8:00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel

12:00pm: Check out of hotel

End of the trip

8 nights total:

4 nights in Palermo, 1 night in Agrigento, 3 nights in Taormina



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### CAV. EDWARD D. RE, JR. RECEIVES THE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

ASILM member, Cav. Edward D. Re, Jr., was presented with the International Facilities Management Association's "Distinguished Educator Award" at The Pierre Hotel during its 2012 annual dinner conference in New York.

Professor Edward (Eddie) Re, Jr., is a registered architect in the State of New York and a tenured full professor at Pratt Institute.

Prof. Re teaches "Real Estate Finance" and "Facilities Asset Management" in the prestigious Masters Program of Facilities Management in the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute. Prof. Re is also licensed by the State of New York Department of Education to teach continuing education in architecture, engineering and real estate appraising.

Over the years Prof. Re has lectured extensively on Commercial Space Requirements at New York University and Comparative Real Estate for the Shanghai University. He was also associated

with The Economic Development Exchange Program for the Hong Kong University, as well as with numerous construction and real estate association conferences throughout the country. As a young contractor, in 1978 Prof. Re formed the "Construction Management Association of America", the now largest construction management organization in America.

Prof. Re enjoys teaching and lecturing part time while running a successful New York construction and property management company he founded more than 40 years ago in his home town of Rockaway Beach, Queens. In July, Prof. Re authored his latest article, "Understanding the Root Cause of the Recent Economic Crisis." ■

### THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC HONORS COMM. ROBERT BARBERA *(Article by Alessandra Mastroianni)*



*Consul General of Italy Giuseppe Perrone awarded Mr. Robert Barbera with the medal from "Ordine della Stella d'Italia."*

Double celebration for Mr. Robert Barbera, publisher for L'Italo-Americano. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, he has been awarded with a medal from "Ordine della Stella d'Italia."

Mr. Robert Barbera's passion for Italy, its culture and heritage, has been recognized with one of the most important honors of the Italian Republic, and the Consul General of Italy, Hon. Giuseppe Perrone, personally handed the precious medal during the celebrations.

"The assignment of the Grande Ufficiale of the Ordine della Stella to Robert Barbera from the President of the Italian Republic," commented the Consul General, "is a great recognition that Robert

deserved, for the commitment he has demonstrated during the years towards family, community, and work. These values are distinctive features of being Italian."

"His contribution to the promotion of the Italian language and culture, recently embraced with the leadership of L'Italo-Americano, is a precious resource on which the Italian institutions can always rely here in Southern California." ■



### CAV. GILDA RORRO BALDASSARI IS THE RECIPIENT OF THREE AWARDS IN 2012

ASILM Member, Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D., received three prestigious awards this year. The first was the “2012 Ambasciatore Award” from the Italian American Museum in New York City, under the leadership of Cav. Uff. Joseph Scelsa, with Cav. John Alati.

The recognition is conferred on leaders of major Italian-American organizations for the benefits provided by those organizations to the community-at-large. Dr. Rorro Baldassari was noted for her 14 years of voluntary service as Honorary Vice Consul for Italy in Trenton, as Emerita and as Consular Correspondent, and for her ongoing service as Chair of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission (NJIIAHC).

The second given to her was the “Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement” award, bestowed by the annual Arcadia University Alumni Association for her accomplishments in the professions and community service that greatly enhance the prestige of the university. The ceremony took place on June 9, 2012, in the campus Castle.

At the statewide Yom Ha Shoa Commemoration, on June 20, 2012, in the New Jersey Department of Education, Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, received the “Hela Young Award,” from the Executive Director of the New Jersey Office of Holocaust/Genocide Education, Dr. Paul Winkler. Dr. Rorro Baldassari was awarded because of her “activism, community service and dedication to the improvement of human relations among diverse peoples and for the improvement of the human condition specifically related to prejudice reduction.” ■



### COM.IT.ES OF PHILADELPHIA HONORS CAV. ANTHONY D’ALESSANDRO

On June 3, 2012, Com.It.Es. of Philadelphia honored Anthony D’Alessandro for his brilliant career representing Italian pride and excellence in the world.

Antonio Rocco D’Alessandro was born in Italy on July 21, 1940 in Ari, a small commune in the province of Chieti in Abruzzo. In 1960, he emigrated to the United States where he attended school to improve his English and obtain a diploma in Business and Administration.

He then opened and managed “Accent Uniform, Inc.,” a factory employing over eighty workers, and producing and providing high-quality, affordable uniforms to the armed forces.

In spite of his success, Cav. D’Alessandro continues to devote time to helping the Italian community in Delaware Valley, representing the Com.It.Es. of Philadelphia, and collaborating actively, as a member of numerous associations, such as “Sons of Italy”, “Knights of Columbus” and “Golden Sword Society” of the Military Academy of Valley Forge, among others. Besides being the Director of “Clothing Manufacturer’s Association of the United States of America”, he is also the founder and president of “Associazione Regionale Abruzzese del Delaware County”, of “C.A.R.I. Club Amici Radio Italia” and of “I.A.B.N. Italian American Broadcast Network.”

The Com.It.Es. are representative bodies of the Italian community. Through study and research, the organization helps in identifying social, cultural and civic needs of the community. ■

In Memoriam...

Dr. Anna A. Paolucci  
New York

IL CAVALIERE

AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF THE ITALIAN  
LEGIONS OF MERIT



ASILM  
C/O 60 EAST 42ND STREET  
SUITE 2214  
NEW YORK, NY 10165

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NEW YORK, NY  
PERMIT NO. 3629

## Save the Date...

Thursday, December 6, 2012  
47th Annual Meeting  
New York City

Friday, December 7, 2012  
47th Annual Gala Dinner Dance  
& Awards Ceremony  
Grand Ballroom, The Pierre Hotel  
New York City

Saturday, March 9, 2013 -  
Sunday, March 17, 2013  
Trip to Sicily

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

Editor, Il Cavaliere, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit,  
P.O. Box 789,  
New York, NY 10150

IL CAVALIERE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT



Il Cavaliere is an official publication of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization legally incorporated in the State of New York.

Comm. Stefano Acunto, Publisher  
Cav. di Gran Croce Lucio Caputo, Editor  
Kimberly Fry, Co-Editor  
Gina Marie Balog, Production Manager  
Cav. Vito Catalano, Photographer

Address all mail to: Editor, Il Cavaliere  
P.O. Box 789, New York, New York 10150.

Email: [president.asilm@yahoo.com](mailto:president.asilm@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.asilm.org](http://www.asilm.org)

Tel. 212.661.1108