



John F. Scarpa, co-founder of American Cellular Network Corporation, received a NIAF Special Achievement Award for Entrepreneurial Spirit at the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) Ambassador's Ball.

Dick Vermeil, former NFL coach and Super Bowl winner, presented Scarpa.

“John Scarpa is one of America’s leading entrepreneurs and recognized in this industry as a maverick,” Arthur J. Furia, Esq., NIAF regional vice president for the Southeast, said. “He combines that skill with an endearing love for his family, friends and heritage.”

Mr. Scarpa pioneered the development and operation of cellular telephone and cable television systems throughout the United States. His groundbreaking work in the field began in 1982 when he founded the American Cellular Network Corporation. The following year, his company became the first publicly traded cellular telephone company in the United States. In 1990, Mr. Scarpa co-founded Unitel Wireless Communications, where he built and managed cellular markets around the country until selling the company in 2001.

Recognized as an early entrepreneur in the cable television industry, Mr. Scarpa was a leader in the development, construction and operation of cable systems in the Northeast United States. He was a motivating force in establishing the New Jersey Cable TV Association, of which he served as president twice.

A dedicated philanthropist, he created the John F. Scarpa Foundation to fundraise for educational, healthcare, and social initiatives. In 2002, he received the United Way Alexis de Tocqueville National Award. Mr. Scarpa is a benefactor of several schools in New Jersey as well as Villanova University School of Law.