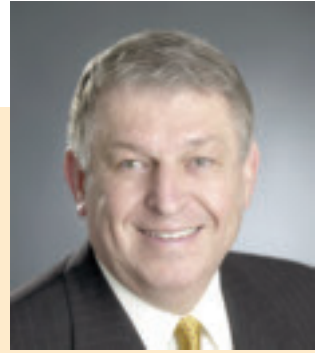


# From the NIAF Chairman



The start of a new year is always an opportunity to re-examine priorities and make a fresh start. The start of 2010 is no exception; in this climate of economic uncertainty, the approaching New Year is a time for not just making personal resolutions, but to return to the core values that define us as a people, the mission that unites NIAF supporters and our work on behalf of the next generation of Italian Americans.

NIAF's recent 34th Anniversary Convention and Gala in Washington, D.C., celebrated that renewed sense of purpose, showcasing philanthropists, business leaders, public servants, sports figures and entertainers from Italy and the United States—in addition to a host of prominent Italian American women—who praised our efforts on behalf of U.S.-Italy relations and tomorrow's generation of Italian Americans.

The mere presence of these honored guests—who included Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., White House Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina, President of the Region of Abruzzo Giovanni Chiodi and Italian Ambassador to the U.S. H.E. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata—

highlighted the important bridge that NIAF has built between the United States and Italy. Today NIAF is the advocate for the Italian American community, working closely with Congress and its Italian American Delegation to provide a voice for Italian Americans in the nation's capital and to bring our two great nations even closer together.

In the face of continued challenges, it is more important than ever to fulfill our mission and ensure that tomorrow's Italian Americans value our shared heritage. We welcome your support of our mission now and in the future through NIAF's many opportunities for membership, donation and bequests. Your involvement allows us to continue our important work.

The New Year will be filled with opportunities for you to become more involved in NIAF and to return to your Italian American heritage and culture. This issue of *Ambassador* offers just a taste of the many good things to come. I look forward to seeing you in 2010.

*Jerry Colangelo, NIAF Chairman*

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