

CHAPTER NEWS

SUMMER 2006

CALIFORNIA

It took 55 years, but former Marine **Frank Albano** finally received the Purple Heart he earned in Korea where he was wounded in 1950 during the liberation of Seoul. He received his medal in December 2005 at Fort Pendleton in front of his old battalion, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines 1st Marine Division. Frank, a past president of the **Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566** in Mission Viejo, was one of 92,000 American troops wounded in the Korean War.

MICHIGAN

Local artist **Mic Carlson** has produced 2 bronze statues of St. Francis: one for display in his hometown of Grand Rapids and the other in the saint's birthplace of Assisi. A new member of the **West Michigan Lodge #2531**, Mic also produced the winning poster for the city's 2006 Festival of the Arts held last June.

PENNSYLVANIA

Concern over the plight of impoverished American Indian elderly and children who have no heat, electricity or plumbing led **Barbara Napoletano Lawless** and her husband **John** to become their champions.

Over the past seven years, they have sent 21 tons of warm clothing, blankets, school supplies, food and even toys to more than 7,000 children and adults in 14 Indian communities on reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.

"Many live in empty car shells or wooden shacks," says Barbara. "For some children, the school lunch is their only meal so from Friday to Monday, they don't eat."

The Lawlesses, who are both retired, collect, clean, sort and send everything themselves. Recently, they enlisted help with shipping costs from their lodge, the **Piazza Nuova Lodge #2665 in Yardley**.

For more information, contact Barbara at JML1938@netzero.net. To make a financial donation, contact the Community Pantry at 505/726-8068 or Americans for Native Americans at 215/345 7000 (or send to: ANA, POB 1389, Doylestown, PA 18901. Be sure to earmark checks as *Sons of Italy donation*.

WASHINGTON STATE

When the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in front of Cataldo Marinaro's restaurant/rooming house in Praise, KY in 1921, the Italian immigrant responded with a loaded shotgun. They never bothered him again, reports his son, **Angelo Marinaro** of the **Olympic Peninsula Lodge #2733** in Port Angeles/Sequim. "My father was steeled in courage and toughened by experience," says Angelo, "but he never turned away someone in need."

Marinaro senior immigrated to the US from Puglia in 1907 when he was 21. Illiterate but industrious, he headed west and settled in Praise where he raised five children, including Angelo, now 85, and sent them all to college. "Among the mourners at his funeral were the former KKK members," says Angelo.