

# FOIA MARKER

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**Series/Staff Member:** Jeff Shesol

**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 21461

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**

Sons of Italy Dinner 5/25/00

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**91**

**Section:**

**6**

**Shelf:**

**10**

**Position:**

**3**

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Phone Number. [partial] (1 page)	5/2000	P6/b(6)

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**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
Speechwriting  
Jeff Shesol  
OA/Box Number: 21461

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**FOLDER TITLE:**

Sons of Italy Dinner 5/25/00

2006-0467-F

vz232

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**RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]  
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]  
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]  
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]  
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]  
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]  
  
C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.  
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).  
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]  
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]  
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]  
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]  
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]  
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]  
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]  
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Mark C. Sheppard

05/26/2000

01:04:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: 2000 05/25 POTUS remarks at Sons of Italy Dinner

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
DURING SONS OF ITALY GALA

National Building Museum  
Washington, D.C.

10:20 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you for the warm welcome. I am delighted to be here. I'm sorry to be late. I got here in time to see Mario Andretti's film, or at least to hear it. And I want to begin by congratulating Mario Andretti and Connie Stevens on their award, and congratulating you on honoring them.

I was, today -- the reason I had to be a little late tonight is, I've been forced to go to Rhode Island. I had to go to a memorial service today for a friend of mine. And then when I came back, I stopped by the Asian-Pacific American dinner tonight. And I brought Mary Beth Cahill, my Director of Public Liaison. Now, she's Irish, I'm Irish. We went to the Asian-Pacific dinner, and then we came to the Sons of Italy dinner. Is this a great country, or what? (Applause.)

I want to thank all the members of Congress who are here: Michael Capuano, Rosa DeLauro, Peter DeFazio, Nick Lampson, Dave Weldon. And I know John LaFalce was here, and since he's from New York, I think I'll mention him anyway. (Laughter.)

I want to -- I see Ambassador Salles back there. Thank you, sir, for representing your country so well. And our U.S. Ambassador to Hungary has come all the way back, Peter Tufo, thank you. Thank you, Paul Polo. Thank you, Phil Piccigallo. Thank you, Phil Boncore.

And I'd also like to recognize one of my heroes, since I'm a baseball nut, Tommy Lasorda, and Vic Damone. And Vince Panvini, the Sheet Metal Workers' President, thank you. (Applause.)

You know, I do a lot of these dinners. And I never come so late, but normally by this hour, people are beginning to flag. But you look pretty lively to me tonight. (Laughter.) And I don't think it's me. I think the espresso, maybe. (Laughter.)

I am going to follow tonight the admonition of one of the greatest of all Italians -- Cicero, who was a pretty fair speaker. He said this: "brevity is the best recommendation of a speech." So I agree with that -- except when it comes to the State of the Union -- (laughter) -- and Cicero never had to give one of those, so I forgive him.

Let me begin by saying that obviously this is the last one of these dinners I will attend as President. Many of you have helped me and the Vice President and our administration family over seven and a half years, especially when it comes to advancing the cause of education. I thank you for what you do for the young people every year, and I hope to meet your young honorees tonight, which you've given the scholarships to. And I thank you very much for what you've done for us over these last seven and a half years.

I'd also like to say how profoundly indebted I am to the host of Italian-Americans who have served in this administration. Today, my Chief of Staff is John Podesta, the second Italian-American chief of staff I have had. (Applause.) My Deputy Chief of Staff, Steve Ricchetti; the Counselor to the Chief of Staff, Karen Tramontano; my Director of Communications, Loretta Ucelli; my Deputy Press Secretary, Jennifer Palmieri; and that's just the beginning. (Applause.)

I used to joke with them that someday, someone would file an affirmative action suit against me for having too many Italians in the administration. (Laughter.) But I'm very glad also to have Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who's done a terrific job, and I want to thank him. (Applause.)

I want to also thank the Italian-American community for the contributions that so many millions have made to the progress of America these last seven and a half years -- to the economic progress, the social progress, bringing the values of immigrants, of hard work, faith and family, to the forefront of America, and bringing us together.

And I want to make basically just two points, very briefly, that I think are consistent with what the Sons of Italy have done for 90 years, now, and more. First of all, you may have noticed that this is an election year. It's the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot, so I haven't paid much attention to it -- (laughter) -- but I'm told that this is an election year.

Most of the time, I'm okay about not being on the ballot.

But what I want to say to you is this: I've done everything I know to do to help our country deal with the challenges that have faced us at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st. We are now in a once-in-a-lifetime position -- in terms of the strength of our economy, in terms of the strengthening of our social fabric, in terms of our security position in the world -- and I believe the great question in this millennial year is, what are we going to do with this good fortune?

And those of you at least in this audience who are over 30 can all remember at least one time in your lives when you made a mistake -- a personal mistake, or a professional or a business mistake; or, if you're in politics, a political mistake -- not because things were going so poorly, but because things were going so well, you thought there were no consequences to a lapse in judgment, to taking the immediate path rather than the long view.

The whole history of Italian-Americans is the history of people who overcame obstacles, strengthened their families, made sacrifices today for the benefit of tomorrow. And what I hope and pray for Americans, without regard to whether they're Democrats or Republicans or independents, is that we will take advantage of this precious opportunity we have to ask ourselves, what are we going to do with this good fortune to build the future of our dreams for our children and our grandchildren? How are we going to meet the big challenges still out there? What about the people and places who have been left behind by this prosperity?

A couple of days ago we had what is, to me, one of my most moving days as President, when we had a large number of members of Congress, including a couple who are in this room tonight, join the Speaker of the House and me to announce that we had reached a bipartisan agreement that I hope will pass the House and the Senate unanimously to give investors, like some of you in this room, the same tax incentives and other incentives to invest in poor neighborhoods in urban and rural America and our Native American reservations we give you to invest in poor areas overseas and around the world. (Applause.) That's a big issue.

What are we going to do to make sure all of our children have world-class educations, and they can all go on to college? What are we going to do to reward work, and help people balance work and family -- the most important question many people face?

How will we manage the aging of America? What's going to happen to Social Security? What's going to happen to Medicare? What about the families that are taking care of their parents in long-term care? How are they going to deal with that?

The average life expectancy of anybody that lives to be 65 today in America is 82. And it will soon be a lot higher. When we get the full decoding of the human genome sometime later this year, it will spark the most amazing revolution in the biological sciences we have ever seen. And I wouldn't be surprised if there are young people in this audience today who will have children over the next 20 years who literally will be able to look forward to a life expectancy of about 100 years.

Now that is a high-class problem. But it means we have to do more to prepare the way. We've got to give seniors prescription drugs, so they can live healthier and better as well as longer. (Applause.) We've got to deal with this -- if a family's going to take care of a loved one, an elderly or disabled loved one, we've got to help them do that. They ought to have some sort of tax break to do that.

I think these things are very important. But they're big questions, and they don't have any simple partisan answers; they're people issues.

How are we going to deal with the new security challenges, from terrorists and rogue states and narco-traffickers? Someone told me the Ambassador from Colombia is here tonight. The next big national security challenge we have is getting the Congress to pass America's share of helping to save the oldest democracy in Latin America, in Colombia, and I hope all of you will support that. We have got to prove that a free system of free people can defeat narco-traffickers and civil war and terrorists. We've got to prove that. (Applause.)

But to me, the most important thing of all is, as we become more and more a nation of immigrants, how shall we remain one America? How will we celebrate our diversity? I don't believe in tolerating difference. I think it should be celebrated and enjoyed. This is a more interesting country, don't you think? That it's growing more diverse? (Applause.)

You know, when I was over -- at the Asian dinner tonight, there are people from at least 25 different national groups, speaking over 75 different native languages, from hundreds of different ethnic groups, just in the Asian-American community alone. Across the river here in Alexandria, there is one school district that has children in it whose parents speak over 180 languages as their first language.

Now, in a global economy and an increasingly global society, this is a godsend. But we don't have time anymore, or the luxury, for people to endure some of the prejudice and discrimination that the Italians and the Irish went through when they came here; that the Japanese felt when they were put in the internment camps in World War II; that we still see in the hate crimes around this country.

So I hope you will help us to support the hate-crimes legislation, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and even more important, genuine efforts in every community and every school to expose our children to all the differences that make up America today -- to let them appreciate them and respect them and celebrate them, and recognize that the only way we're ever going to hold our ship of state together is to find that incredible balance between loving our ethnic diversity and understanding that our common humanity is even more important. (Applause.)

It's probably too late in the evening for such heavy stuff, but this is my last shot, and I thought I'd take it. (Laughter.)

Again let me say, I thank you. I've had a wonderful time. The country's in good shape. You have to decide what to do with it.

You want to be able to tell your children and your grandchildren that when the century turned, and when we started a new millennium, America was not just in good shape, but you made the most of it -- that we were a good friend and a good neighbor to the rest of the world, and that we built a new future for all our people. That's what you want to be able to say.

And so, whatever your political background, whatever your predisposition, be Italian this election year. Think about family; think about work; think about the future; think about your grandchildren. And give it all you've got. (Applause.)

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

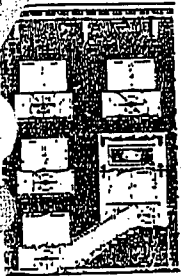
10:37 P.M. EDT

Message Sent To: \_\_\_\_\_

# SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION

*Order Sons of Italy in America*

219 E Street, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002  
(202) 547-2900 FAX: (202) 546-8168



February 4, 2000

*STATEN*

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of Sons of Italy Foundation President Paul S. Polo and the SIF Board of Trustees, it is my great pleasure to invite you and Mrs. Clinton to the Sons of Italy Foundation's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala, to be held the evening of May 25, 2000 at the National Building Museum here in Washington, DC. We have been deeply honored the past two years by your presence and eloquent addresses given at this event, and we would be equally delighted by yet another repeat visit this year.

As you know, the annual NELA Gala is the hallmark of the SIF's philanthropic program and commitment to education, wherein we've contributed in excess of \$30 million to scholarships for outstanding young people since 1968. This year, we continue our tradition of publicly honoring, not only these talented students, but some very well-known Italian Americans who have given a great deal back to our community. Mario Andretti will be recognized with the SIF's 4th Annual Humanitarian Award, while a leading corporate CEO, to be named, will receive the principal (NELA) award. Vic Damone and his orchestra will be on hand for a special tribute performance. Larry King will once again emcee.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NELA Gala will take place on Thursday, May 25, from approximately 6:00 - 11:00 pm once again at the National Building Museum. I sincerely hope that you and Mrs. Clinton will be able to attend, as our special guests, and that you will consider addressing the audience as well. Should you wish to attend the dinner and/or VIP Reception, we would be more than happy to make such arrangements.

Please have your schedulers let me know at your earliest convenience, by replying directly either to me or Executive Secretary Martha Morse at (202)547-3155. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Philip R. Piccigallo* [Piccigallo]

Philip R. Piccigallo, Ph.D.  
National Executive Director

cc: Paul S. Polo, SIF president

Final 05/25/00 7:00pm  
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
REMARKS AT THE SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION  
12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS GALA  
THE NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, DC  
May 25, 2000**

Acknowledgments: Sec. Slater; Members of Congress; Italian Amb. to US Ferdinand Salleo [*sa-lay-o*]; US Amb. to Hungary Peter Tufo; Paul Polo, SIF Pres.; Phil Piccigallo [*pitch-igallo*], OSIA Nat'l Exec. Dir.; Phillip Boncore, OSIA Nat'l Pres.; Vince Panvini, Sheet Metal Workers; Tommy Lasorda; Vic Damone; tonight's honorees Mario Andretti & Connie Stevens

I'm delighted to join you at this year's gala, even at this late hour. You know, I attend a lot of dinners, and by this time in the evening, people tend to flag a little. But you all look pretty lively. Is it me, or the shots of espresso?

All the same, I won't keep you much later. It was Cicero who said, "Brevity is the best recommendation of speech." And I completely agree. Except when it comes to the State of the Union. Cicero never had to give one of those.

As I look out at this audience and see the wide range of talent represented here, I'm reminded of the many ways that Italian-Americans make a difference every day. This is something that's never far from my mind – or my door. Just a few steps from the Oval Office, I'm very lucky to have my Chief of Staff, John Podesta; my Deputy Chief of Staff, Steve Ricchetti; the Counselor to the Chief of Staff, Karen Tramontano; my Communications Director, Loretta Ucelli; and my Deputy Press Secretary, Jennifer Palmieri. And I think you all know how important Secretary Cuomo has been to my administration.

I am very proud of the contributions that Italian-Americans, both within the White House and across America, are making to these remarkable times – to the longest economic expansion in history, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years.

Every bit as important, the sons and daughters of Italy are working hard every day to strengthen the values we all share: the love of family and the vitality of faith; the importance of education; the pride in work; and the devotion to community and country. These values are close to the hearts of Italian-Americans and, indeed, Americans of every background. They led millions of immigrants to our shores and guided them, once they got here, to the highest levels of achievement and power.

We are here tonight not just to celebrate those achievements but to honor our shared commitment to education, the gateway to opportunity in America. As President, that's a commitment I have worked hard to fulfill – investing more in and demanding more from our

public schools; expanding HeadStart; creating HOPE Scholarships, increasing Pell grants, and opening the doors of college to all Americans.

For more than 90 years, the Sons of Italy has kept faith with these cherished values while working to build an even better future for our children. Again, let me offer my congratulations to tonight's honorees, who exemplify that tradition, and my thanks to all of you. For every day that you honor your proud heritage, you enrich and strengthen our great nation. Thank you and good night.

May 24, 2000

**Sons of Italy Foundation's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
National Education and Leadership Awards Gala**

Date: May 25, 2000  
Time: 9:30 p.m.  
Location: National Building Museum  
From: Mary Beth Cahill  
Danny O'Brien

**I. PURPOSE**

To acknowledge the contributions of the Italian American community to all facets of American society and to uphold the Administration's initiatives as they relate to education, family values, safe communities and expanded opportunities.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The Sons of Italy Foundation celebrates the twelfth anniversary of its National Education and Leadership Awards Gala. The NELA Gala is the hallmark of the organization's philanthropic activities in support of education. Since 1968 the Sons of Italy Foundation has contributed in excess of \$30 million to outstanding young people. You attended the NELA Gala in 1998 and 1999.

Celebrating the spirit of community amongst Italian Americans, this year's NELA Gala will honor Mario Andretti with the National Education and Leadership Award and Connie Stevens with the Sons of Italy Humanitarian Award.

**III. PARTICIPANTS**

**Greeters and Stage Participants:**

- ✓ Paul Polo, President, Sons of Italy Foundation
- ✓ Dr. Phil Piccigallo, National Executive Director, Order Sons of Italy in America
- ✓ Phillip Boncore, National President, Order Sons of Italy in America
- Vincent Panvini, Director of Government Affairs, Sheet Metal Workers' International Association

#### **IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

- **You** will be greeted by Paul Polo, Phil Piccigallo, Phil Boncore and Vince Panvini
- Off-stage introduction of **you** and the four greeters
- **You** proceed to the stage where Paul Polo will introduce you (one minute)
- **You** provide remarks
- **You** depart the stage and work the rope line.

#### **V. PRESS**

Open press

#### **VI. ATTACHMENTS**

Draft 05/25/00 4:00pm  
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
REMARKS AT THE SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION  
12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS GALA  
THE NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, DC  
May 25, 2000**

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Every bit as important, the sons and daughters of Italy are working hard every day to strengthen the values we all share: the love of family and the vitality of faith; the importance of education; the pride in work; and the devotion to community and country. These values are close to the hearts of Italian-Americans and, indeed, Americans of every background. They led millions of immigrants to our shores and, once they got here, guided them to the very highest levels of achievement and power.

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National Office

# Order Sons of Italy in America

219 E Street, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002

202/547-2900 • 202/546-8168 (FAX)

Founded June 22, 1891

## FAX COVER SHEET

DATE:

05-25-00

SENDER:

Philip R. Piccigallo, Ph.D.  
National Executive Director

TEL:

(202) 547-3155

FAX: (202) 547-0121

OPERATOR:

Martha Morse

ATTN:

Danny O'Brien

FAX #:

456-6218

RE:

MESSAGE:

PER OUR CONVERSATION

PAGES:

8

(Including cover sheet)

# NELA Gala Program

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Revised 5/16/00

7:00-7:45 pm  
7:45

Cocktail/VIP Reception

*Cut music/ voice-over, appetizer is pre-set, waiters help usher people in, pour white wine*  
*Turn off fountain when all guests are seated*

8:00

8:00-9:00

Dinner

*Program begins simultaneously, as below*

8:00-8:10

Greetings/Welcome from Emcee Tommy Lasorda

8:10-8:13

Invocation by Father William J. Byron

8:13-8:20

VOG Introduces Tenor Michael Amante  
Amante Performs 2 Arias

8:50-9:00

OSIA/SIF Presidents Speak  
*Coffee and dessert served*

9:00-9:26

11 Scholarships Presented (on stage)  
*(12 scholarships mentioned, total, but one winner not in attendance)*

arrival

9:27-9:32

Lasorda Introduces NELA Co-Chairman Corrao

9:32-9:34

Corrao presents Guarascio with "Crystal Lion Recognition Award"

9:34-9:38

Guarascio speaks

9:38-9:50

Lasorda Introduces Lo Bianco  
Lo Bianco Introduces Stevens' Video/Video Shown/Award Presented

9:50-9:57

Humanitarian Award Recipient Connie Stevens Speaks

9:57-10:10

Lasorda Introduces NELA Co-Chairman Giancamilli  
Giancamilli Introduces Andretti Video/Video Shown/Award Presented

10:10-10:15

NELA Recipient Mario Andretti Speaks

10:15-10:17

Lasorda Introduces Vic Damone

10:17-11:07

Damone Performs

# Attendees-VIP Reception

Last Name	Full Name(s)	Company
	O'Brien Guest	
Amante	O'Brien Guest	
Andretti	Michael Amante	
Andretti	Mario Andretti	
Anronini	Rina Andretti	
Antonini	Kathy Antonini	JEA Enterprises
Austin	Joseph E. Antonini	JEA Enterprises
Bagnall	Denise Austin	Kmart
Beach	Thomas Bagnall	
Bell	Andrea K. Beach	
Bologna	Alan Bell	OSIA
Boncore	Joc Bologna	VF Jeanswear
Boncore	Goldie Boncore	actor
Bonelli	Philip R. Boncore	OSIA
Boniello	Anthony Bonelli	OSIA
Borsella	Ralph Boniello	Schering Labs
Brewer	John Borsella	Schering Labs
Bucci	Col. Jessie Brewer	Schering Labs
Byron, S. J.	William D. Bucci	
Camarata	Father William J. Byron, S. J.	GL of PA
Camarata	Lou Camarata	Georgetown University
Campbell	Marion Camarata	
Capello	Arch Campbell	
Capuano	Janet Cappello	WRC (NBC)
Cicala	Hon. Michael Capuano	GL of CA
Connors	Melo Cicala	Congress
Corrao	Carol Connors	
Corrao	Robert Corrao	Sports Impact
Crespy	Margaret Corrao	w/Corrao
	Diane E. Crespy	OSIA

Last Name	Full Name(s)	Company
Cushman	Marilla Cushman	
Damone	Rena Damone	
De Lauro	Hon. Rosa De Lauro	US Congress
DeFazio	The Hon. Peter DeFazio	US House of Representatives
Demasi	Anthony Demasi	
DeNicola	Anthony DeNicola	Schering Labs
DeRea	Father Philip DeRea	
DiLascia	Vincent J. DiLascia	Schering Labs
DiLascia	Christopher DiLascia	Schering Labs
DiLascia	Frank J. DiLascia	Schering Labs
Dizebba	Patricia Dizebba	Schering Labs
Dodson	Gary Dodson	
Duddy	Christopher Duddy	
Edelstein	Art Edelstein	Harris Marketing
Falo	Pilar Falo	
Farber	Brian Farber	
Fauci	Dr. Anthony Fauci	NIH
Fisher	Joely Fisher	
Fisher	Tricia Leigh Fisher	
Fitzpatrick	Elizabeth Fitzpatrick	
Floccuzio	Luana Floccuzio	Harris Marketing
Fontana	Kevin Fontana	Harris Marketing
Fontana	Donna Fontana	Harris Marketing
Fortinberry	Christa Fortinberry	JEA Enterprises
Foster	Kent Foster	
Fulvio	Jody Fulvio	GL of PA
Gajarsa	The Hon. Arthur J. Gajarsa	Federal Judge
Gajarsa	Melanie Gajarsa	
Gay	Peter B. Gay	PSP
Giancamilli	Wanda Giancamilli	Kmart
Giancamilli	Andy Giancamilli	Kmart
Gilman	Andrew Gilman	Harris Marketing
Gioia	Patricia Gioia	

Last Name	Full Name(s)	Company
Gioia	Ret. Gen. John Gioia	
Grauso	Danielle M. Grauso	
Grosso	Sonny Grosso	OSIA
Guarascio	Philip Guarascio	w/Corrao
Guarascio	Ruth Guarascio	w/Corrao
Hansen	Ralph Hansen	Pegasus Promotions
Haskell	Nikki Haskell	
Hatch	Hon. Orrin Hatch	
Hollowbush	Amy Hollowbush	
Ignani	Robert Ignani	
Kessler	Lynn Kessler-Hiltajczuk	PSP
Kestcr	Terry Kestcr	
Kester	Jan Kester	production
Krauss	Christina Krauss	production
Kronrad	David Kronrad	
Kuske	Jerry Kuske	Kmart
LaFalce	The Hon. John J. LaFalce	Kmart
LaGrega	Angelo LaGrega	US House of Representatives
LaMorte	William LaMorte	VF Jeanswear
Lampson	The Hon. Nicholas Lampson	Schering Labs
Lasorda	Tommy Lasorda	US Congress
Law	Tom Law	Dodgers
Leicht	Lars Leicht	Sterling Winters
Lewis	Karen Lewis	Banfi Vinters
Licata	Father Donald B. Licata	OSIA-volunteer
Lo Bianco	Tony Lo Bianco	OSIA
Lotito	Chris N. Lotito	
Luzquinos	Julio Luzquinos	GL of CA
Magistrati	Minister Pierandrea Magistrati	
Magistrati	Elena Magistrati	Italian Embassy
Mahmet	Peter Mahmet	
Mariani	James Mariani	Banfi Vinters
Mariani	Bernadette Mariani	Banfi Vinters

Last Name	Full Name(s)	Company
Mazzarella	Jim Mazzarella	Gov. Pataki's office
McCollum	Sue McCollum	Gillette
McCollum	Toney McCollum	Gillette
Messa	Robert A. Messa	OSIA
Messa	Elizabeth Messa	GL of PA
Montemuro	Hon. Frank J. Montemuro, Jr.	OSIA
Montemuro	Margaret Montemuro	GL of PA
Morcna	Gabriela Morcna	
Moreno	Ambassador Luis Alberto Moreno	Columbia Ambassador
Morse	Martha Morse	OSIA
Neve	Maria Nove	OSIA-volunteer
Nuschese	Franco Nuschese	Café Milano
O'Brien	Damy O'Brien	White House
Ornstein	Shirley Ornstein	
Ornstein	Erwin Ornstein	
Panvini	Vincent Panvini	Sheetmetal Workers
Panvini	Mary Panvini	Sheetmetal Workers
Panvini	Joelle Martini-Panvini	Sheetmetal Workers
Panvini	Vincent A. Panvini, Jr.	Sheetmetal Workers
Patterson	Judy Patterson	
Philbin	Dan Philbin	
Piccigallo	Dr. Philip R. Piccigallo	OSIA
Piccigallo	Rose Piccigallo	OSIA
Polo	Michael S. Polo	PSP
Polo	Sebastian M. Polo	PSP
Polo	Daniel Polo	PSP
Polo	Michael G. Polo	PSP
Polo	Paul S. Polo	PSP
Polo	Mary D. Polo	PSP
Raullerson	Kevin Raullerson	
Reibel	Nicole Reibel	
Reibel	Jean Jacques Reibel	Willard Intercontinental
Rhea	Smokey Rhea	CES Foundation

Last Name	Full Name(s)	Company
Robinson	Miles Robinson	Sterling Winters
Rogers	Elaine Rogers	
Roland	Leslie Roland	Kmart
Rosenblum	Steve Rosenblum	Sterling Winters
Rosenhaus	Rex Rosenhaus	Harris Marketing
Rosini	Manuel Rosini	
Rudo	Diane Rudo	Harris Marketing
Salleo	Anna Marie Salleo	Embassy
Salleo	Ambassador Ferdinand Salleo	Embassy
Secchia	Joan Secchia	Universal Products
Secchia	Hon. Peter F. Secchia	Universal Products
Shcets	Dale Sheets	
Sheets	Joan Sheets	
Shukle-Rosenhaus	Janice Shukle-Rosenhaus	Harris Marketing
Stanek	Christine Stanek	IADLC
Stemm	Maj. Patricia Stemm	
Stevens	Connie Stevens	
Surratt	Derek Surratt	British Airways
Surratt	Dara Surratt	British Airways
Tatulli	John Tatulli	OSIA
Taylor	Renee Taylor	actress
Tedesco	Paucela Tedesco	GL of CA
Tedesco	John Tedesco	GL of CA
Tomassetti	Nick R. Tomassetti	Airbus
Tomassetti	Flora Tomassetti	Airbus
Torrillo	Alison M. Torrillo	OSIA
Tufo	Kimberly Tufo	US Embassy-Hungary
Tufo	Ambassador Peter Tufo	US Embassy-Hungary
Vought	Brigadier Gen. Wilma Vought	Women in Military Service
Wax	Dora Wax	Café Milano
Weldon	Hon. David Weldon	Congress
Williams	Cindy Williams	Sterling Winters

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001. note	Phone Number. [partial] (1 page)	5/2000	P6/b(6)

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Speechwriting  
Jeff Shesol  
OA/Box Number: 21461

### FOLDER TITLE:

Sons of Italy Dinner 5/25/00

2006-0467-F  
vz232

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

P6/(b)(6)

[001]

Daniel O'Brien 62952.

Elaine

Focus on family, community, opportunity,  
education

Recipients of award:

- Mario Andretti - contrib. to community
- Connie Stevens - singer, now b-woman  
USD/ Bob Hope

- their letter has some info

Nat'l ed + leadership Award (MA)

Sons of Italy Humanitarian Award (CA)

Ades: is John going?

lot of labor types, Pelosi - so avoid trade

\* add Jen  
Cromo

Josh Gottheimer



CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN D. PODESTA  
REMARKS TO ITALO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
NEW YORK CITY  
September 17, 1999

POD

MAGNIFICAT

- Thank you for your kind introduction and for this meaningful honor.
- Growing up in a working-class neighborhood in Chicago, I never thought I'd be standing in the Waldorf Astoria. We Chicagoans have an inferiority complex – and often refer to our hometown as the second city. Of course, we all know the first city is ... Rome. Actually, for my family, the first city is Genoa – but I figured that wouldn't have worked for the joke.

Tove

Actually,

Sub

- I must admit, I was a little surprised when I heard who I'd be sharing the stage with tonight. I'm not as funny as Joe Piscapo. I don't know the markets like Joseph Battipaglia. And I definitely don't have a voice like Johnny Maestro. The only person I have anything in common with is Mario Andretti. Surviving the twists and turns of the Clinton White House is about as death-defying as driving a Formula One race car.

proceeds

when he was the chief of staff

- I've been Chief of Staff now for ~~over~~ a year. Let me tell you something Leon Panetta once told me: If you're going to work in the White House, it helps to be able to read Machiavelli in the original Italian.

- ~~But President Clinton has made a concerted effort to make his Administration look like America.~~ Over the years a pattern has developed in the Clinton White House. First the President appointed Mack MacLarty. Followed by Leon Panetta. Then Erskine Bowles. And now me. ~~If you still haven't picked up on the pattern, the President switches off between white bread and foccacia.~~

Howdy

the process

with me

and the Deputy Press Secretary

Secretary

- As Chief of Staff, I've surround myself by ~~a number of Italian-Americans~~ exceptional people like the Deputy Chief of Staff, Steve Ricchetti, the Communications Director, Loretta Ucelli, and my Chief of Staff, Karen Tramontano. You can just imagine what some of these meetings are like ~~with everyone willing to contribute their opinion.~~ They don't just tell me what they mean, they show me. [Demonstrate] I often have to duck ~~forward~~ to avoid the ~~flailing~~ arms and hands.

frank

TJ  
Panetta  
07

- All kidding aside, it's often our Italian heritage and traditions of work, family, education, and community that guides our judgement, and allows us to help the President set his agenda. These indelible values are as timely today as they were 100 years ago when my grandparents arrived at Ellis Island. They are what drive all of us in the Administration every day: Strengthening our families by giving our children better childhoods, providing a superior education for all Americans, improving access to healthcare, creating safer neighborhoods, and maintaining our leadership around the world.

QUALITY

nurturing

simple

- These values are the real story of our people and of all Americans. They're why your organization works so hard to keep these ideas alive. And ~~most importantly~~, they're what make me proud to be ~~an~~ Italian ~~and~~ American. Thank you again and goodnight.

AND SO PROUD OF  
THE HONOR YOU BESTOW UPON ME

the value of  
work

the love of  
family

the commitment  
to community

the devotion  
to our  
country

## CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI: BIOGRAPHY

Constantino Brumidi painted scores of frescoes in the United States Capitol. In addition to "The Apotheosis of George Washington" which appears in the Capitol dome in the Rotunda, Brumidi created artworks in the House of Representatives Chamber, many committee rooms, the President's Room, the Senate Reception Room, and throughout the corridors of the Capitol. One cannot tour the United States Capitol without being inundated with the work of Brumidi. The West Corridor of the Capitol has been termed the "Brumidi Corridor." The influence of Constantino Brumidi's artistic sensibilities on the artwork of the nation's Capitol are undisputed, but definitive and scholarly treatments of Brumidi's life and work are less evident.

Constantino Brumidi was born in Italy in 1805. He grew up in Rome, and studied at the Italian Academy of Arts. He immigrated to America in 1852, at the age of forty-seven. For the rest of his life (some twenty-seven years), Brumidi devoted his time to numerous commissioned frescoes, paintings, and sculpture in the Capitol building. The only known quote from Brumidi has been preserved by American author Smith Fry, who asserts that upon reaching America Brumidi said

I have no longer any desire for fame and fortune. My one ambition and my daily prayer is that I may live long enough to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty.

This quote may be inauthentic. Mr. Fry, the author of "Thrilling Story of the Wonderful Capitol Building and Its MARvelous Contents" (1911) and "Fry's Patriotic Story of the Capitol" (1911), provides no documentation.

In 1860, Brumidi married an American woman named Lola Germon.

There is no information on his first (Italian) marriage, but he did keep in contact with a daughter, Elena, who remained in Rome.

On February 18, 1880, Constantino Brumidi died at his home in Washington, D.C. Brumidi died in relative penury, but Congressional records indicate that he was well-paid. Originally, his salary was pegged to the annual salaries awarded to United States Congressmen, but this was eventually changed to a per diem ranging from eight to ten dollars. The largest work commissioned, "The Apotheosis of George Washington," was contracted for a lump sum of \$40,000. Brumidi received all but the \$500 reserved for completion of the project.

Brumidi's reputation waxed and waned, both during and after his lifetime. For almost one hundred years after his death, his grave in Washington was unmarked and unadorned. Little notice was made of the artist of the Capitol frescoes. The public's limited awareness of the existence of Brumidi was expanded by a conscious resurrection of his reputation in the 1950's by Myrtle Cheney Murdock.

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35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2068

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*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

October 16, 1999

**CITE:** 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2068**LENGTH:** 1595 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at a National Italian American Foundation Dinner**BODY:**

Thank you ladies and gentlemen. First of all, let me thank you for your warm welcome to Hillary and me. Thank you, Frank Guarini, for being my friend for all these years. Thank you, President Joe Cerrell. To all the distinguished guests here and the honorees, the Members of Congress, Gerry Ferraro, Ambassador Foglietta, Ambassador Rosapepe. To our distinguished Italian guests, Maria Bartiromo, Ambassador Salleo and, especially, Foreign Minister Dini.

I would like to say a special word of appreciation at this point to the Prime Minister and the Government of Italy for standing with us and working with us for the cause of our common humanity in Kosovo and, before that, in Bosnia. We could not have done it without Italy, and I am grateful.

Justice Scalia and Cardinal Hickey and all the others here -- you stole my line about 50 percent of my four Chiefs of Staff being Italian. The other two wish they were. [Laughter] I thank you for all the gifts from Campania, including the beautiful flowers for Hillary. We visited there when the 1994 conference of the G-7 nations was held in Naples. And we have been very blessed by our times there. I understand my friend Dick Grasso and the Barnes & Noble CEO, Leonard Riggio, are both from that region of Italy. I'm about to go back to Florence, and I'm only supposed to stay a day, so if I play hooky and stay an extra day I want 3,000 of you to write an excuse for me, just like I used to get when I missed a day of school.

I guess I ought to say, since this is baseball season, that I'm sure of one person who would like to be here tonight who can't be is Joe Torre. Now, I'm not taking sides in the baseball series, but the Yankees do have two Italian-Americans on their team -- Joe and the catcher, Joe Girardi. And no city in America has been better to me than Boston, but the Red Sox haven't had an Italian since their pitcher Frank Viola retired. So I think we ought to get the Red Sox an Italian baseball player to balance out our equal opportunity agenda through the country.

You know, from the beginning of our country, Italian-Americans have made invaluable contributions. And I want to say a special word of thanks, not for all those which I could litanize, and you know them, but for the National Italian American Foundation's leadership for our efforts to build one America.

I'm very grateful that this is a country in better shape than it was 7 years ago when I first came here. I am very grateful for the chance that I have had to serve. I'm grateful for the Italian-Americans who have helped to ensure the success of our administration. I'm glad that we have the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years and the lowest welfare rolls in 30 years and the lowest poverty rates

in 20 years, the lowest crime rates in 26 years and the first back-to-back surpluses in 42 years.

But I have to tell you that the most important thing we have to do to get ready for the 21st century, even more important than our efforts to continue to grow our economy, is to build one country out of our diversity. If we do, if the American people really can come to have that wonderful balance which enables us to celebrate our diversity and our unique ethnic and religious traditions -- which makes America a very interesting place to live -- and still say our common humanity is even more important, we'll figure out how to deal with all the other things.

Last year, one of only 2 years I've missed since I first came here 7 years ago, I was up for 9 days and nights at the Wye Plantation trying to keep the Middle East peace process on track. If you look around the world at how I have spent my time as your President -- working for peace in the Balkans, among Muslims and Croats and Serbs, among Albanian Muslim and Serbian Orthodox Christians; for peace in the Middle East, among Arabs and Jews, among Israelis, Palestinians, Syrians, Jordanians, and Lebanese; for peace in Northern Ireland among Catholics and Protestants; to set up protections against the kind of tribal slaughter we've seen in Africa among people who shared the same land, in one case in Rwanda, for 500 years.

It is truly interesting that at the dawn of this new millennium, when we're exhilarated by all these technological and scientific advances that are being made -- one man told me that when I have grandchildren they may be born with a life expectancy of 100 years; we know that our kids are using the Internet and talking to people all over the world and knowing things we couldn't know -- isn't it interesting that in this quintessentially modern era our biggest problem is the most primitive and ancient of human failings: the fear of the other, people who are different from us?

And what a short step it is from fearing people to hating them to dehumanizing them, which legitimizes doing away with them. And isn't it interesting that at a time when the crime rate in America is at a 26-year low, we still have these vicious examples of a man shooting children at a Jewish community school, and then going out and murdering a Filipino postman; another man saying he belonged to a church that didn't believe in God, but did believe in white supremacy, killing an Africa-American basketball coach in Illinois and then murdering a young Korean Christian as he walked out of his church?

And all these other examples -- the young gay man Matthew Shepard, a year ago this week being stretched out, literally, upon a rack; James Byrd being pulled apart in Texas because he was an African-American. Not because all Americans are like that -- almost all of us aren't -- but because in each of us there is this fragile scale, like the scale of justice Mr. Scalia must try to balance in his work. And in this scale we wake up every morning with some curious balance of light and dark, of hope and fear. And when the scale gets badly enough out of whack, the easiest thing to do is to strike out against the other.

So I say again to you, Italian-Americans have been subject to discrimination and bigotry in times past in America. You still are subject to stereotypes that I think are unfair and unrepresentative, to be kind about it. But it is because of the values you share with other Americans that we have a prosperous economy and a healing society. And we just have to remember that overall. Yes, I hope a lot of your children make hundreds of millions of dollars by starting Internet companies; yes, I hope that my plans to take care of the aging of America and save Social Security and Medicare will prevail; I hope our plans to elevate the quality of all of our schools will prevail; I hope I can convince both parties in Congress to resist temptation and save enough of this surplus to get us out of debt for the first time since 1835 over the next 15 years. I hope all of that. But remember this: The most important thing is to build one America out of this crazy quilt of all of us who live here.

Last week Hillary and I had the eighth of her Millennial Evenings at the White House. And we had an expert in the Internet, who helped to design the architecture of the Internet; and an expert in genomics, who talked to us about the human genome project and the miracles it will bring. He says one day the intersection of computers and gene studies will enable us to put digital, microscopic digital pieces in all parts of the human body to do even the repair work on shattered nerves to the spine. And we talked about all the miracles out there.

And the genomics experts said, but what I want you to understand is that of all the possible permutations among people, with all many, many parts of every gene, 99.9 percent of us is identical to that of every other human being. And the genetic differences among groups -- that is, individuals among the Italian community, for example -- are more significant and greater than the aggregate average genetic differences between Italians and Irish and Africans and Latins. It's important to remember. For people of faith, it reflects the wisdom of our Creator.

So I say again, I'm indebted to you for many things -- your work ethic, your family ethic, your creativity, your energy, your passion -- it made America a much more interesting place and it fueled this remarkable run we have had. But your commitment to see that neither Italians nor any other human beings are subject to degradation and prejudice because of who they are, that we will learn to honestly and openly express our differences and enjoy our differences, but reaffirm our common humanity, make no mistake about it -- just pick up the paper any day; look at the perils of the present day. We are in a conflict between modern possibility and primitive hatred. One America is the only answer, and you're leading the way.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 p.m. in the ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Frank J. Guarini, chairman, Joseph R. Cerrell, president, and Geraldine Ferraro, board member, National Italian American Foundation; U.S. Ambassador to Italy Thomas M. Foglietta; U.S. Ambassador to Romania James C. Rosapepe; Italian Ambassador to the U.S. Ferdinando Salleo; Minister of Foreign Affairs Lamberto Dini and Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy; CNBC journalist Maria Bartiromo, event emcee; James Cardinal Hickey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington, DC; Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange; and Joe Torre, manager, New York Yankees.

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*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

May 22, 1999

**CITE:** 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 967**LENGTH:** 2944 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Sons of Italy Foundation Dinner**BODY:**

Thank you very much, Larry. Larry King, there's a great Italian-American for you. [Laughter] And congratulations on your new baby. Paul Polo -- yes, let's give him a hand. That's great. [Applause]

I want to thank Paul Polo and Phil Piccigallo and all of you for giving me another chance to come by here. And I think Congresswoman Morella is in the audience, and Ambassador Salleo, who does a wonderful job for his country and for ours.

I want to congratulate Andy Giancamilli of Kmart and Tony Bennett for their awards tonight. We have the president of one of our great retailers and America's greatest living pop singer; that's a pretty good representation of the gifts that Italian-Americans have given to our Nation, and you should be proud of them.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Tony Bennett for being a good friend to me and to my wife and our family. I wanted to be here for you tonight; you've been here for our country for a long time. God bless you, and thank you, my friend. Thank you.

You know, there have been so many years when I have spoken to you or other Italian-American groups, and I've been almost embarrassed by the number of Italians in my administration. Secretary Cuomo was waiting for me tonight when I got here. You know, I've had two Italian-American chiefs of staff: Leon Panetta -- who introduced me in Rome, in Italian -- and John Podesta. And you know, ever since Podesta took over from Erskine Bowles, we've had people like Steve Richetti, Karen Framontano, Loretta Ucelli, Ginny Apuzzo, coming to work for me. I don't know what's been going on here. [Laughter] Maybe this is the new plot to take over America that we've been hearing about. [Laughter]

I saw Phil on the way in, and I thank him, too, for giving me the opportunity that I had the last time I was with you to meet with your young scholarship recipients, because those you honor tonight for their gifts -- from physics to music to political science to community service -- prove that people of Italian descent will continue to make enormous contributions to our country in the century just ahead.

I thank you, too, for your emphasis on education, and I ask you to remember, tonight, that even though we live in a time of unprecedented prosperity, for which we should thank God and the labors of our people -- that we have the longest peacetime expansion in our history and the lowest unemployment in a generation, the highest home-ownership ever, welfare rolls cut by more than half

in the last 6 years, crime dropping to a 30-year low -- we all only have to look around ourselves and our lives to know that we have a lot more to do, especially in areas that have historically been of enormous concern to Italian-Americans.

First, of course, in education: We have a great agenda before the Congress -- and I hope it will be acted upon -- for higher standards, for no social promotion, for after-school and summer school programs, for more and better prepared teachers, modern schools, and technology.

But tonight I went to talk just a moment about something else, and I particularly appreciated what Larry said when he introduced me. I want to talk about family in the literal sense and family in the larger sense and what it means to our future as a country.

Hillary and I, on Thursday, went to Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. We met with the families of the children and the wonderful teacher who lost their lives. We saw other children still in wheelchairs from their grievous wounds. We saw thousands of kids, just like any group of kids anywhere, still full of enthusiasm and hopes for the future. After the ceremony, we spent quite a long time there just shaking hands with them and talking to them, listening to them, and trying to answer their questions.

I say that to say what is self-evident to you, which is that the most important job of any society is not the creation of wealth but the creation of richness and wholeness in the lives of the children. There is no more important work. And in this day and age, when technology and the explosion of global commerce and culture is bringing us closer and closer and closer together, we cannot connect all of our children to a positive reality unless they are both connected to their literal families, and then they see others who may differ from them -- they may differ in race, or ethnicity, or religion, or politics, or sexual orientation, or just what they like to do -- but they have to be seen as part of our larger family.

There are things for all of us to do to give our children safe and wholesome childhoods and to try to support that for the children of the world. Here in Washington we actually had quite a good week, with some of the most responsible action in the history of Congress to try to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. And I particularly thank -- [applause] -- I particularly thank the Vice President for being there to cast the tiebreaking vote on the gun show loophole issue, something I know quite a bit about; and I am thankful for that. I hope that before the House of Representatives goes home this week for the Memorial Day recess, they will follow suit and pass the same bill.

There are things to be done by those who have influence on our larger culture, who make our movies, our television programs, our video games. It is true that no movie or game could ever cause a child to take another child's life. But it is also true that in our society, the faster we move and the busier we are, and the harder and harder parents have to work outside the home, the more kids are left on their own, the more vulnerable children we have, and if you have a larger number of vulnerable children, it stands to reason that more bad things will happen if it's easier for them to get guns, especially assault weapons, and if they are subjected to a torrent of violent impulses.

You know the average 18-year-old has seen 40,000 murders already on television, in the movies, and in video games? And there are 300 studies already which show that -- let me say that again: 300 serious professional studies already -- that show that by the time this happens to you, for 18 years, it diminishes your sensitivity to violence and your feeling for the consequences of it.

Now, if you have more kids who are at risk than other societies, and it's easier for them to be flooded with guns -- including assault weapons -- and they're being subject to sort of psychological stimuli repeatedly, hours and hours and hours a day, year after year after year after year, it only stands to reason that more of them will fall over the line.

So there's something for everyone to do. But in the end, the most important thing we can do is to try to help families reconnect to their children and to try to help communities and schools organize themselves so that a connection is made to every child.

I saw a remarkable book about 3 years ago -- I wish I could remember the title tonight -- but it was a portrait of children who had grown up in the most unimaginable, difficult circumstances, who had done wonderfully well in life. Many of them had brothers and sisters who had already been killed, or imprisoned, or whatever. These kids, they all did well, and they had one thing in common, and only one thing: Each of them, by some miracle, had had a consistent, long-term caring relationship with one responsible adult. And so I say to you, this is a challenge readymade for the Italian-American.

My wife told me, and we have adopted as a national crusade, that she and I and the Vice President and Tipper Gore will help to organize a grassroots national campaign in the way that Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Students Against Drunk Driving did to sensitize the whole country -- it worked there. We had a national campaign to get employers to hire people off welfare. People told me it would never work. They've hired hundreds of thousands of people. There's been a national grassroots campaign to reduce teen pregnancy; it's gone down 5 years in a row. The American people can give our children back their childhood, and I hope you will help us to get that done.

But there's something else that I want you to do, because you are so much a part of our larger family. Our children have to be taught to be proud of themselves and what is special about themselves without thinking people who are different are lesser than they are. One of the disturbing elements of this incident in Columbine was the imagined and real grievances that these kids had built up to a boiling point over people showing them disrespect, because they were supposed to be sort of lower-class people at the school.

And they had the same reaction, I might add, that we saw -- I saw -- in the South when I was a kid. Because they were looked down on, they not only resented the people that looked down on them; they looked around for somebody they could look down on. And they picked out the minority kids in this school -- with one devastating consequence, as I'm sure all of you know.

That is a natural psychological reaction when it is not nipped in the bud. I grew up in a State where the per capita income was barely half the national average the year I was born, right after World War II. I grew up among white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, or Irish, or Scottish Protestants, who were largely uneducated and made very limited livings, and thought they were looked down on as rednecks by other people, and they, therefore, were disproportionately likely to have racist feelings against African-Americans. And I can tell you, that exists all over the world today.

We have to prove to our children -- by the way we live, and what we say, the say we conduct ourselves -- that we think every decent person has a home in America and that they're all part of our family.

No one doubts, as we conduct this very difficult operation in Kosovo, that our military is the best in the world. That's not bragging. Others could have great militaries. We've invested a lot of money and time and effort. But one of the reasons it is, is because they are so diverse.

I just got back from Germany, visiting with the young people who are working in the humanitarian operation, and the young pilots and their support crews who are flying those dangerous missions. And there they were, from every conceivable ethnic and racial group, all here.

I never will forget when I took the Pope -- I didn't take him, but I escorted the Pope -- to Regis College in Denver, the first time he came to America. He went out there, after I took office, and we were going up and down the line shaking hands with the students, and there was a young man in the Army of the United States of America who began speaking Polish to the Pope. And he proudly told him that he was born in Poland, but he was now in our country and proud to serve in the military. And I could give you countless examples of that.

Tonight I have been told that there are parents of one of our brave servicemen flying F-15's in Kosovo, Joe and Dorothy Simile. Thank you. [Applause] Their son is a captain flying those missions. I want you to know, Joe and Dorothy, I'm very proud of him and all the men and women who are serving today.

I'd also like to say a special word of thanks, before I forget it, to the Government and the people of Italy, who have been indispensable to our mission in Kosovo. It is our united mission, but they have paid a much bigger price. They have had airports closed; they have had economic hardship. Their Prime Minister has been a rock of stability and concern for a quick but just outcome, and I am very grateful. And Mr. Ambassador, I thank you for what your country has done to stand up for freedom and against ethnic cleansing.

~~The mission of America has always been to widen the circle of opportunity and deepen the meaning of freedom by strengthening the bonds of our community. That is the story of America.~~ You know, the people that started our country off, with the bold declaration that all people are created equal by God, were not fools; they were smart people. And they knew good and well we weren't living up to it. When we got started, slaves were counted as 60 percent of white people, and only white male property owners could vote. They knew this was not a manifestation that all people are created equal. But they knew that the ideal had to be out there, and we had to continue to push and push and push for it.

I think it is supremely ironic that on the verge of a new century and a new millennium, with our kids learning how to use computers and having pen pals on every continent, with the mysteries of the human gene about to be unlocked, with the prospect of dramatic increase in the length and quality of life, that we are bedeviled today, in this great modern age, by the oldest demon of human society: the fear of people who are different from us. And once you fear somebody, then you have to dislike them. Once you dislike them, it is easy to hate them. Once you hate them, it is quite easy to treat them as if they're not people at all and dehumanize them. And then it's a very short step to saying, "It's too bad, but we have to kill them or run them out, or blow up their houses of worship, or eradicate their cultural symbols, or burn all their old books, or destroy their personal property records."

That's what this whole deal is about. We can't require people to like each other or get along. We can't even ask them to stop fighting. But when we are able to do it, we ought to stand up and say we will not tolerate ethnic cleansing that leads to mass murder, mass rape, mass dislocation, and the destruction of everything we believe in.

I want to close with this story. It's not about Italian-Americans, but you will identify with it. And it captures everything, to me, that is special about our country and everything that you have given to America.

The other day, shortly before Hillary and I went to Colorado, I had a meeting on my schedule with 15 -- no, 19 -- Native American tribal chiefs from the northern high plains. The Senators from those States, the Dakotas and Montana, had asked me to meet with them because they are the poorest of our Indian tribes. They don't have big casinos, and there aren't a lot of people out there, so nobody's been rushing to invest big new money there. And this wonderful economy that has taken the stock market from 3,200 to 11,000 has largely left them untouched. And they wanted to come and see the President about it, and the President's Cabinet.

Secretary Cuomo came, Secretary Riley and a number of our other Cabinet members -- Secretary Babbitt. So they said, "First, we would like to sit in a circle, as is our custom, so that we can all see each other." So we were in the Roosevelt Room, we got rid of the table, and we all sat in a circle. They started their meeting, and I came in, and each one in his turn stood up and talked about, well, here's our education needs, our health care needs, and so on.

Then at the end, the chief who was the spokesperson -- who, ironically, was named Tex Hall -- was a very large man, and he stood up and he said, "Before we go, Mr. President, I would like to give you this proclamation we have signed for you. And in it, we support the actions of the United States in Kosovo." He said, "You see, we know something about ethnic cleansing. And we have come a good way, and we think we should stand against it everywhere."

Then, across the room, another young man stood up who represented his tribe, one of the Sioux tribes. And he stood very erect; he wasn't particularly tall, and he had a beautiful piece of silver

Indian jewelry around his neck. And he said, "Mr. President, I have two uncles. One of them was on the beach at Normandy. The other was the first Native American ever to be a fighter pilot for the United States military. My great-great-grandfather was slaughtered by the 7th Army at Wounded Knee." He said, "I am here talking to the President." He said, "I only have one son. He's the most important thing in the world to me. But we have come a very long way from my great-great-grandfather, to my uncles, to my being in the White House. We have learned a great deal. We are living together. Though I love my son more than life, I would be proud for him to go and stand against a new version of ethnic cleansing. We have to live together."

I will never forget that moment as long as I live. We in the United States have been on a long, imperfect, and unfinished journey. You have made immeasurable contributions to it. Perhaps as much as any group of Americans, you can help us to rebuild the bonds of family here in the United States and to stand up at least for our common humanity around the world.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. in the Great Hall at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Cable News Network interview show host Larry King; Paul S. Polo, Sr., president; and Philip R. Piccigallo, national executive director, Sons of Italy Foundation; Ambassador Ferdinando Salleo and Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy; Andrew A. Giancamilli, president and general merchandise manager, U.S. Kmart; singer/entertainer Tony Bennett; Joseph and Dorothy Simile, parents of Capt. Joseph Simile, USAF; Tex Hall, chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (the Three Affiliated Tribes); and Gregg Bousland, chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 943

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Terms: headline (remarks and sons of italy) (Edit Search)

*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

May 21, 1998

**CITE:** 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 943**LENGTH:** 835 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at a Reception for the Sons of Italy Foundation**BODY:**

Thank you very much. I thought they were all talking, so I made them come up here. [Laughter] But I thank Secretary Cuomo and Paul Polo and Phil Piccigallo for making me feel so welcome. I got here in time to hear Steve Forbes talking, and I appreciate his warming the crowd up. [Laughter] That's the most high-class warm-up act I've had this year. [Laughter]

Ambassador Foglietta, Ambassador Salleo; Regis Philbin, thank you for welcoming me; and to my good friend, Tony Bennett, welcome. I'd like to also congratulate tonight's honoree, Philip Guarascio, and thank all of you for giving me a chance to come by and share a few moments of your 10th anniversary.

~~For over 90 years, the Sons of Italy has been a community organization in the truest sense. For 10 years, you've given out this National Education and Leadership Award, finding what I think is one of the very finest ways you could ever express your pride and your ethnic heritage and your devotion to the next generation.~~

I asked before I came on the stage if I could have an opportunity to personally congratulate the scholarship recipients here tonight, and I hope that I can do this because they, after all, represent not only your commitment but all our futures.

~~The Italian-American tradition of work and family, faith and community, is just as alive today as it was when the Sons of Italy first began to meet. As President, I have tried to pursue policies that embody those values, values that led so many Italian-American families to such great success in America.~~

~~We've got a lot to be thankful for tonight: the lowest unemployment in 28 years; the lowest welfare rolls in 27 years; the lowest inflation in 32 years. But we all know that we've got a lot to do and that we can't stop until we can see the values that embody the Sons of Italy alive and well in every neighborhood in America. I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Secretary Cuomo for his extraordinary work in trying to make sure that we get that done.~~

~~I'm told that tonight everybody who is here can claim to be Italian. I see my favorite Italian with an Irish name, Senator Leahy, out here. [Laughter] It's shameless. He's the only man I know who can show up at every Irish and every Italian event, claim to be one of you and always be telling the truth. It seems an unfair advantage even in America. [Laughter]~~

Tonight I know you're also celebrating the life of Frank Sinatra. I had, as one of the many perks of becoming President, the chance to get to know Frank Sinatra a little and to appreciate on a personal level what people all over the world appreciated in his music and his movies. I think it's important tonight, because of what you stand for, to note that while we have lost his remarkable voice, we have also lost a generous spirit of a man who raised more than \$ 1 billion for charity and left a lot as well, and really did, as I said a couple of days ago, always manage to do it his way.

I want to thank you for everything you do, but especially, in closing, I want to say that, if you look ahead to the 21st century, we will be living in an economy that is increasingly based on ideas, but our ability to take advantage of it will rest more and more on the strength, the depth, and the character of our soul, on whether we can learn to live together across all the lines that divide us to find a home among people who aren't exactly like us, but down deep inside, have more in common with us than what divides us.

Tomorrow, in the land of my ancestors, Ireland and Northern Ireland, the people will be voting on whether to discard decades of war and hundreds of years of conflict to chart a new path for peace for their children. We are working hard to preserve a peace in Bosnia among people of different religious traditions. We see on the Indian subcontinent new tensions among people of different religious and ethnic groups. We struggle still to make peace in the Middle East at a time when computers have made instantaneous the transfer of money and information and ideas across the globe.

~~If we are to make the most of the education that you have worked so hard to give to the children of Italian immigrants, then we truly must work just as hard to embody the values by which you have lived and through which you have found a true home in the United States.~~

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:42 p.m. in the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Paul S. Polo, president, and Philip R. Piccigallo, national executive director, Sons of Italy Foundation; Malcolm S. (Steve) Forbes, Jr., publisher, Forbes magazine; Thomas M. Foglietta, U.S. Ambassador to Italy; Ferdinando Salleo, Italian Ambassador to the United States; entertainer Regis Philbin, who introduced the President; singer Tony Bennett; and Philip Guarascio, vice president and general manager, advertising and marketing, North American Division of General Motors Corp.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 801

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## Public Papers of the Presidents

May 6, 1998

**CITE:** 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 801**LENGTH:** 541 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Welcoming Ceremony for Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy**BODY:**

Prime Minister, Mrs. Prodi, members of the Italian delegation, welcome to the White House and welcome to the United States. Hillary and I are delighted to see you again, and I look forward to our talks today which will deepen our relationship. But first, let me say I was terribly saddened to hear of the torrential rains and mudslides in southern Italy which have resulted in the loss of Italian lives. United States forces from Aviano are now transporting Italian civilians to the scene to assist in rescue efforts.

The history of our partnership is long and special. Every school child knows that Columbus crossed the Atlantic in 1492, soon to be followed by other great Italian explorers, Amerigo Vespucci, John Cabot, Giovanni da Verrazano. That was only the beginning of a relationship that has now flourished for centuries, bringing us together in new ways generation after generation.

Today, Italians once again are expanding the world's horizons: Italy stands at the forefront of a new Europe, leading efforts to promote peace and unity throughout the continent, from economic and monetary union to military cooperation.

In recent months, Italy has led efforts to restore civil order in Albania and is seeking to avert a deepening conflict in Kosovo. **Italian and American** troops patrol alongside one another in Bosnia. And we will continue to work together to build stability throughout southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean. And finally let me say, we are deeply grateful for Italy's hospitality toward United States forces working to preserve peace in Europe.

Mr. Prime Minister, under your leadership Italy is building a better future, enterprise is thriving, the rule of law prevails. Today's dreams are being shaped into tomorrow's reality.

Together we are exploring outer space, fighting crime and terrorism, restricting the spread of dangerous weapons, and creating a climate where goods and ideas can be freely exchanged between our countries and around the world. Truly, Italy is setting an example for the new Europe.

This week in Washington and next week at summits in Europe, we will forge even stronger bonds of cooperation to equip our people to succeed in the global economy, to combat international crime and other threats to the security of our citizens, to nurture the health of our planet. The year from now, we look forward to meeting here again when the NATO alliance celebrates its 50th anniversary and asks to make the alliance stronger for the next 50 years.

The great seal of the United States contains the words, *novus ordo seclorum*, a new order of the ages. Those words were written by Vergil in Italy more than 2,000 years ago. But they have fresh meaning today, as a new generation builds a new order of peace and freedom, prosperity and security for the 21st century. Vergil's words apply to your deeds, Mr. Prime Minister, and we are very glad to welcome you to the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Flavia Prodi, wife of Prime Minister Prodi. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Prodi.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 811

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*Public Papers of the Presidents*

## Public Papers of the Presidents

May 6, 1998

**CITE:** 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 811**LENGTH:** 778 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Prodi**BODY:**

Good evening, and welcome to the White House, Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Prodi, distinguished members of the Italian delegation, my fellow Americans.

Mr. Prime Minister, today we accomplished a great deal. Tonight we celebrate the ties that bind us.

Those ties begin with the discoveries of Columbus and Vespucci, whose busts adorn the Blue Room next door. When the Founders created the American Republic, they looked to Rome for inspiration. George Washington was likened to Cincinnatus, the Roman hero who abandoned his plow to rescue his country by popular demand. I might say, they were the last two people to head our countries only by popular demand. [Laughter]

Poets and philosophers of the Roman Republic were read and rejuvenated as our new Republic looked to the past to plan our future. In the writings of ancient Roman thinkers like Cicero and Cato, America's Founders saw the promise of democratic representative government. Every aspect of our new Republic paid tribute to the simple grandeur of Rome: from our architecture to words like "senate" and "capitol." Indeed, after our Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what our Founders had produced. His simple reply was, "A Republic, sir, if you can keep it."

Towns sprang up with the names from the ancient Mediterranean world, names like Utica, Troy, or the Vice President's hometown, Carthage. Artists portrayed America's leaders wearing togas, as the bust of George Washington in the hall demonstrates. Thankfully, that is a tradition we have left to the 19th century. [Laughter]

In the 19th and 20th centuries, our Republic turned into a bustling nation, thanks in no small measure to **Italian-Americans**. Ancient Rome was replaced by young Italy in the American imagination. And democracy was given new life by heroes like Mazzini and Garibaldi.

America's growing cities attracted millions of Italians, eager to build a new life in a new world. They worked hard. They prospered. Today American Italians, or **Italian-Americans**, are leaders in every enterprise conducted in our Nation. And as we all know, it is impossible to walk more than a few blocks in any American city without hearing the words "caffe latte." [Laughter]

The people here in this room tonight are the link between our two countries, between two cultures that have nourished each other since America was just an idea. From our highest courts to our finest tables, from our playing fields to our silver screen, from one side of the aisle in Congress to the

other, **Italian-Americans** have graced our Nation with their intellect, their industry, their good will, and above all, a contagious love of life.

Mr. Prime Minister, you have accomplished so much in your time in office. You have presided over a string of economic successes. And Americans especially admire your perseverance, in leading Italy toward European monetary union. Without Italy, Europe is not Europe. And without Europe, the world would be a poorer, less free, and much duller place.

Italy has been a force for peace and security in its region, on the continent, around the world, in Albania, in Bosnia, and in Kosovo, where we're working hard together to bring about a peaceful resolution. America is proud to know you as a partner and an ally, and we are grateful for your provision of our military bases, sent to help maintain Europe's hard-won peace.

Mr. Prime Minister, we take pride in our strong friendship. We know it will continue to grow stronger as we enter the new millennium, a word that brings us, once again, back to Rome. For just as the *Pax Romana* spread far and wide through the ancient world, we hope and work for the peace of a new millennium that will allow more people than ever before to live their dreams in security.

If we can achieve a peace of the millennium, then the ancient dream of Columbus to explore new places can be lived by more people than ever -- new places in outer space, in biotechnology and medical research, in the hearts and minds of people around the world who still look to Italy and America for confirmation that a good society can be created from many parts.

"*E pluribus unum*," the motto of the United States, a principle cherished by **Italians and Americans**: Out of many, one. Mr. Prime Minister, let us make it so.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join me in a toast to the Prime Minister and Mrs. Prodi and the people of Italy.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Prodi.

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*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

October 25, 1997

**CITE:** 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1659**LENGTH:** 1103 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the National Italian-American Foundation**BODY:**

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the warm welcome. Thank you for singing "Happy Birthday" to Hillary. I think the reason she -- [applause] -- I think the reason she wanted to come here is she wanted to make sure she got an Italian birthday cake, and she did. [Laughter]

Thank you, Frank Guarini, for your warm words and your friendship and for your service on behalf of our country at the United Nations. Thank you, Frank Stella, and I'm glad to see all the Members of Congress here. We have some members of the administration here. We have Jack Valenti here, who lets me watch movies at the White House. [Laughter] The best perk of being President is the movie theater, plus knowing Jack Valenti. [Laughter]

I'm also very glad that the Deputy Prime Minister of Italy, Walter Veltroni, is here, and I thank him for his leadership. You know, I've been spoiled coming to these dinners. A couple of years ago I came and Danny DeVito was here, and he jumped in my lap. [Laughter] I was afraid Al Pacino would jump in my lap tonight -- [laughter] -- but I had other choices.

I want to thank you for the people you're honoring tonight for their service and for their representation of the values of the National American-Italian Foundation. Especially, I want to thank you for honoring my friend Leon Panetta. You heard Frank Guarini mention some, but I must say not all, of the Italian-Americans who have prominent positions in our administration. I'm sad to tell you that the complaint has been filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claiming that I have overrepresented Italians in my administration -- [laughter] -- and I plead guilty.

I can't say enough about Leon Panetta. We went to Rome together, and I spoke, and Leon translated my speech. Most people thought he was giving the speech. [Laughter] I felt like that old joke about the Pope, you know, everybody said, "Who is that guy up there with Leon Panetta?" [Laughter] I miss him and Sylvia terribly, but I know they're having a good time in California. And I can tell you that if this country had a few more citizens like him, we would have a lot fewer problems, and I'm glad you're honoring him tonight. I would also like to congratulate and thank Congressman Tom Foglietta for his service, about-to-be service as our new Ambassador to Italy.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a night of joy and a night for the honorees, and I don't want to take a lot of your time. But I would like to say that, in a very real sense, what I have tried to do as President is to pursue a course that would reflect the values that are held so deeply by Italian-American families who have come to our shores and who have enjoyed such great success.

When I came here, I thought that Washington was, frankly, too divided, not just politically between Democrats and Republicans but almost intellectually divided. Everything was either/or. Should the Government do everything, or should it do nothing? The answer is, it should do neither. It should focus on giving people the tools to succeed and helping other people to climb the ladder that so many of you have climbed.

With so many people having to work and having children, should they have to choose? Of course not. Sometimes I still believe that our greatest challenge is to enable Americans to succeed at work and at home at their most important job, raising their children. Should we be able to grow our economy and preserve our natural heritage? I think we should. I think that is a false choice.

So I ask you all, whether you're Republicans or Democrats or wherever you are on the political spectrum, to always, always say that the United States should pursue a course that is consistent with our values and not be fooled into thinking that we have to sacrifice things that are fundamental to move ahead. The truth is, when we find a way to move ahead consistent with our values, we do better more quickly.

~~I'm very grateful for the success that the United States is enjoying today, and I'm grateful for the role that Italian-Americans have played in it, and I hope we can continue to do more.~~

Finally, let me say I'm very grateful to this organization for the support you've given to our administration in this great national conversation we're having about our racial and ethnic diversity. It's going to be quite a challenge, you know, sometime in the next century the United States will have no single majority ethnic group -- even Americans of European origin. I know you hate being lumped with we Irish and the Germans and all the rest of us -- [laughter] -- but even the Europeans won't be a majority in America anymore.

And somehow, we have to find a way to celebrate our differences, just as you come here to celebrate your heritage and still be bound together by fundamental values that are more important, into one America. If we do that -- and I believe we will -- it will be in no small measure because of the accomplishments, the achievements, the attitudes of people like you, people who are proud to have succeeded and want other people to have the same chance.

Sometimes, I think late at night about if I could say in one sentence what it is that I want, I'd like for every single child in this country to have that chance at the brass ring. And so many of you have enjoyed it, so many of you have been helped by your parents to do so. I hope that when we're done here -- it won't be much longer, just a little over 3 years -- virtually every child will be able to feel that he or she has that chance. If so, we will have fulfilled the mission that so many of you have been on.

So, once again, my congratulations to all the honorees. I thank you for giving Leon a chance to come back to Washington. He tries to stay away from here as much as he can now. [Laughter] I thank you for bringing all these wonderful Italian-American artists here so that I can see people I usually only watch on the screen or listen to with my CD's. But most of all, I thank you for all you've done to make America a much, much greater country than it would have been without you.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Frank J. Guarini, vice chairman, Frank D. Stella, chairman, National Italian-American Foundation; Jack Valenti, president, Motion Picture Association of America; actors Danny DeVito and Al Pacino; and former Chief of Staff to the President Leon Panetta and his wife, Sylvia.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**LOAD-DATE:** December 02, 1997



# Order Sons of Italy in America

Honor Your Family and Your Heritage  
The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

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## What Does Your Italian-American Heritage Mean to You?

Each of us might answer this question differently. For some, our Italian-American heritage is expressed in the way we prepare traditional holiday meals, celebrate religious traditions, or relate to family and friends. Some of us speak Italian and travel to Italy regularly. Some of us were raised in traditional Italian-American neighborhoods. Most of us share in the appreciation of Italy's countless contributions to architecture, art, law, literature, music, painting, and science.

However we may express our pride in our heritage, as immigrants or descendants of those who left their Italian homes for a new life in America, we are part of the enduring, strong, and colorful community-- Italian America.

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~~OSIA was established in the Little Italy neighborhood of New York City on June 22, 1905, by Vincenzo Sellaro, M.D., and five other fellow immigrants from Italy who came to the United States during the great Italian migration of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During its history, OSIA has been involved in promoting immigration legislation; assisting in the assimilation process; supporting cooperation, trade, and diplomatic relations between the United States and Italy; initiating social and fraternal events; encouraging educational achievement through scholarships; serving local communities through a variety of cultural events and raising funds for local charities; and providing low-cost group financial investments and insurance programs for the benefit of members nationwide.~~

Today, OSIA is the oldest, largest, and most demographically diverse association of American men and women of Italian descent. Since the organization's beginning, men and women have shared equal status within the organization, as do individuals of all ages and professions.

OSIA, through its 750 community-based chapters, 21 state chapters, ~~two subsidiary organizations--the Sons of Italy Foundation and the Commission for Social Justice--~~ and its National Office in Washington, D.C., works to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Americans of Italian descent. OSIA also works with other organizations to unite all Americans in our multicultural society so that we may live in greater harmony and enjoy the benefits of the principles for which the United States was founded and for which immigrants settled in America--life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in a nation where all men and women are presumed to be created equal.

Through a variety of philanthropic and social programs, OSIA represents the interests of America's 25 million Italian Americans and cooperates with U.S. and Italian officials to strengthen trade, diplomatic, cultural, and educational opportunities.

Its objectives, as conceived by its founders, are to enroll all men and women of Italian heritage under one banner in order to preserve and disseminate the rich cultural heritage of Italy; and to promote and advance their progress everywhere within the framework of American society. The OSIA continues to thrive, meeting the initial objectives of its founders through a wide variety of community, cultural, social, charitable, educational, patriotic, youth, and civic activities.

# *Sons of Italy Foundation*

## Background & Purpose



The Sons of Italy Foundation is a private operating and grant-making philanthropic institution established to support significant programs to preserve Italian-American culture, encourage educational excellence, and support transatlantic initiatives for diplomatic, economic, and educational exchanges.

Established in 1959 by the Order Sons of Italy in America, the SIF's current areas of programming include a national scholarship program, medical research on genetic diseases, the preservation of Italian-American culture, and special projects of recognized significance that transcend the organization's official areas of concern. The SIF has played an important role in developing OSIA's philanthropic activities, which have ranged from providing a total of \$25 million in scholarships to owning and operating the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum on Staten Island, N.Y.

In addition, the SIF has developed an international reputation for providing homes for orphans, aiding victims of natural disasters, enriching communities through the support of local cultural and fund-raising initiatives, strengthening the ties that bind our diverse U.S. citizenry by promoting cultural understanding, and supporting a wide range of other nonprofit groups in important philanthropic endeavors.

## Philanthropy

During the past 37 years, the SIF has enhanced educational opportunities for high school, undergraduate, and graduate/professional students in the United States and Italy and has supported the preservation of the Italian-American heritage and culture. Together with OSIA, its parent organization, the SIF has forged a rich history of philanthropy.

 <p>1946 CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CENTER \$500,000</p>	 <p>1947-1957 CASSINO MEMORIAL ORPHANAGE \$1 MILLION</p>
 <p>1960s SICILIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS \$127,000</p>	 <p>1966-1967 ITALIAN FLOOD RELIEF \$200,000</p>

At its inception, the SIF began a tradition of supporting medical research for genetic diseases, providing homes for orphans, aiding victims of natural disasters, conducting forums on international issues, strengthening communities through law enforcement projects, and sponsoring special programs of national and international significance.

<p>Alzheimer's Association American Red Cross Annette Funicello Fund for Neurological Disorders Cassino Memorial Orphanage Christopher Columbus Catholic Center Dante School for Children Cooley's Anemia Foundation Immigration History Research Center Italian Flood Relief March of Dimes Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island American Immigration Wall of Honor Foundation Madonna Queen National Shrine National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health Villa Taverna</p>
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## National Education & Leadership Awards Gala



### National Education and Leadership Awards Gala

Each year since 1989, the Sons of Italy Foundation has honored outstanding Italian Americans by establishing and awarding scholarships in their names at a gala event in Washington, D.C.

In 1997, the SIF honored Peter F. Secchia, former U. S. ambassador to Italy and Michigan businessman. And, Tommy Lasorda, baseball Hall of Fame manager, received the SIF first ever Humanitarian Award.

In 1996, the SIF honored Northwest Airlines Co-chairman Al Checchi and Pennsylvania State University football coach Joe Paterno for their lifelong commitment to professional excellence and education.

Past honorees include former Kmart Chairman, President, and CEO Joseph E. Antonini (1995); FBI Director Louis J. Freeh (1994); entertainer Annette Funicello (1993); Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (1992); Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (1991); the late U.S. Congressman Silvio O. Conte (1990); and former St. John's University men's basketball coach Lou Carnesecca (1989).

Now a tradition in the nation's capital, the annual National Education and Leadership Awards Gala draws attendance from congressional representatives, dignitaries from the Italian Embassy, corporate executives, nonprofit officials, and leaders from the Italian-American community who support the SIF's efforts on behalf of higher education and the betterment of society.

## *President Clinton, Tony Bennett, Larry King, Kmart's Andy Giancamilli, and 12 Academic Achievers Headline 11th Annual National Education & Leadership Awards Gala*

by Anthony Mark Dalessandro ----- Photos by MH Photography

CNN's Larry King introduced President Bill Clinton, who spoke of the enormous contributions of Italian-Americans, to highlight the 11th annual National Education & Leadership Awards Gala, the most successful event in the 40-year history of the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF), May 22 in Washington, D.C.

Raising more than \$1 million for academic scholarships and philanthropic programs, this year's gala was a \$500-a-plate formal event that brought together more than 750 people, including luminaries of American politics, business, and the music industry as the SIF honored entertainer Tony Bennett and Kmart President Andy Giancamilli with the most prestigious awards in the Italian-American community.

Guests enjoyed the music of the 24 piece orchestra of Frank Sinatra, Jr., who performed in honor of Bennett. Last year, it was Bennett who had performed in honor of his legendary father when the SIF presented its Humanitarian Award to Frank Sinatra. Singer Michael Amante, who has received praise recently for his performance at the Algonquin Hotel and the restaurant Rao's, in New York, also performed two selections.

"I want to congratulate Andy Giancamilli, of Kmart, and Tony Bennett for their awards tonight," Clinton said. "We have the president of one of our great retailers and America's greatest living pop singer; that's pretty good representation of the gifts that Italian Americans have given to our nation, and you should be proud of them."



*President Clinton congratulates SIF President Paul S. Polo on the Order Sons of Italy Foundation's most successful fund raising event.*

Clinton spoke extensively about violence in American society, the need for families "to reconnect with their children," and NATO action in Kosovo. He praised the Sons of Italy Foundation for the support of education.

~~"The most important job of any society is not the creation of wealth, but the creation of richness and wholeness in the lives of the children. There is no more important work," Clinton said.~~

The SIF awarded more than \$70,000 in scholarships during the evening to 12 of America's highest academic achievers, including Frank Attenello III, who received the \$10,000 Andy Giancamilli Scholarship. A graduating high school senior from Rancho Palos Verde, Calif. Attenello is a Presidential Scholar who scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and has already

co-authored scientific articles in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatric Research*.

The SIF presented Giancamilli, for whom Attenello's scholarship was named, with this year's National Education & Leadership Award (NELA), the foundation's highest honor. Giancamilli, 48, is president of one of the nation's largest retail chains of general merchandise. A native of L'Aquila, Italy, he immigrated to the United States with his mother in 1950. They arrived on the Andrea Doria, on the final crossing before its collision with the Swedish liner Stockholm off Nantucket Island in 1956, which killed 51 people.

Since then, Giancamilli has said that he believes that timing is everything. So far, his timing has been impeccable. He was hired as vice president of Kmart's pharmacy operation in 1995 by then-Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer Joseph E. Antonini, whom the SIF honored that same year with the NELA. Two years later Giancamilli was named president and general merchandising manager. Prior to joining Kmart, he was president of Perry Drug Stores before the company was sold to Rite Aid.

*National Education & Leadership Award winner Andy Giancamilli (center) with his parents Filippo and Norina Giancamilli.*



"Like no other organization, the Sons of Italy uniquely celebrates our heritage, our respect for leadership, the spirit of family, and our commitment to education and learning," Giancamilli said in accepting the NELA.

"For me, this honor spans the generations. In recognizing me it salutes my ancestors, who worked diligently and faithfully every day to do right by their family and their country," he said. "It means everything to me that those who I love and respect the most are here with me this evening, knowing what I achieve they too have earned. Throughout my childhood, my parents instilled Italian values and beliefs in our American home...."

"Just as I am very proud of my family, it is great to see so many accomplished young Italian men and women being honored tonight --- for we believe that there is no better legacy one can leave to encourage learning throughout life."

Giancamilli earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Wayne State University in 1973, having become interested in the profession after working as a stock boy in a cousin's pharmacy.

He and his wife, Wanda, have known each other since childhood. She also graduated from Wayne State and later earned a law degree from Detroit College of Law. They have been married for 26 years, and they have raised two children, Vanessa, 22, and Andrew, 19. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a communications specialist at Kmart, and he will be starting his junior year as a business major at Michigan in the fall.



*SIF spokesman Tony Lo Bianco (left) and 1999 Humanitarian Award winner Tony Bennett with the Baccarat crystal American eagle award.*

The SIF honored Bennett with the third annual Humanitarian Award, which he accepted last year in honor of his friend the late Frank Sinatra, who had died just a week prior to the event. Bennett, 72, whose career has spanned six decades, continues to sell out concerts worldwide. He recently released his 98th album, *The Playground*, a children's CD featuring duets with comedian Rosie O'Donnell and Muppet star Kermit the Frog.

During his career, he has performed so many benefit concerts for charitable organizations--including the American Cancer Society and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation--that he has come to be known by many as "Tony Benefit."

"We are overwhelmed by the success of this event," said SIF President Paul S. Polo Sr. "Each year the NELA Gala has grown in stature, support of scholarships, and most important, in funds raised. Thanks to the generosity of Kmart, General Motors, United Airlines, the Kathy Ireland Entertainment Group, and many other contributors, we have raised well over \$1 million for our scholarship program."

Additional chief sponsors of the gala include 3M, American Greetings, Buena Vista, Canon USA Inc., The Cafaro Company, Combine International, Fort James Corporation, Fujii Film, The Gillette Company, Harris Marketing Group, Kaleidoscope Sports & Entertainment, and Castello Banfi, which donated premium Italian wines for the enjoyment of the guests.

General Motors Vice President of Advertising and Corporate Marketing Phil Guarascio, whom the SIF honored last year with the NELA, and Robert F Corrao, chairman and chief executive officer of Sports Impact Inc., co-chaired the event.

Among the distinguished guests were Italian Ambassador Ferdinando Salleo, U.S. Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.), Housing & Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo, actor and SIF spokesman Tony Lo Bianco, actress Connie Stevens, entertainer Fred Travalena, and musician Isaac Hayes, Tony Messina, and Julie Budd.

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*Anthony Mark Dalessandro is college relations director for the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences at West Virginia University.*

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## *NELA Gala Retrospective*

### Tomorrow's Promise: Ten Years of Celebrating Education, Achievement, and Youthful Aspirations

*By Philip R. Piccigallo, Ph.D.*

"Thoughts are the epochs of our lives," wrote Henry David Thoreau. "The more we think and write on any given subject, the more we are capable of thinking and writing." This intellectual notion perhaps best explains the beginnings of what has now become a springtime tradition in our nation's capital: the Sons of Italy Foundation's National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala.



*Recipients of the 1997 National Leadership Grants*

Nearly a decade has elapsed since a group of Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) trustees and resource persons deliberated on how best to build upon, expand, and inform others about the SIF's rich legacy of supporting education. Since the SIF's establishment in 1959, and that of its parent organization, the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) in 1905, vast sums have been raised and given to educational causes. At that time, in 1989, the figure hovered around \$19 million; today it approaches \$27 million. The majority of these funds have been voluntarily generated or contributed by OSIA members. Notwithstanding such generosity, little was known outside of the OSIA family about its substantial support of education.

From the beginning, what is now called the NELA Gala was conceptualized and designed to be much more than a traditional institutional affair or dinner. At its core were several key organizational, philosophical and, yes, financial purposes: ~~1. to spread the word about and highlight the measurable support of education~~ provided by the nearly 800 local OSIA lodges throughout America and the SIF during the previous nine decades; 2. To provide a programmatic vehicle for young people to focus their scholarship attention, motivation and pride upon and, simultaneously, to showcase their talents and accomplishments as products of the Italian-American community; ~~3. To offer highly successful Italian-Americans~~ ~~from various fields and professions an opportunity to give back to their~~ ~~community and nation by serving as role models to~~ aspiring young scholars; and

4. To help build a multi-million dollar educational trust to perpetuate the SIF scholarship program.

To accomplish such ambitious objectives, the SIF sought to provide a forum that would vividly demonstrate the inextricable link between educational excellence, professional achievement, and mentoring. To wit, SIF leaders planned to have highly successful Italian Americans present substantial scholarships conferred in their names to outstanding high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. This intergenerational recognition and exchange of knowledge and talent, it was hoped, would dramatically illustrate the self-perpetuating nexus between learning, wisdom, and future leadership - hence the title, National Education & Leadership Awards.



*Recipients of the 1998 National Leadership Grants*

To underscore the substantive philosophical underpinnings of the NELA, SIF leaders determined that the event would have to take place in a prestigious public setting in the nation's capital. Attending the event, and often directly participating via scholarship presentations or speaking roles, would be national leaders from the governmental, corporate, academic, legal, medical, diplomatic, entertainment, sports, and, of course, Italian-American communities.

Ideally, according to the plan, all or some prior recipients of the NELA would return annually or regularly to present scholarships in their names. This symbolic gesture was intended to reinforce the connection between role model, mentoring, and leadership. Perhaps no element of the program has proven more successful. Past honorees - basketball coach Lou Carnesecca, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, businessmen Joseph Antonini and Al Checchi, and Ambassador Peter F. Secchia - have attended numerous NELA Galas since receiving their awards.

Essential to the entire NELA Gala concept has been the truly unique role that the recipients of the National Leadership Grants (NLG), presented at the Gala, have assumed. Regardless of other honorees, public speakers, celebrities, or dignitaries, they remain the central focus of the event, the genuine heroes and heroines. Presentation ceremonies revolve around them, and brief introductions highlight their academic and civic achievements to the high-profile audience. They receive substantial grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$10,000. And every effort is made to include their families at the Gala. Changes and developments notwithstanding, the NELA was designed as, and remains, a celebration of

youthful aspirations and achievement.



*OSIA National Executive Director Philip R. Piccigallo speaks to President Clinton about the 1998 NELA Gala.*

Great care also was given to the selection of honorees, those who would serve as national role models and receive the soon-to-be and now prestigious National Education & Leadership Award: (1989) Lou Carnesecca, respected head basketball coach at St. John's University; (1990) the late U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-Mass.), lifelong supporter of education; (1991) U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia; (1992) Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health; (1993) Annette Funicello, beloved actress and embodiment of family values; (1994) FBI Director Louis J. Freeh; (1995) retired K-Mart President, CEO, and Chairman Joseph E. Antonini; (1996) Al Checchi, dynamic corporate leader and former candidate for governor of California; Pennsylvania State University Football Coach Joe Paterno; (1997) former U.S. Ambassador to Italy and community activist Peter F. Secchia; and (1998) visionary General Motors Corporation vice president and general manager of advertising and marketing, Philip Guarascio.

In addition to their palpable talent and success, NELA honorees share another dimension: all had or have made a conscious and deliberate commitment to give back; to making this world better than that which their grandparents, or they, had encountered and experienced.

To paraphrase Thoreau, thought beget further thought: in 1997 the SIF instituted its first Humanitarian Award. As the NELA Gala steadily blossomed into the SIF's premier annual event and showcase for its philanthropy, demand for recognition beyond merely the educational sphere grew. SIF leaders determined that some form of tribute should be afforded a select Italian American whose demonstrated and proven humanitarianism throughout his or her lifetime has

indelibly elevated and improved the human condition.

Perhaps the most popular man in baseball, and certainly its most effective goodwill ambassador, retired Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, received the SIF's first Humanitarian Award in 1997. Few would question the SIF's wisdom in selecting for its 1998 Humanitarian Award the legendary Frank Sinatra, America's greatest all around entertainer during this century. Mr. Sinatra's understated charitable and humanitarian activities exceed the \$1 billion mark and have touched countless needy individuals throughout the world.

Another dimension was added in the mid-'90s, with the presentation of the jointly sponsored OSIA John Cabot University (JCU) scholarship. Responding to the all-encompassing global revolution in technology, communications, commerce, and international affairs, the SIF boldly entered the field of international education by co-sponsoring a full semester scholarship at JCU in Rome. This international component expanded with the presentation of three JCU scholarships at the 1997 NELA Gala, as well as the debut of an original film entitled, "Global Citizens All: The Emerging Challenge."

A word about the National Leadership Grant Competition (NLGC) is in order. As in the selection of NELA honorees, extreme care was afforded to the NLG application and selection process. Above all else, the process was to be open, national, independent, rigorous, and merit-based. All could apply, but only the most outstanding would be chosen.

Professional application screeners and financial aid experts from such institutions as American University, Catholic University of America, Johns Hopkins University, and St. John's University initially review all applications. Final selections are made by OSIA's National Education Committee, which is comprised entirely of professional educators. Evaluations are predicated upon academic performance, extra-curricular activities, and demonstrated leadership and character.

Since 1989, this intensely competitive and independent process has produced a group of nearly 100 of the brightest, most highly motivated, talented young men and women in the nation. As a group, they boast a cumulative GPA of nearly 4.0 on a 4-point scale, and SAT scores in excess of 1400 out of a possible 1600. Nearly all have been valedictorians. And they have gained acceptance at the nation's top colleges and universities, including Harvard, Yale, MIT, the University of California-Berkeley, and the University of Pennsylvania.

As with the NELA honorees, NLG recipients share common dimensions beyond the obvious: all have clear and commendable career aspirations and personal intentions of making a difference, of contributing to a cause beyond self. All hope to improve our world and the lives of those who inhabit it. All are acutely aware of, and profoundly proud of their heritage and the organization that afforded them not only financial assistance but a truly memorable and life-changing experience.

Human enterprises, as thoughts, can be and usually are evolutionary. Over the

years, the NELA Gala inevitably grew and matured, in size, stature, and setting. Locations changed, each time proving more impressive: from humble impromptu beginnings at a luncheon during OSIA's 1989 national convention to the solemn U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing Room in 1990; the Rayburn House Banquet Rooms (1991) to the historic Russell Senate Caucus Room (1992, 1994) and Dirksen Senate Caucus Room (1993); the bustling National Press Club (1995); the elegant Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium (1996, 1997); and this year, to the magnificent and incomparable National Building Museum.

As the sites of the NELA Gala became loftier and the trappings more elegant, so grew the list of impressive attendees and participants. A virtual who's who of the U.S. Congress have annually joined other NELA Gala diehards to draw inspiration from the awesome display of youthful brilliance and academic achievement. So, too, did the entertainment field take notice, led by emcees Joe Garagiola and Regis Philbin, and screen actors Tony Lo Bianco and Connie Stevens.

The highlights are too numerous to fully account, but some of the more remarkable command note. Among them, in 1991, the parade of no less than 10 U.S. senators (including Messrs. Kennedy, Glenn, Bradley, Lautenberg, and Thurmond) came to the podium, where they praised and touted the wisdom and goodness of the SIF for assuring the education of American youth. In 1992, retired Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil presented a moving tribute to his friend, 1990 NELA recipient Silvio O. Conte, for his lifetime support of education. The sincere attestations of commendation and delight for the philosophical and intellectual character of the NELA Gala have been expressed by House Minority Leader Robert Michel (1993) and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (1994). For nine consecutive years, a member of Congress reported glowingly on the NELA Gala in the *Congressional Record*

Nor were presidential administrations absent. White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, in 1995, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo, in 1997, movingly addressed the NELA Gala, eloquently reminding the students, honorees and all in attendance of the unparalleled strength their Italian heritage and upbringing provided them. And in 1996, both Vice President Al Gore and Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Robert Dole, spoke at the NELA Gala.

With all the marvelous memories, perhaps Silvio Conte best captured the event's essence. As the attendees of the 1990 NELA Gala, including his esteemed colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, Reps. Robert Michel, Jamie Whitten, and Wilbur Natcher, dispersed, Silvio expressed his one regret. "We should have sung *God Bless America* to close the affair," he said. How perceptive his observation and so consistent with the SIF's guiding principle, taken from Epictetus, that "Only the educated are free."

We now approach the 10th anniversary of the NELA Gala. The progress is measured and evident. From embryonic, tenuous thoughts in minds of a few, the imposing event scheduled for May 21, 1998, promises to embrace the supreme levels of human achievement: the world's greatest and most famous entertainer,

the advertising genius from the world's largest corporation; a live performance by the greatest singer currently performing; the most impressive public banquet space in the most important city in the world; universally renowned entertainers and Hollywood celebrities; senior leaders from virtually every professional field of endeavor; and, hopefully, a visit by the first citizen himself.

Above all else and true to its original purpose, of course, the NELA Gala will feature and recognize some of the brightest young men and women in the nation. They and their predecessors are certainly the heirs to leadership. But even more is at stake.

The respected social psychologist, Rollo May, years ago observed that human beings differ distinctly from other species in that only they are capable of promising, of envisioning a future and then committing to attain it. Through events such as the NELA Gala and the NLGC, the Sons of Italy Foundation seeks to help fashion, foster, and fulfill "Tomorrow's Promise" of a better life in a better world. It is the ultimate legacy for an organization founded 92 years ago with the primary purpose of assuring newly-arrived immigrants a decent burial in an unfamiliar and often unkind land.

Discussing the approaching milestone, people have occasionally asked, only half in jest: "Where do we go from here? How can we top the 1998 NELA Gala?" Taking our cue from Thoreau and May, the answer seems clear. We think further upon the matter, aspire toward a goal, and then we promise to do it. Or, to put it perhaps in Mr. Sinatra's parlance, we resolve that "the best is yet to come."

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## Italian American Contributions

### LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS FROM ITALIAN AMERICAN HISTORY

~~October is Italian American Heritage Month, celebrating the contributions of an estimated 20 million Americans of Italian descent -- the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States.~~

- ~~Two signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Italian descent: Maryland's **William Paca** and Delaware's **Caesar Rodney**.~~
- Four Italians were at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876: **John Martini**, a trumpeter and the last man to see Custer alive; **Augusto De Voto**, **Giovanni Casella**, and Lieutenant **Charles De Rudio**. All four survived the massacre.
- The Planter's Peanut Company and its familiar logo, Mr. Peanut, were created by **Amedeo Obici** and **Mario Peruzzi** in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania in 1908.
- "Chattanooga Choo-choo," "Lullaby of Broadway," and "An Affair to Remember" were some of the songs written by **Harry Warren**, born Salvatore Guaragna.
- The ice cream cone was invented in 1896 by **Italo Marcioni** in New Jersey. Two generations later, in Pittsburgh **Jim Delligatti** invented the Big Mac.
- The only man in U.S. history to win the nation's two highest military honors -- the Navy Cross and the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor -- was **John Basilone**, a U.S. Marine sergeant, who died at the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.
- The suburban shopping mall was developed by **William Cafaro** and **Edward J. DeBartolo**. Cafaro pioneered the enclosed shopping mall with his American Mall in Lima, Ohio in 1965. DeBartolo built the first American shopping plaza in the 1940s.
- Between 5,000 and 10,000 Italians fought in the Civil War for both the Union and the Confederacy. Four were Union generals, including **General Luigi Palma di Cesnola**, who received the Medal of Honor and was later the first director of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- Susan Sarandon**, **Bruce Springsteen**, and **Ann Bancroft** are Italian American.

Prepared by:

**The National Italian American Foundation**

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## Italian American Contributions

### ITALIAN AMERICAN INNOVATORS

*Italian Americans created many of the familiar items we enjoy every day.*

- The Jacuzzi hot tub and spa were invented by the **Jacuzzi family**, whose family of seven sons and six daughters came to America in 1907. In 1915, they formed the Jacuzzi Brothers Incorporated, which supplied the American military with propellers. In 1926, they developed the deep well (jet) water pump that led to the famous whirlpool bath.
- Mr. Coffee, the best-selling coffee maker in the world, was invented by **Vince Marotta**, who also developed a better way extract oil from coffee beans and invented the paper coffee filter. Since 1972, more than 50 million Mr. Coffees have been sold. An estimated 10 billion Mr. Coffee paper filters are sold annually.
- The convertible sofa was invented by **Bernard Castro** (1904-1991) who came from Italy and opened an upholstery shop in New York in 1931. In 1945, he invented the famous space-saving sofa that even a child could open.
- Chef Boyardee, the man behind the nation's leading brand of spaghetti dinners, pizza mix, sauce and pasta, was really **Ettore Boiardi**, an Italian immigrant from Emilia Romagna. Boiardi, who began as a chef's apprentice at age 11, eventually opened a restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio in 1924 and began packaging pasta and sauce for his customers to take home. In the 1930s, he began selling his pasta and sauce in cans. A food distributor convinced him to change the spelling of his name to make it easier for Americans to pronounce. During World War II, the company was the largest supplier of rations for the U.S. and Allied Forces.
- The Big Mac, McDonald's sandwich classic, was invented by **Jim Delligatti** owner of a McDonald's franchise in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Since its introduction in 1967, more than 14 billion Big Macs have been sold, making it the most popular sandwich in the world.
- **Antonio Meucci** invented the telephone in 1871, five years before Alexander Graham Bell, but the impoverished inventor did not have the funds (about \$25.00) to file a patent.
- The popular Radio Flyer red wagon was created by **Antonio Pasin**, an immigrant Italian carpenter in 1917. Pasin began making the wagon he called the Liberty Coaster, after the Statue of Liberty, one of his first sights in America. Today, his grandson, Robert Pasin is the president of the Chicago-based Radio Flyer Inc, which he runs with his brothers, Antonio and Paul. The company's 100 employees manufacture about 8,000 wagons a day.
- The chocolate bar exists today in part thanks to **Domenico Ghirardelli**. In 1867, he perfected a method to make ground chocolate. Today, Ghirardelli chocolate is sold all over the world, including the square in San Francisco named after him, where his chocolate factory - now a shopping center -- still stands.
- Mr. Peanut and the Planters Peanut Company were created by **Amedeo Obici** and **Mario Peruzzi**,

two Italian immigrants. Obici, who came to America from Oderzo in 1889, began selling five-cent bags of peanuts on the street. In 1897, he took Peruzzi as his partner. By 1930, the two had four huge factories, and raked in over \$12 million annually. Today the Planters Peanut Company has over 5,000 employees.

- The cough-drop was created by **Vincent R. Ciccone**, who began his career in the 1930s as a janitor at the Charms Candy Co. and retired as the company's president and chief executive officer. Ciccone secured 20 patents, including the "Blow Pop," a lolly pop with a bubble gum center. He died at age 81 in 1997.
- **Charles Atlas**, born Angelo Siciliano, invented the body-building technique called "Dynamic Tension" in 1921 and was dubbed "America's Most Perfectly Developed Man" by *Physical Culture* magazine. By the 1950s, the former Coney Island janitor, had over one million followers. He died in 1972 at age 79 while jogging too soon after a heart attack.
- The ice cream cone was invented by an Italian immigrant to New Jersey named **Italo Marcioni** in 1896.
- The three-way light bulb was invented by **Alessandro Dandini**, who patented more than 22 inventions, including the rigid retractable automobile top and the spherical system, which concentrates and extracts solar energy. Dandini came to the U.S. in 1945, and taught at the University of Nevada in Reno. He held degrees in science, languages, hydraulic engineering and classical literature. He died in 1991 at age 88.
- **Bernard Cousino** (1902-1994) held more than 76 patents on audiovisual equipment, including the eight-track tape player and the automobile tape deck. In 1994, just days before his death, he filed a patent for a continuous loop video cassette that allows VCRs to play tapes repeatedly without rewinding.

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## Italian American Contributions

### ITALIAN AMERICANS IN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

*Italian Americans have been part of the American political scene for more than 200 years.*

- The words in the Declaration of Independence, "All men are created equal" were suggested to Thomas Jefferson by **Filippo Mazzei**, a Tuscan physician, business man, pamphleteer and Jefferson's friend and neighbor. Mazzei's original words were "All men are by nature equally free and independent."
- Two of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Italian origin: **William Paca** and **Caesar Rodney**. Paca was one of the first senators in the Maryland state legislature, governor of Maryland (1782 to 1785) and a major general during the Revolutionary War. Rodney of Delaware, descended from the Adelmare family in Treviso, is most remembered for his courageous ride to Philadelphia in July 1776. Though sick with cancer, he rode through thunder and rain to arrive just in time to vote for independence.
- **Onorio Razzolini** was the first Italian American ever to hold public office. He was the U.S. Armourer and Keeper of Stores in Maryland between 1732 and 1747, a duty which essentially put him in charge of defense for the Colony of Maryland.
- In 1837, **John Phinizy**, the son of an Italian immigrant named Ferdinando Finizzi, became the first Italian American mayor of an American city: Augusta, Georgia. In 1880, Anthony Ghio was elected mayor of Texarkana, Texas, where he later opened the town's first opera house.
- Among the first Italian American governors were **William Paca**, who served Maryland from 1782 to 1785; **Caesar Rodney** of Delaware in 1776; and **Andrew Houston Longino** who was elected governor of Mississippi in 1900. The first Republican governor of Italian descent was **Christopher Del Sesto**, who was elected governor of Rhode Island in 1958.
- **Francis B. Spinola** was the first Italian American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives (1887-1891). A Democrat, Spinola represented New York City.
- In 1950, **John Orlando Pastore** became the first Italian American elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until 1976. In over 50 years in public office, he never lost an election. A Democrat from Rhode Island, he began his political career as a state assemblyman in 1934 and became the first Italian American governor of his home state in 1945 after his predecessor resigned. He was reelected in 1946 and then again in 1948 by a record 73,000 vote margin over his opponent.
- **Alfred E. Smith**, who was born Alfred Emanuele Ferrara, was the first Italian American governor of New York (1919), and the first Italian American presidential candidate. He was defeated by Herbert Hoover in 1928. His paternal grandfather was born in Genoa in 1808.
- **Charles Joseph Bonaparte** founded the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1908, built the U.S. Navy into one of the strongest in the world and was the first Italian American appointed to a cabinet position, serving as Secretary of the Navy and later as U.S. Attorney General during Theodore

Roosevelt's administration.

- New York City's "Little Flower," **Fiorello H. LaGuardia** was elected mayor in 1931 and served until 1944. Elected on the Republican ticket, he became the first Italian American mayor of the city. The former lawyer was a champion of labor unions and campaigned in English, Italian, Yiddish, German and Spanish.
- **Michael A. Musmanno** served on of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and on the bench of the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, which tried the Nazi officers after World War II.
- ~~The 1950 New York City mayoral race~~ was among three Italian Americans: **Edward Corsi**, **Vincent Impellitteri**, and **Ferdinand Pecora**. ~~Impellitteri won on the Experience Party ticket and served as mayor until January, 1954.~~
- U.S. Congressman **Peter Rodino**, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, led the Committee recommendation to impeach Richard M. Nixon. Elected to Congress in 1948, Rodino also was a key congressman supporting the law that made Columbus Day a national holiday in 1973.
- **Anthony J. Celebrezze** was the first foreign-born mayor of Cleveland, Ohio and the first non-native to be appointed to the U.S. Cabinet as Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare under the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. Also a judge to the U.S. Court of Appeals, he was born in Potenza, elected Cleveland's mayor in 1953 and re-elected four times, the last time with nearly 75 percent of the vote. He was the only Cleveland mayor elected five times. He died in 1998 at age 88.
- Gov. **Ella Tambussi Grasso** of Connecticut was the first American woman elected governor in her own right and the first Italian American woman in Congress. Elected governor in 1975, she brought the state out of debt and created an "open government" so all citizens could easily access public records. Grasso served as governor until 1980. She served in Congress from 1970 to 1974. Ella Grasso died of cancer in 1981.
- **Geraldine Ferraro** was the first woman to ever run for national office in the U.S. In 1984 she ran as Walter Mondale's vice presidential candidate. A Democrat from New York, she served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 1985.
- **Mario Cuomo**, who was first elected governor of New York in 1982, won the 1986 election with 2,761,000 votes, or 64 percent, the largest margin in New York history. During his 12 years in office, Gov. Cuomo pushed through landmark programs in criminal justice, education, the environment, health care, human rights, housing and health care that were national firsts. See his book, *The New York Idea: An Experiment in Democracy*
- The first woman to be secretary of state and attorney general in Nevada was **Frankie Sue Del Papa**. She was elected secretary in 1987 and attorney general in 1991.
- Brooklyn's **Rudolph W. Giuliani** was elected mayor of New York City in 1993, and re-elected in 1997. During his first term as mayor, crime in the Big Apple dropped 41 percent, the largest sustained decrease in the nation and the lowest rate in New York City since the 1960s. The Mayor began his career in the U.S Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York in 1970 at age 29, later practiced law privately and worked for the Attorney General's office and the Justice Department. He first ran for mayor in 1989 as an independent but lost to David Dinkins.

- At the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, about eight percent, or 82 of the mayors of the 1,056 major U.S. cities had Italian last names. Per state, the largest percentages of mayors are in New York (35 percent), Connecticut (31 percent) and New Jersey (23 percent). Six of the Italian American mayors are women. Italian Americans constitute about six percent of the U.S. population.
- ~~When the 20th century closed, 31 men and women of Italian descent were serving in the U.S. Congress, including five senators and four women.~~

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## Italian American Contributions

### ITALIAN AMERICANS IN EDUCATION

*Italian Americans have made significant contributions to American education as teachers, and pioneer theorists.*

- The first graduating class of the University of Pennsylvania in 1757 included an Italian American named **James Laita**. He was one of seven men chosen by Ben Franklin, the University founder, to attend what was then called the College of Philadelphia.
- **Leonard Covello** (1887-1982) was the first Italian American high school principal in New York City (Benjamin Franklin High School in East Harlem 1934-56). A pioneer in bi-lingual education, Covello believed a school should serve the interests of its neighborhood. He was also a co-founder of the American Italian Historical Association in 1966.
- **Peter Sammartino** was the founder, president and chancellor emeritus of Fairleigh Dickinson University, a liberal arts institution in New Jersey which he began in 1942 with his wife, **Sylvia (Sally) Scaramelli**. He also founded the International Association of University Presidents and was the author of 30 books. The Sammartinos died in 1992.
- **Mother Frances Cabrini**, the first American saint, founded 14 American colleges, 98 schools, 28 orphanages, eight hospitals, three training schools, and a score of other institutions with the help of over 4,000 sisters she recruited for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a group she also founded. Mother Cabrini emigrated to the US in 1889 and became a US citizen in 1909. She died in 1917 and was canonized in 1949.
- Italian Americans have founded some of America's oldest colleges and universities. The University of Santa Clara in California was founded by two Italian Jesuits: **John Nobili** and **A. Accolti** in 1851 with only \$150. Gonzaga University in Washington State was founded by a Jesuit priest, **Joseph Cataldo** in 1881. St. Bonaventure's College, one of the best and well-known small colleges in New York state, was founded by **Father Pamphilus** in 1858.
- Italian Americans served as presidents of several notable American colleges very early in their history. **Father Giovanni Grassi** served as the president of **Georgetown College** (now Georgetown University) in Washington, DC in 1812, only two years after emigrating to the U.S. from Bergamo. **Father Anthony Ciampi** was president of **Loyola College** in Baltimore, Maryland in 1863. **Father Lawrence B. Palladino** was president of **Gonzaga University**, in Washington State, from 1894-1897.
- In 1978, at age 38, **A. Bartlett Giamatti** became the youngest president of Yale University in 200 years and the first president not entirely of Anglo Saxon heritage. As the New Haven, Connecticut university's 19th president, Giamatti served until 1986 when he resigned to become the president of the National League of Baseball (NLB). In January 1989, he became commissioner of the NLB. He died of a heart attack in September 1989 at age 49.

- **Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino**, the former president of Catholic University, a physician and author was founder, chairman, director, founding dean, professor, chancellor and president of medical centers in New Jersey, Kentucky, Tennessee, Connecticut and Washington, DC; as well as the author of over 400 medical articles.
- **Linda Lantieri** co-founded "Resolving Conflicts Creatively," an organization which teaches students how to prevent violence in the classroom in New York City. The private agency, founded in 1985, forms partnerships with public schools to help elementary and high school students learn how to resolve conflicts and develop friendships.
- As superintendent of Baltimore County schools, **Anthony Marchione** has turned the nation's 25th largest school district with 105,500 students around. Since 1995, he has paired new teachers with experienced mentors; cut class sizes to 23 students; and hired building experts to shore up the county's 159 schools. In 1993, Baltimore ranked 13th out of Maryland's 24 counties. By 1998, it ranked 8th.
- **Rosemarie Truglio, Ph.D.**, is the director of research for Public Television's award-winning children's program, "*Sesame Street*." She develops the program's interdisciplinary curriculum and conducts research to enhance the program's educational and entertainment values. Dr. Truglio is a nationally recognized expert on the effects of television on children and teenagers.
- In 1998, the NIAF identified at least 166 college presidents of Italian descent, including **John DiBiaggio** (Tufts University); **Claire Gaudiani** (Connecticut College); **Jay Oliva** (New York University); **Joseph Polisi** (The Julliard School); and **Neil Rudenstine** (Harvard University), whose mother was Italian American (Mae Esperito).

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**Italian American Contributions**

**FACT SHEET: ITALIANS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

*From the beginning of U.S. history, Italians have supported American independence.*

- **Three Italian regiments**, totaling some 1,500 men, fought for American independence: the Third Piemonte, the 13th Du Perche, and the Royal Italian.
- **Filippo Mazzei**, a Tuscan physician, fought alongside Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry during the American Revolution. Mazzei drew up a plan to capture the British in New York by cutting off their sea escape, and convinced France to help the American colonists financially and militarily in their struggle against British rule. He also inspired the Jeffersonian phrase: "All men are created equal" when he wrote "All men are by nature equally free and independent."
- Italian officers in the American Revolution include: **Captain Cosimo de Medici** of the North Carolina Light Dragoons; **Lieutenant James Bracco**, 7th Maryland Regiment, killed at the Battle of White Plains; **Captain B. Tagliaferro**, second in command of the Second Virginia Regiment, a direct subaltern of General George Washington; **2nd Lieutenant Nicola Talliaferro** of the 2nd Virginia Regiment; and **Colonel Richard Talliaferro**, who fell at the Battle of Guilford. Other Italian officers, most from Massachusetts, are on regimental rolls of the Continental Army.
- **Major John Belli** was the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army from 1792 to 1794. The first settler in Scioto County, Ohio, he lived there until his death in 1809.
- Three of the first five warships commissioned by the Continental Congress of the new American government, were named **Christopher Columbus**, **John Cabot** and **Andrea Doria**. Doria was a 16<sup>th</sup> century navy admiral from Genoa who was still fighting the Barbary pirates in his mid 80s.
- **Francesco Vigo** (1747-1836), is believed the first Italian to become an American citizen. A successful fur trader on the western frontier (today the mid-western states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Vigo served as a colonel, spy, and financier during the American Revolution. He died a pauper, but in 1876 the U.S. government gave his heirs about \$50,000 to repay them for Vigo's financial support of the Revolutionary War. Along with George Rogers Clark, he helped settle the Northwest territory.

**Prepared by:**

***The National Italian American Foundation***

*The NIAF thanks military historian Rudy A. D'Angelo for his assistance with this fact sheet.*

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## Italian American Contributions

### FACT SHEET ON ITALIAN AMERICANS: A DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

- There are nearly 15 million people who identified themselves as Italian American in the 1990 U.S. census, the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau reports. The Census Bureau estimates, however, that 1 out of 10 Americans has some Italian blood, bringing the total number of Americans of Italian descent to 26 million.
- Italian Americans are the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The four larger groups are: the Germans, Irish, English and African Americans.
- The average Italian American still lives in the city in which he was raised, has attended at least one year of college and has an average family income of about \$33,000 per year, according to a survey of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago.
- Italian Americans are evenly split among the three political parties: 35 percent Republican; 32 percent Democrat; and 33 percent Independent, according to the NORC. No matter their political orientation, Italian Americans tend to support liberal social causes: 89 percent would vote for a woman president; 55 percent are pro-choice; and more than 60 percent think the government should spend more on health, education and the poor.
- Italian Americans either make up 15 percent of the population or number more than 1 million in the following states:

California	1,500,000
Connecticut	650,000
Massachusetts	845,000
New Jersey	1,500,000
New York	2,900,000
Pennsylvania	1,400,000
Rhode Island	200,000

- Italian Americans are also found in significant numbers in 15 other states, including **Florida (800,000); Illinois (730,000); Ohio (640,000); Michigan (412,000); Texas (314,000) and Maryland (253,000).**

1997

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## Italian American Contributions

### ITALIAN AMERICAN INFLUENCES IN WASHINGTON, DC

*Most Americans know that the District of Columbia is named after Christopher Columbus, but few realize how great a role other Italians and their descendants have had in building the city and its monuments. Italians helped create Washington's classic architecture and impressive monuments, and many of the city's schools, churches, and federal buildings.*

- **THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL** -- Neapolitan immigrant Attilio Piccirilli and his five brothers carved the statue of Lincoln, which they began in 1911 and completed in 1922. It is 19 feet high and made of 28 blocks of marble, carefully fitted together. The gifted sculptors, working out of their studio/living complex in the Bronx, also carved the famous lions on the steps of the New York Public Library, and the facade of the Brooklyn Museum among many other works in New York and across America. See Attilio Piccirilli's biography by Joseph V. Lombardo, published in 1944.
- **THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL** -- Using techniques handed down by stone carvers since the Middle Ages, Italian artisans created the gargoyles and statues that decorate the facade of Washington's most famous place of worship.
- **THE CAPITOL BUILDING** -- A concrete symbol of American democracy, the Capitol bears the imprint of Italian talent. Between 1855 and 1870, the Italian artist, Constantino Brumidi decorated its interior dome, corridors, and the President's Room where Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.
- **UNION STATION** -- Italian construction workers helped build Washington's train station, which was begun in 1905 and completed in 1908, considered one of the most beautiful train stations in the United States. The six statues that decorate the station's facade were sculpted by Andrew E. Bernasconi between 1909 and 1911.
- **METRO** -- Washington is justifiably proud of its quiet, modern subway system, but few of the thousands of commuters who ride it daily know that more than 60 percent of Metro's 764 subway cars are made in Italy. The DC Transit Authority purchased 466 cars from Breda Costruzioni Ferroviarie in Pistoia at a cost of about \$1.3 million each.

*Prepared by:*

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## \*\* not so FAMOUS ITALIANS \*\*

<a href="#">Italian-Americans</a>	<a href="#">Facts about Italian-Americans</a>
<a href="#">Italian Proverbs</a>	<a href="#">Italian Festivals</a>

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Dr. Anthony Fauci - head of the Nat'l Institutes of Health - here in Washinton Dc and a winner of research prizes on aids. See also Bob Gallo in my [today's Famous Italian's page](#).\*

Robert Gallucci - Georgetown Univ - big scholar\*

Paolo Janni - retired Italian diplomat during the Cold War\*

\*info courtesy of [gisella@psnw.com](mailto:gisella@psnw.com)

GIANNINI from San.Francisco, founder of BANCA D`ITALIA, which become BANCA D`ITALIA E AMERICA, and finally once world biggest bank ,BANK OF AMERICA

Italians/Italian-Americans The man who captured Billy the Kid was Angelo "Charlie" Siringo, a famous Pinkerton detective who also pursued Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

The man who invented the suburban shopping mall was Edward J. DeBartolo, the son of Italian immigrants, who worked his way up from construction jobs when he was 13 years old in 1922 to become a successful real estate developer who built the first American shopping plazas in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

The only man in U.S. history to win the country's two highest military honors -- the Navy Cross and the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor -- was John Basilone, a U.S. marine who died during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

The Planter's Peanut Company and its familiar logo, Mr. Peanut, were created by the Italian American businessmen Amedeo Obici and Mario Peruzzi in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania in 1908.

Two of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Italian descent: Maryland's William Paca and Delaware's Caesar Rodney.

During the Civil War, the 39th New York Infantry consisted of 830 Italian Americans, known as "the Garibaldi Guard," who fought in the Union Army from Bull Run to Appomattox. Two Italian Americans also were Union generals: Brigadier General Francis Spicola and General Luigi Palma di Cesnola.

Two Italian Americans were with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn: John Martini, a trumpeter, and Lieutenant Charles C. De Rudio. Both survived the massacre.

"Chattanooga Choo-choo," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," "Lullaby of Broadway," and "An Affair to Remember" were written by Harry Warren, a Brooklyn-born composer whose real name was Salvatore Guaragna.

The first American to be named a saint was the Italian American nun, Mother Frances Cabrini, who was canonized in 1946.

"Rosie the Riveter," who became a symbol of American women who took their men's places in factories during World War II was Rosie Bonavita.

The ice cream cone was invented in 1896 by Italo Marcioni in New Jersey.

NY Gov. George Pataki, Susan Sarandon and Bruce Springsteen are Italian American.

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Roy Campanella and Franco Harris are Italian American.

Two Italian Americans were with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn: John Martini, a trumpeter, and Lieutenant Charles C. De Rudio. Both survived the massacre.

Hank Luisetti - invented the one-handed layup in basketball.

Andy Varipapa - one of the world's best bowlers and two-time winner of the all-star individual math game championship

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## THE "AVERAGE" ITALIAN AMERICAN: FICTION AND FACT

Information Courtesy of NIAF

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Movies, television, and the press persistently link Italian Americans with organized crime, perpetuating the myth that a significant portion of Italian Americans are involved in the mafia or benefit from mob activities.

As a result of this misinformation, the larger American public has come to believe that Italian American culture is innately criminal and that Italian Americans have a propensity toward crime.

Government studies on organized crime, however refute this popular conception. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement's Report on Organized Crime, the only official information on mob activities ever offered by a federal agency, estimates that in 1967 5,000 people were involved in organized crime.

The 1990 U.S. Census counted nearly 15 million people of Italian descent. Even if all 5,000 members of organized crime identified by the President's commission were Italian American, this would amount to 0.0003 percent of the current Italian American population or 3 people out of 100,000.

A truer portrait of Italian Americans emerged from a survey report by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. The NORC study revealed that the average Italian American has attended at least one year of college and has an average family income of about \$33,000 per year.

The NORC survey also found that Italian Americans tend to support liberal social causes: 89 percent would vote for a woman president; 55 percent are pro-choice; and more than 60 percent think the government should spend more on health, education and the poor.

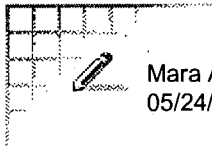
1996

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### FACT SHEET: ITALIAN AMERICANS

*October is Italian American Heritage Month, celebrating the contributions of an estimated 26 million Americans of Italian descent -- the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States. Here are some little-known facts about Italian Americans.*

**Most Italian Americans are descended from the nearly 5 million Italians who came to the United States between 1880 and 1924. They brought with them many Italian traditions, including a wealth of folk wisdom found in ancient proverbs. Here is a sampling. [Click Here](#) for more interesting**



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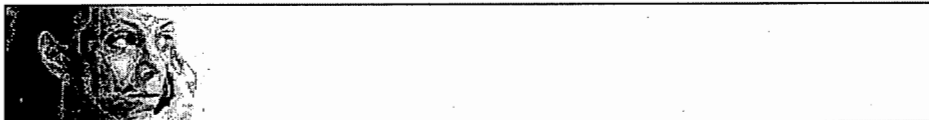
To: Brian E. Nelson/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: italian quotes

You may have the universe if I may have Italy.  
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) Italian composer

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.  
Saint Ambrose (340-397) Italian religious leader



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Simpson's Contemporary Quotations, compiled by James B. Simpson. 1988.

NUMBER: 609

AUTHOR: **Mario Cuomo**, Governor of NY

QUOTATION: We must get the American public to look past the glitter, beyond the showmanship, to the reality, the hard substance of things. And we'll do it ... not so much with speeches that will bring people to their feet as with speeches that bring people to their senses.

ATTRIBUTION: Keynote address to Democratic National Convention in San Francisco 16 Jul 84

SUBJECTS: The World: Politics & Government: Politicians & Critics

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**Belgian Proverb**

Beauty and chastity are always quarreling.

**Spanish Proverb**

The beginning and the end  
reach out their hands to each other.

**Chinese Proverb**

He who is outside the door has already a good part of his journey  
behind him.

**Dutch Proverb**

For a web begun God sends thread.

**Italian Proverb**

If you are bitter at heart,  
sugar in the mouth will not help you.

**Yiddish Proverb**

Boasting is not courage.

**African Proverb**

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

**Chinese Proverb**

Many complain of their looks, but none of their brains.

**Yiddish Proverb**

# Museum of the City of San Francisco

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## ADDRESS OF MAYOR ANGELO J. ROSSI

Delivered before the American Federation of Labor celebration of Labor Day  
held in Festival Hall, Treasure Island,  
Monday, September 4, 1939



Mayor Angelo Rossi

*Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Public Officials, Officers and Members of the American Federation of Labor:*

At the outset may I express my deep appreciation to you and your committee for the unhesitating and spontaneous manner in which you saw fit to invite me to be present here today.

I thank you not only as Angelo Rossi, the man, but more important than that, as Chief Executive of a truly great American city.

The greatest asset of any nation is the spirit of its people.



The greatest danger that menaces the security of any nation is the breakdown of that spirit.

There are those in our country who are fearful of the future.

They hear marching feet, rumbling guns and droning planes in other lands.

They hear the voices of discontent, spreading vicious doctrines which assail the fundamental principles upon which our nation is founded.

They hear great masses of our people crying for assistance and the opportunity to earn an honest dollar.

They hear all these things and they are fearful.

Their spirit is breaking.

Yet, on the other hand, I am privileged today to speak to a group of people whose presence here gives us cause for great confidence.

Here we have no evidence of a broken spirit.

Here we have a group of people who are imbued with the spirit which prompted our pioneer forefathers whose energies built this great Western Commonwealth.

Rather on this Labor Day we rejoice and are most hopeful for the future.

When tremendous groups of people meet for the purpose of doing honor to the high purpose or splendid achievements of some outstanding organization, they must be motivated by a great cause and imbued with a noble spirit.

The great outpouring of the citizenry, not only of the glorious city of San Francisco, but