

# ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

## CHAPTER NEWS – FALL 2003

### ARIZONA

**Viva Europa!** • Hundreds of tourists and local school children will soon learn about Tucson's debt to Italy and the rest of Europe, thanks to **the Old Pueblo Lodge #2349**.

Recently the lodge joined forces with European Ethnic Originations to create *the Tapestry of Tucson*, a permanent plasma television wall display that will be mounted in the main lobby of the Tucson Convention Center at the end of the year.

It will include the contributions of the city's Italian Americans past and present as well as a profile on OSIA's history and how to join OSIA, reports lodge president **Charles DaLeo**.

### FLORIDA

**Pasta Plus** • The families of military serving in the Middle East are under tremendous stress so the **Joseph B. Franzalia Lodge #2422** in Fort Walton Beach decided to throw a party for those living on the nearby Eglin and Hurlburt Air Force Bases.

Twenty-two lodge volunteers prepared Italian dishes at the lodge headquarters, which they decorated with carnations and American flags, reports Lodge member Gloria Scalzitti Walker. About 160 guests, many of them children, attended the April 27 event.

### NEW YORK

**Yeah, team!** • In South Farmingdale, **the Columbus Lodge #2143 Golden Lions** softball team raises money for charities. Since its founding in 1995, the team has won 13 charity softball tournaments, helping raise over \$570,000 for the Arthritis Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Easter Seals Society, Ronald McDonald House and Special Olympics, among other.

### VIRGINIA

**Third Generation Prez** • Ralph Festa waves to the crowds during Portsmouth's Memorial Day parade, the nation's oldest running Memorial Day parade. Festa, 82, is president of the **Italo-American Citizens Lodge #1077**, which his grandfather founded in 1909. Ralph has held the office six times and is a former Grand Lodge of Virginia president, too.

## WASHINGTON STATE

**Madame President** • The **Grand Lodge of the Northwest** made history in June by unanimously electing its first woman president. She's **Dorothy Santelli**, a 25-year member of the **Tacoma Lodge #1175**, who, as state president of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, is also the first woman president west of the Mississippi since OSIA's founding in 1905.

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