



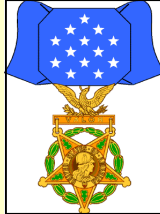
Portland Italian Businessmen's Club Newsletter

August 2010

L 'angolo della Cultura

Italian-American Medal of Honor recipients

The highest military award presented by the US government to a member of its armed forces is the Congressional Medal of Honor. It is presented for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, in actual combat against an armed enemy force". There have been at over 30 Medals of Honor awarded to Italian Americans since it was created during the Civil War.



The first was bestowed to Colonel Palma Di Cesnola, who came to the Union army from the Italian army. As an officer of a cavalry regiment during the Battle of Aldie in 1863, he rallied his troops in a second cavalry charge after an initial retreat against strong defensive forces and, though severely wounded, continued in action until captured.

The highest number of medals was awarded during WWII, and the best known Italian-American recipient during that war was Sgt. John Basilone of New York. At Guadalcanal, he held off 3,000 Japanese troops after his 15-member unit was reduced to himself and two of his men. He was later killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Iwo Jima, for which he was posthumously honored with the Navy Cross. He has received many other honors including being the namesake for major avenues, military locations and a United States Navy destroyer.

The most recent Medal of Honor was awarded last year to Staff Sgt. Jared Monti of Massachusetts for his heroism in Afghanistan in 2006. He died after demonstrating determination and remarkable courage without regard to his own life. Severely outnumbered, he led his men in a firefight on an Afghan mountain top. Alternately firing and relaying coordinates to HQ, he was killed trying to reach and save a wounded comrade. To assess the full extent of the heroism of Jared and others, visit: www.army.mil/medalofhonor

IBC Discussion and Planning

Our first meeting at the Port City Pasta location was a good one in terms of member attendance, food and communications. The main topic of conversation at the meeting was a review the June "Afternoon in Tuscany" event and planning for the next one.

Seventy club members, spouses, Tuscan Association members and others attended our event at Alloro Vineyard. Virtually all stated that it was a wonderful afternoon and they had a great time. Club members pitched in to help where needed, setting up tables and cleaning up, helping to make it a success. As our first large event of this type there is no question that we scored a big win.

However, IBC Treasurer Max Corona reported that miscommunications with suppliers resulted in extra charges, causing a bottom line that went a bit into the red. Lesson learned... and now that we know we can pull off such an event, our next one will run more smoothly with funds to support causes we believe in.

To build upon the popularity of this event, we are scheduling another wine event in the fall at "crush" time. It is tentatively set for September 19 and named "Vendemmia" (grape harvest). We will again be working with the Tuscan Association, this time making it a fund raising event for the Scuola Italiana di Portland. Save the date.

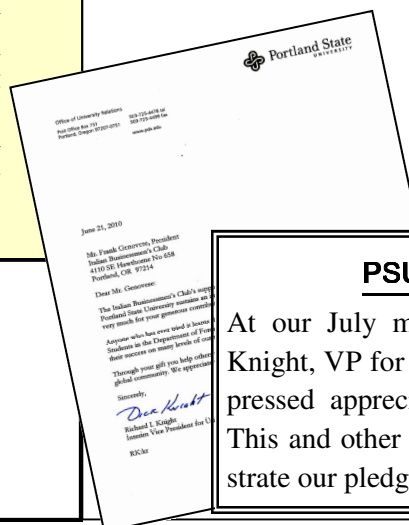
If you had your photo taken at the vineyard or want to see what the vineyard event was like, visit our web site where there are over 100 great photos, thanks to great photography by Claude Laviano.

At our meeting, we welcomed back as a member, **Greg Zuffrea**, past IBC member and president, who has played over the past several weeks on Jim Z's bocce team. Welcome back Greg!

Our next IBC dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, August 10, 6:30 at Port City Pasta, 333 S. State St in Lake Place Center, Lake Oswego 97034, (503) 699-2927.

PSU Thanks IBC for Scholarship

At our July meeting, a thank you letter from Richard Knight, VP for University Relations was read. In it, he expressed appreciation for the IBC's scholarship to PSU. This and other contributions and volunteer efforts demonstrate our pledge to support Italian culture and language.



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Comitato Italiani Uniti

That's the name of the steering committee composed of Portland's Italian based organization presidents and organized by Andrea Bartoloni, Italian Vice Consul. The group met for the 3rd time on July 17th at IBC VP, Guy LaCesa's offices. IBC President Frank Genovese has been providing the advice and council on behalf of the IBC. At the meeting, the "comitato" exchanged ideas on how best to build upon the strengths of each organization for the benefit of common interests. Discussion included:

- Festa Italiana, Columbus Day Banquet, La Bufana children's party and Scuola Italiana
- Providing better communication and cooperation among the clubs with a common web site
- Looking at building upon Italian opportunities from outside Portland (i.e. San Francisco)



Bocce

Bocce is a simple game that anyone can play. Maybe that's the problem. The IBC team lost both games in the final tournament at the Paesano Club even though we played really well...just not well enough, losing two close games where the score changed hands several times. Even with our "aces" Frank and Keith, we were beat by youth, experience and very skilled women. Putting a positive spin on it, the truth is that for each of the six weeks of play we had a good time, and that's what it's about.

Portland's Italian Hour

Lucia Galizia's Italian Hour is heard on alternate Sunday mornings on KBOO, 90.7FM. The show provides information for the Italian community and its organizations, as well as playing both old and new Italian favorites. The next broadcasts are on Sunday, August 15 at 9:00AM where IBC Secretary, **Bob Iannacone**, will again join Lucia as her "sidekick".

Columbus Day Dinner and Dance

This year, Portland's Columbus Day Banquet will be held Saturday, October 2, rather than the traditional date, due to scheduling conflicts. Always a popular event, it should be even better this year with music provided by Tony Ciaramitaro's Sicilian Band from Los Angeles. The gala dinner and dance is sponsored by the **Festa Italiana** organization and will benefit the **Scuola Italiana di Portland**. The banquet will be held at a new locations: Embassy Suites at PDX airport and the cost is \$50 per person. Reserve early: for tickets or to advertise your business in the Columbus Day brochure, call 503-653-0946 or 503-244-0565.



Festa Italiana Update: Your help is urgently needed!

The 19th annual Festa Italiana is on August 26-28 at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Expect it to be better than ever with new restaurants and top notch entertainment. For details of the entire week, beginning with a mass at St. Philip Neri on August 21, a brochure is enclosed or check out the Festa Italiana web site.

Due to our first use of tokens at the food court, wine garden and raffle booth, the **Festa has a critical need for reliable volunteers**. Tokens (soldi) will be \$2 each and all food, wine and raffle tickets will be priced in multiples of \$2. There will be 4 token booths, each requiring 3 volunteers, 1 for credit cards and 2 for cash. At peak hours there will be an additional roving token seller. Several IBC members have already signed up. If you haven't yet signed up and wish to, or want to verify or change your hours, the 3-day volunteer schedule is on the Festa web site at: **www.festa-italiana.org**

At that web site, go to "volunteers needed" which takes you to volunteer calendars for each of the three days with times, positions and names. For security reasons, you **cannot** enter anything directly onto the calendar. You must contact Shireen Farrahi at 503-469-9210 farrahis@comcast.net with your request. She will confirm availability with you and enter your name on the calendar.

IBC members, it costs nothing to feature your business in this newsletter, call Bob at 971-255-0420