

THE FIRST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS GIVEN IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY IN CERIGNOLA, ITALY

ARRANGED BY UMBERTO ALBANESE



The officials who attended the presentation ceremonies April 19th in the school library in Cerignola. They are from left: 1) Director of Local TV, 2) Prof. Sgaramella 3) Director of local press 4) Representative of the National Press Rome 5) Headmaster of the schools that Lucia Nigro, and Ripalta Scalzo attended. 6) Umberto Albanese 6) Provincial Director of Education 7) Headmaster of the school attended by Luisa Marinelli 8) Representative of the National Press, Bari.

Umberto Albanese, a professor of law and economics, who resides in Cerignola, acted on behalf of the Association in the selection of the first scholarship candidates. (see story in Torretta Flyer No #12). He arranged a special awards ceremony that took place on April 19, 1986 in the library of their school. Representatives of the 461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association could not be present.

The ceremony was attended by Professor Sgaramella, also of Cerignola who was responsible for all of the English translations during the months of correspondence that took place between the Italians and the Scholarship Committee. It is from the report of Professor Albanese that this article is taken.

This was an important event for Cerignola because this was the first time since the end of WWII that former American airmen of the 15th Air Force had made scholarship awards in the name of their fallen comrades.

Those present to witness the event were; 1) The Provincial Director of Education. 2) Representatives of the National Press, Mr Michele Cianci, and Professor Luigi Metta the Local Press Representative. 3) The Director of Local Television, Professor Domenica Frascolla. 4) Principals of Local Schools. 5) The

students' parents. Their Bishop who could not attend because of illness sent this congratulatory telegram, "Sorry not to be able to attend the ceremony. I approve your laudable initiative. Please except my best wishes and give my regards to the payees," signed Bishop Mario Di Lieto.

Professor Albanese in his presentation told of the the Association's dedication to the scholarship program and thanked Bud Markel, and the scholarship committee of Chris Donaldson and Ed Goree for their , "Long and careful work". This was followed by speeches from the Local Director of Education and from Prof. Sgaramella.

The story was carried by the newspapers of Rome "Il Tempo", Bari, " La Gazzetta Del Mezzogiorno", and of Cerignola, " La Cicogna"

Messages of congratulations came also from the presidents of two Colleges of Cerignola "Liceo Scientifico Statale" and " Istituto Technico Statale Commerciale E Per Geometri".

They both expressed their pleasure and approval of the scholarship awards as this will stimulate these and other students to do their best in school.