



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

June-2020

## *Bright Future!*

It was Columbus Day 2017 when Roma Lodge asked **Gianna Benedetti** to represent the lodge as our queen. She had graciously agreed to follow in the footsteps of her two older sisters, **Isabella** and **Gabrielle** to take on the challenge of selling raffle tickets, speaking at lodge meetings and attend the Grand Lodge Convention.

Like **Forest Gump** notes, *life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get!* Well, in this case, Roma Lodge, in Gianna, got the finest chocolate money can buy. She has far exceeded our expectations and did an outstanding job in representing our lodge on the local, regional and statewide basis. Our scholarship committee gave her their highest recommendation as she is ranked #1 in her graduating class with a 4.83 GPA and is headed to Cal Poly in the fall to major in Architectural Engineering. She is also the recipient of the **\$5,000 Trinchero Perpetual Scholarship** the highest scholastic award given by the Grand Lodge. This is the second year in a row that Roma Lodge has had a member win this prestigious award after **Katrina Reinart** won it last year.

I asked Gianna to respond to some questions so



Roma Lodge members might get to know her and what has motivated her to become such an outstanding person excelling in academics and extra-curricular activities.

*Have you always been a good student academically or did you have to set measurable goals to achieve academic success through hard work?*

I have always been an excellent student and have been pushed by my teachers and parents to take challenging courses from a young age- even enrolling in College of the Sequoias math courses as a seventh-grader.

*When you entered high school, did you have a goal to be the valedictorian of your graduating class and ranked #1 as a senior?*

Being #1 or valedictorian did not become a goal of mine until my Junior year. Starting high school I just truly wanted to learn as much as I could and earn college credit from my AP classes.

*You have demonstrated your achievements both academically and through student leadership activities such as sports and club organizations like the FFA. How were you able to achieve in both areas successfully?*

When I began enrolling in advanced math classes, compared to others in my grade, my academic skills became more apparent to myself. Throughout the years it became more challenging to balance extracurriculars with an increasing school workload, but by prioritizing my education it was achievable.



**Next Scheduled Meeting**

**Monday**

**August 3, 2020**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Junior Member Night!**

**Dutto-Cleek-Luis Family-Summer BBQ**

Visit The Roma Lodge website <https://www.romalodge1573.org/>

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Roma Lodge has gone dark since March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. If you read your May-2020 edition of the *Il Leone* you may have noticed the publication consisted of fewer pages, bigger ads and "filler" stories about Italy. Why? Because local lodges have been shutdown since March.

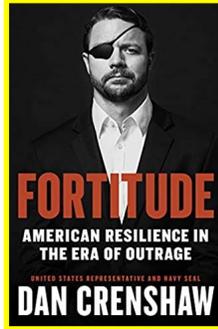
For those of us who write these newsletters it becomes a bit more difficult to provide interesting material for our readers when we have not been conducting lodge activities. To that end, during this lockdown, I would suggest you read the book *Fortitude* by **Dan Crenshaw**. Dan is a former Navy Seal who lost his right eye in an IED explosion in Afghanistan. He now serves in the United States House of Representatives representing Texas 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district.

The book focuses on his career as a Navy Seal and how those experiences relate to everyday life. **Chapter 8, entitled Do Something Hard**, reflects on our American society and how we have become used to a way of life with few hardships.

For many, the current pandemic, has changed all that. People have lost their jobs, small businesses have been closed, that may never reopen, and the economy is in recession and on the brink of a depression. We all hope this will be over soon and we can start to rebuild our economy, schools will reopen and we can get back to a "new" normal as they are predicting.

Let's go back a hundred years. My maternal grandfather, **Frank Ferrero** came to America from Italy in 1900. Because of the poor economy there, he had been farmed out to another family and worked for an entire year for room and board and a new pair of work boots.

My paternal grandfather, **John Dutto Sr.**, Roma Lodge President 1934-35, came to America about the same time and started a small dairy south of Tulare. Talk about doing something hard, those of us of Italian descent can all relate



to how our grand or great grandparents immigrated from Italy for the opportunities in America. If they worked hard and saved their money they could build a life for themselves and their families.

I think of my mom and dad, **Laurence and Catherine Dutto**, when they were married in 1943, they lived in an 8'X 8' single room house with a dirt floor. In those days there was no cooling, heating or indoor plumbing. For the next 40 years he rose each day at 3:30 a.m., milked cows twice-a-day, everyday, 362 days a year and farmed without any hired help. Talk about doing something hard.



Take out your Roma Lodge directory and look through the family names. Berra, Bertorelli, Briano, Curti, Della, DePaoli, Dutto, Milanese, Pedroncelli, Pitigliano and Sola are some of the Italian immigrant families who have been here since the early 1900's.

In congressman Crenshaw's book he relates how these early immigrants did not seek out something to do which was hard, because everyday was filled with very difficult tasks requiring hard work just to survive. Things we now take for granted were struggles for these early immigrants of this country.

Did our grandparents and parents do us a disservice by working hard so we would have a better and easier life? As parents, are we doing the same things to our children and grandchildren by sheltering them from life's difficulties and making things too easy for them?

Periodically, doing something difficult builds our character and prepares us for things in life which are hard to do. When this pandemic is over we will come out the other side stronger and better prepared to take on the next hard challenge in our lives. *Fortitude*, is defined as "**courage in pain or adversity**" and we will all do better if we challenge ourselves to do something hard. Take out some old family photos of early Italian immigrants and remind yourself of how they had to do something hard each and everyday!



**Frank Ferrero & John Dutto Sr.**

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*Was getting good grades a result of being ranked #1 in your class or having the options to select the major and college you wanted to attend?*

Attending the college of my choice has always been on my mind and as I planned to become an engineer, I knew it would take strong grades and test scores to achieve that goal. Being Valedictorian was a great byproduct of my success!

*I am sure it is heart-breaking to not be able to have the normal graduation ceremonies, senior activities, prom, etc., etc. because of the pandemic. What will you miss the most and why?*

I am most saddened that I do not get to cherish the time I have left with my close friends before we head our separate ways this coming year and that we do not get a proper graduation ceremony.

*What advice would you give incoming freshmen, with lofty academic goals as you have achieved in high school?*

I would advise incomers to take advantage of the support of their teachers and counselors as they are truly there to help you, and to try out new extracurriculars-whether it be clubs, sports, FFA, ASB, etc.- to find new interests, friends, and not feel too overwhelmed with just school work.

*You have represented Roma Lodge as our lodge queen for the past four years. You have done so with grace and willingness to do whatever was requested by our lodge or the Grand Lodge. What do you feel was your most rewarding experience as a lodge queen?*

My favorite parts of being the lodge queen are feeling more connected to my Italian heritage and members and attending the annual convention. I was able to build more relationships with other Italians, learn something new at events- such as how to play Bocce and



say some words in Italian,- and celebrate my heritage with others.

*What advice would you give young ladies who may someday represent Roma Lodge as queen?*

To new queens: Cherish every moment because it flies by! Be grateful for Roma Lodge because they are so extremely supportive and will make the process of being

queen as easy as possible. Remember to get out of your comfort zone, talk to members, and get out on the dance floor at conventions! You won't regret it.

*In the fall it will be off to Cal Poly to start your collegiate career. Do you have any final words of advice for Roma Lodge members as you complete your reign?*

*To the Members: I will miss you and all your great food! Thank you for everything!!!*



## Updates

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 3rd which will be our **Junior Member Night**. We will invite our scholarship recipients and their parents to join us if they are available.

While we have not been meeting your officer team has made some decision on your behalf. We have decided to donate \$500 to the **Valley Children's Hospital**.

When we meet in August we will have to decide if and when we will do our 90th Anniversary celebration, ravioli dinner and complete a revised budget. We look forward to being able to put fraternity back into our organization.

## Sunshine News!

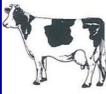
Get well wishes goes out to **Ben Curti** who is recovering from recent surgery. If you know of someone who is having health issues contact **Joann Beecher, 688-8380**, so she can send them a card from the lodge.





Roma Lodge  
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[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

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## Your Roma Lodge Officers 2019-2020

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Kathryn Gomes (331-0025)
Financial Sec.	Pam Sola (901-1781)
Orator	Anthony Chiamonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

### Trustees

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Rob Pinkerton	(331-3183)

### Mistress of Ceremony

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Toni Pinkerton	(331-3183)

**Next Meeting**  
**August 3, 2020**  
**6:30 PM-Dinner**  
**Dutto-Cleek-Luis**  
**Dinner Chairs**



### August Meeting

**Junior Member Night!**  
**Bring the kids for back-to-school supplies!**