



Guests packed NIAF's 34th Anniversary Gala, held at the International Ballroom of The Hilton Washington.

Gala photos by Vi Photography

## NIAF Gala Celebrates 34th Anniversary

More than 2,000 guests from across the United States and Italy gathered at The Hilton Washington in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, October 24 to celebrate the continued fulfillment of NIAF's mission.

This year's honorees included chef and philanthropist **Lidia Matticchio Bastianich**, CEO of PepsiCo Americas Beverages **Massimo F. d'Amore**, actor **Carla Gugino**, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security **Janet Napolitano** and Italian singer/songwriter **Antonello Venditti**. Additionally, comedian **Jimmy Kimmel** served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Other guests included CNBC an-

chor **Maria Bartiromo**, actress **Connie Britton**, Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi**, White House Deputy Chief of Staff **Jim Messina**, Supreme Court Justice **Samuel A. Alito, Jr.**, ESPN correspondent **Sal Paolantonio**, executive vice president of football operations for the Washington Redskins **Vinny Cerrato**, chairman and CEO of PepsiCo **Indra Nooyi** and others.

**Couldn't join us? Then keep reading for a look at the evening's festivities, and plan to attend NIAF's 35th Anniversary Gala next year on October 23, 2010.**



NIAF honoree and CEO of PepsiCo Americas Beverages Massimo d'Amore reacts to a video of his father in Italy congratulating him on receiving this award.

For more photos from the NIAF 34th Anniversary Gala, visit [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org).

# 34th Anniversary Gala



Actress Connie Britton, Italian singer/songwriter Antonello Venditti, NIAF Chairman Jerry Colangelo, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, CEO of PepsiCo Americas Beverages Massimo d'Amore, chef and philanthropist Lidia Matricchio Bastianich, and actor Carla Gugino

2



NIAF President Joseph V. Del Raso, Esq. and 2009 Honoree Lidia Bastianich



Connie Britton, Lega Calcio Vice Chair Massimo Cellino and Carla Gugino



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and NIAF Chairman Jerry Colangelo



CNBC's Maria Bartiromo and 2009 Honoree Lidia Bastianich



2009 NIAF Honoree Antonello Venditti



**Master of Ceremonies  
Jimmy Kimmel**

**U.S. Representative to the Italian Chamber of Deputies Hon. Amato Berardi, Italy's National Chief of Police Hon. Antonio Manganelli and President of the Region of Abruzzo Hon. Gianni Chiodi**



**NIAF Board Member Jeffrey M. Capaccio introduces his friend, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano**

3

**NIAF Dinner Chair and Board Member Dr. John P. Rosa**



## NIAF launches Walk of Honor

Having hosted ambassadors and presidents alike, the NIAF Headquarters in Washington, D.C., has long served as a symbol of the Italian American community. Now you and your family can be a permanent part of the foundation on which we literally have built our organization.

Your purchase of a commemorative brick, to be placed directly in front of the entrance, will be a permanent symbol of your family's support of our heritage and will help ensure the success of our endeavors for years to come.

For information on this program, please contact Beatrice Santacroce at 202-387-0600 or [walkofhonor@niaf.org](mailto:walkofhonor@niaf.org).





Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace, a new member of the NIAF board, attends the Foundation's 34th Anniversary Gala.

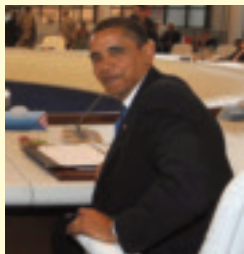
## NIAF welcomes new board members

The National Italian American Foundation is proud to welcome several new members to its Board of Directors. These new NIAF leaders began their terms following the Foundation's October 22 board meeting in Washington, D.C., and include **Peter Arduini**, corporate vice president and president of medication delivery for Baxter Healthcare; General **Peter Pace**, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; **Joseph DePinto**, president and CEO of 7-Eleven, Inc.; **Matthew J. DiDomenico, Sr.**, president of John Matthew Realtors and Devon Financial Services; **Stephen Geppi**, president and CEO of Diamond Comics Distributors, Inc.; and Hon. **Anita Bevacqua McBride**, former chief of staff to former First Lady Laura Bush.

## Support NIAF through the CFC

NIAF is pleased to announce the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) 2009 season is in full swing for federal, state and local government employees. Your participation in the CFC through direct donations will support the National Italian American Founda-

tion's most important endeavors, including our vital educational programs. Please use our number, 12280, when it comes time to direct your non-profit donations and see what a difference you can make!



President Barack Obama at the G-8 Summit.

## Obama issues proclamation celebrating Columbus Day

This fall **President Barack Obama** issued a proclamation identifying Monday, October 12, 2009 as Columbus Day and calling upon U.S. residents to observe this day "with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

In his proclamation, Obama noted the important role Genoa-born Christopher Columbus played in opening up a new land for immigrants from many European

nations, including our Italian ancestors.

"Today Italian Americans continue to contribute immeasurably to the identity of our Nation, as role models, leaders, innovators, and committed public servants," Obama noted. "From the boardroom to the classroom, they are prominent in every facet of American life."

## Join NIAF today!

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) invites those who share our passion for Italy and our Italian American heritage to become a part of our growing organization.

With a mission to preserve and protect the Italian American culture, many NIAF programs reach out to our young leaders of tomorrow through scholarships, mentoring, and exchange programs. NIAF also provides an impressive network of our nation's most prominent Italian Americans in

business, entertainment, politics and other professions.

As a membership-based and -funded organization, NIAF relies on your involvement to continue our important mission. With your support, NIAF will continue to help our young leaders of tomorrow, today!

Gift memberships are also available. For more information, please visit [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org), e-mail [membership@niaf.org](mailto:membership@niaf.org) or call 202-387-0600 today.

