

I. INTRO THANKS

II. HONORED AND PRIVILEGED TO RECEIVE AWARD

A. ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE BENEFITS FOR CLELLIAN HTS.

- 1. VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE TO ARE DEDICATED TO GOD'S SPECIAL CHILDREN

III. WHEN WE THINK OF OUR ITALIAN HERITAGE WE THINK

A. MICHELANGELO, DEVINCI, GARIBALDI, MARCONI, ENRICO FERMI, VERDI, ROSSINI, VINCE LOMBARDI AND PEARL AND ALBERT TANGRETTI

B. MY PARENTS DAD & INTRO MOM

- 1. AS WITH OTHERS ABOVE THEY FOR ME (SUBSTITUTE YOUR PARENTS) ARE EVERY BIT THE HERITAGE WERE HERE TO HONOR

- 2. NEVER HAD THE 15 MINUTES OF FAME

- 3. THEY NEVER MADE A LOT OF MONEY -

- 4. NEVER WROTE A BOOK

- 5. NEVER RECORDED A SONG OR PLAYED AN INSTRUMENT (DAD AT CHURCH)

C. DID DO

- 1. PROVIDED A LOVING HOME THAT MADE MY SISTER, BROTHER AND I UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THE IDEA OF FAMILY

- 2. A FOUNDATION OF RELATIONSHIPS BUILT ON TRUST KINDNESS AND CHARITY WHICH IS THE KEY TRUE HAPPINESS (KNEW HAD A PLACE OF COME)

- 3. JUST WENT ABOUT THEIR DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES AND BY EXAMPLE THEY COMPOSED A SYPHOMNY, UNWITTINGLY, OF MORE MELODIC AND HARMONIOUS THAN ANYTHING YOU MIGHT HEAR AT HEINZ HALL

- a. DAD DRIVING THAT TRUCK WEATHER COND (6 1/2 DAYS 35 YEARS)

- b. AFTER DARK, MOTHER HAD DINNER AFTERWORKING 10-12 HRS (42 YEARS)

- c. AND YET NEVER MISSED AN EVENT OF

there isn't anything  
nothing that  
EXPRESSES WHAT  
WE ALL SHOULD  
BE ABOUT Better  
than C.H.

TACCOCU,  
Joe TORRE

5 #, Newer Intro -  
Cuss words  
10/11/97

Speech  
Italian  
Heritage  
Society  
10/11/97

Secondly

THEIR CHILD. (BALL STATE EX)

d. WENT TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY  
WITH THE EXPECTATION OF SUNDAY  
DINNER. (ALWAYS SAME SAUCE)

*EXS REQUEST*

4. AND THE BEAUTY IT WAS NOT ANYTHING  
SPECIAL TO THEM, IT WAS NATURAL,  
INSTINCT, ~~IN~~BRED THROUGH-OUT GENER-  
ATIONS FROM OLD COUNTRY TO THE NEW
5. AND THIS CULTURE, THIS HERITAGE SURVIVED  
THE TRAUMA OF SETTLING IN A FOREIGN  
LAND WITH AN UNKNOWN LANG. STING OF  
BIGOTRY IN THE FACTORIES AND MINES  
WHERE THEY COULD LIVE
6. MY MOM AND DAD DEDICATED THEIR LIVES  
TO US AND NEVER EXPRESSED A REGRET,  
A DOUBT OR A QUESTION OF THEIR RESPON-  
ABILITY

*QUESTION  
EQUIVACA*

D. TONIGHT YOU HONOR ME

*to read*

1. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS TO MY  
FATHER AND MOTHER MY HEROS!
2. ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO DID EXTRAORDARY  
THINGS WITH THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT  
THAT I TREASURE MORE AS AN EXAMPLE OR  
OUR ITALIAN HERITAGE THAN AN OPERA BY  
VERDI OR THE CEILING OF THE CYSTINE  
CHAPEL.

*except*

Rep. Tangretti Remarks  
Italian Heritage Society

(Usual Greetings and Acknowledgments)

Thank you very much, (name), for that generous introduction.

I'm truly honored, and somewhat at a loss for words, to fully express my gratitude for this award...and for being named to this select company of distinguished recipients.

It's especially gratifying to know that proceeds from this event will benefit the Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children in Greensburg.

So I would like to thank everyone involved with tonight's banquet and everyone connected with the Italian Heritage Society for the multitude of benefits that flow from their activities and from their spirit of generosity.

Maybe what's most valuable about events like this is that it

reflects the society's commitment to preserving our Italian heritage in the modern world -- a world where ideas of what constitutes progress often conflict with traditional beliefs, values and cultures.

Our vision of what makes up the ideal American society, for example, has changed a great deal in our lifetimes. Changed from the ideal of "the American melting pot" in which ethnic identities would blend into a harmonious mixture with each contributing something of value to the whole ... to, more recently, the emergence of "multiculturalism" which claims that the primacy of America's European heritage must yield to something like an "equal time" provision for other non-European cultural perspectives.

America's new role as the unchallenged global leader might be said to justify the broader perspective that

multiculturalism encourages. But must it come at the expense of other traditions and their claims to cultural respect?

To the concern of many of us, particularly Italian-Americans, this question surfaced dramatically during the recent events involving the 500th Anniversary of Columbus's voyages and discoveries.

What might have been...and should have been...an occasion for national pride and celebration, especially among Italian-Americans, was instead observed almost reluctantly, even apologetically, by much of the nation's media and among other establishment circles.

So I again commend the Italian Heritage Society for its efforts to strengthen our pride in the contributions that Italy's sons and daughters have made to Pennsylvania and to America. And not just to this state or this nation, but everywhere in the

READING COMICS AND SMELLING THE SAUCE COOKING.

AND THE BEAUTY OF THIS, AS WITH PROBABLY ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM IT WASN'T SOMETHING THEY WERE EVEN CONSCIENCE OF. IT WAS INSTINCT. IT WAS INBRED THROUGH GENERATIONS PASSED ON FROM THE OLD COUNTRY TO THE NEW. IRRESPECTIVE OF THE TRAUMA OF SETTLING IN A FOREIGN LAND WITH AN UNKNOWN LANGUAGE AS MY GRANDFATHER AND YOURS DID. KNOWING THE STING OF BIGOTRY IN THE FACTORIES AND MINES AND WHERE THEY ALLOWED TO LIVE.

BUT THEY SENSED, INSTINCTIVELY WITH HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE, TENACITY, FAMILY AND BELIEF IN GOD THAT WOULD SURVIVE. NOT ACHIEVE FAME AND FORTUNE NECESSARILY BUT JUST SURVIVE AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILY.

MY DAD AND MOM DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND I, AND NEVER EVER EXPRESSED A REGRET. THEY, AS YOUR WITH PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, JUST WENT ABOUT THE DAILY TASK OF DOING WHAT THE ITALIAN CULTURE AND BREEDING SAID THEY SHOULD DO. NO CONSIDERATION OF AN ALTERNATIVES, NO QUESTIONS, NO DOUBTS.

THEY READ SOME; AND THEY NEVER RECORDED A SONG OR EVEN PLAYED AN INSTRUMENT AND IN FACT I DON'T THINK I EVER HEARD MY FATHER SING AT MASS.

ALL THEY DID DO WAS PROVIDE THE LOVING HOME THAT MADE MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND I UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT FAMILY. THAT WHICH IS THE KEY TO ALL TRUE HAPPINESS. THE KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THAT NO MATTER WHAT CRISIS BEFALLS US, TRUE OR IMAGINED, YOU WERE NEVER ALONE. YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE COMFORT OF KNOWING THE HOMESTEAD WAS ALWAYS THERE.

AND BY EXAMPLE THEY SHOWED US WHAT ONE HAD TO DO TO PROVIDE FOR OUR FAMILIES. GOING OUT EVERY DAY TO DRIVE THAT TRUCK FOR 35 YEARS RAIN, SNOW OR SUNSHINE, SIX AND HALF DAYS A WEEK. COMING IN AFTER DARK ON THOSE SNOWY WINTER NIGHTS COLD AND HUNGRY KNOWING THAT MY MOTHER, EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD WORKED 12 - 15 HOURS IN BEAUTY SHOP HAD SUPPER WAITING.

AND WE ATTENDED 8:30 MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY WITH THEM AND RETURNED TO WITH GREAT EXPECTATION OF SUNDAY DINNER PASTA WITH CHICKEN OR SAUSAGE IN THE SAUCE ALWAYS AROUND ONE O'CLOCK. WHAT GREAT MEMORIES THOSE ARE -- OF THOSE SUNDAYS.

THERE ARE MANY, MANY ITALIANS WHO WE ALL CONSIDER IMPORTANT TO THE PRIDE THAT WE FEEL ABOUT OUR ANCESTRY. PEOPLE WHO SYMBOLIZE THE CREATIVE AND DEDICATED WORK ETHIC: MICHELANGELO, DE VINCI, THE CEASERS, GARIBALDI, MARCONI, ENRICO FERMI, LOMBARDI, IACOCCO, SINATRA, GIUSEPPE VERDI, ROSSINI, AND ALBERT PAUL AND PEARL MARIE TANGRETTI.

PERHAPS YOU ALL RECOGNIZE ALL THEM BUT THE LAST TWO.

ALBERT PAUL TANGRETTI WAS MY FATHER. HE PASSED AWAY OVER A YEAR AGO WITHOUT MUCH FANFARE, EXCEPT FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, PEARL'S HERE TONIGHT. AS WITH THOSE FAMOUS ITALIANS AND ITALIAN-AMERICANS THAT I MENTIONED ABOVE THEY, ALONG WITH ALL OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, ARE EVERY BIT THE EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT ABOUT OUR ITALIAN CULTURE.

THEY NEVER HAD THOSE FAMOUS 15 MINUTES OF FAME THAT ANDY WARHOL POSTULATIZED ABOUT; THEY NEVER EARNED SIGNIFICANT MONEY ALTHOUGH MY DAD DID HIT A NUMBER NOW AND AGAIN; THEY NEVER WROTE A BOOK, BUT



TONIGHT YOU HONOR ME AND MY FELLOW AWARDEE WITH THIS WONDERFUL RECOGNITION BUT I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS AWARD TO MY FATHER, WHO I KNOW IS LOOKING DOWN , AND MY MOM. MY HEROS! EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE WHOSE LOVE AND SUPPORT AS WITH ALL OF US WHO HAVE BE SO LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN RAISED IN CULTURE OF THE ITALIAN FAMILY SHOULD BE TREASURED AS MUCH AS VERDI OPERA OR CEILING OF THE CYSTINE CHAPEL.

world where art, learning, culture, science, athletics, and self-government are practiced and appreciated.

I encourage the society to continue and expand that effort in the face of new challenges. Challenges that are different from the open ethnic hostilities Italian Americans have encountered in the past, but potentially no less damaging to our interests and values.

And thank you, again, for the honor you've given to me and to my family.