

Italy-USA : OMRI Orders to the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Italian American Delegation, William Pascrell and Patrick Tiberi

(May 24, 2013)



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On May 22, 2013, the [Ambassador of Italy to the United States Claudio Bisogniero](#) [2] inducted Congressmen Patrick Tiberi and William Pascrell, Co-Chairs of the broad Congressional Italian American Delegation into the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy (OMRI).

The Order of Merit of the Italian Republic was founded as the senior order of knighthood by the second President of the Italian Republic, Luigi Einaudi in 1951.

As the highest ranking honour of the Republic, it is awarded for "merit acquired by the nation" in the fields of literature, the arts, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic and humanitarian



activities and for long and conspicuous service in civilian and military careers.

The ceremony was held at Villa Firenze, the official residence of the Ambassador of Italy to the United States (2800 Albemarle Street, NW - Washington, DC and it was attended by numerous members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It aimed to honor the achievements and contributions of the two congressmen, both eagerly passionate about strengthening the relations between Italy and the United States at all levels.

Republican Tiberi and Democratic Pascrell distinguished themselves exceptionally in their initiatives to promote Italian language and culture in the United States, to bring a stop to the stereotyping of Italian Americans, and to expand personal contacts and bilateral relations in the economic field.

“[Pat Tiberi](#) [3] and [Bill Pascrell](#) [4] have always been great supporters of Italy and have made major contributions to the relations between our country and the United States,” stated Ambassador Bisogniero. “It is an honor for me,” he continued, “to present two great friends of Italy in Congress with one of the most important orders conferred by the President of the Republic.”

The event was particularly meaningful as it fell within the framework of the programmed events for [2013: Year of Italian Culture](#) [5] in the United States, held under the auspices of the President of the Italian Republic and organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Italy in Washington, the initiative boasts over 200 cultural events in more than 50 U.S. cities. Over 80 U.S. institutions and organizations are actively involved with a genuine spirit of partnership and cooperation.

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