

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA CHAPTER NEWS – WINTER 2004

CALIFORNIA

Bravo! Former OSIA national trustee, **Joseph Simile** represented the Order in Florence last October at the Douhet-Mitchell International Award Ceremony, honoring outstanding airmen at Italy's Air Force War College and the U.S. Air War College at Maxell.

This year's recipients were U.S. Major Vito Gomes and Italy's Colonel Francesco Barotini. It is named after two World War II Air Force pioneers, Italy's Maj. Gen. Giulio Douhet and U.S. Brig. Gen. William Mitchell. OSIA helped reinstate this award after an eight-year hiatus.

COLORADO

Sister Cities Members of the **Southern Colorado Lodge #2738** recently traveled to Italy to establish a sister city relationship for Pueblo. Lodge **President Michael Salardino** met with officials in Bergamo, a province in the Lombardy region in northern Italy to discuss exchanges between cities in tourism, culture, education and economic development.

CONNECTICUT

Insider Book **Richard Marano**, of the Leonardo da Vinci Lodge #66 in Prospect, has authored *Vote Your Conscience*, an inside look at George McGovern's 1984 presidential campaign. Marano, a past lodge president and former trustee of the CT Grand Lodge, worked on the campaign.

FLORIDA

Strong Support The **Florida Grand Lodge** is lobbying its congressional representatives to get the Basilone stamp issued, reports **Edward Mottola, Jr.**, the GL public relations chair. The GL has contacted all 25 members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and the 29-member Italian American Caucus, asking them to sign on as co-sponsors. They want the bill voted on before the end of the 108th Congress next fall.

GEORGIA

Making Strides The **Marietta Lodge #2607** in Marietta has raised and donated more than \$5,000 to the American Cancer Society. The funds were collected last October during a five-mile walk-a-thon, "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" in which lodge members participated. The lodge ranked among the "Top 5" out of more than 180 teams raising money in the event.

ILLINOIS

Original Soloist An instrument that is often the step-child in an orchestra has been given a chance to shine by talented contrabassoonist **Susan Nigro**, of the Leone D'Oro lodge, #2700 in Orland Park. Thanks to her, the contrabassoon is now a solo instrument. Nigro has premiered more solo works for it any other musician. See her CD, *New Tunes for the Big Bassoon* and her site at www.bigbassoon.com.

MICHIGAN

Positive Image OSIA Second National Vice President **Valentine Ciullo** helped rally support for the Grand Rapids premiere of Joe Mantegna's new feature film, *Uncle Nino* at a special showing for Italian Americans on Dec. 3. *Uncle Nino* shows how an Italian uncle changes the lives of his overworked American nephew and his family when he visits them in Chicago.

NEW JERSEY

Signing Support More than 500 signatures were collected to support a Basilone stamp and a congressional resolution on Antonio Meucci at two Italian American festivals last fall in Holmdel and Mercer City. The petitions were collected by CSJ Resource Person **Sam Fumosa** and OSIA's **Rose Mary Feterick**. Over 225 people signed Basilone petitions and 360 signatures petitioned Sen. Jon Corzine to introduce a Senate resolution honoring Meucci's contributions to the telephone.