

## "PAST & PRESENT"

GUY ANTONINI "PLEASE SEND ME A CALENDAR! ALSO I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE DOING A WONDERFUL JOB WITH THE JJ. I LOOK FORWARD TO READING IT. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION."

PAUL CARSELLO, 2923 N. 21<sup>ST</sup> ST.  
"THANKS AGAIN FOR THE GREAT MEMORIES FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD THAT THE JJ BRINGS BACK! I AM ENCLOSING SOME PICTURES YOU MAY WANT TO USE. I DON'T NEED THEM BACK. I AM ALSO ENCLOSING A CHECK TO HELP WITH EXPENSES."  
[MPCARSELLO@AOL.COM](mailto:MPCARSELLO@AOL.COM)

PAT CIAMMETTI, ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR ALL YOUR TIME AND EFFORT ON THE JJ. I HOPE YOU CAN PUT THE NOTICE ABOUT THE MASS FOR THE SOLDIERS FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD WHO WERE KILLED IN WWII. MANY THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU!"

JOAN WALTERS CROTHAMEL, SME 1954 "THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR SO MANY FOLKS. THE JJ IS TRULY A TREASURE. THE ARTICLE ON THE MURALS WAS GREAT. I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. WE WERE SO FORTUNATE TO GROW UP WITH THOSE BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF ART. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR ROCKY BUMPS."

ROSE CRUCIANI DEBELLE, SME 1944 "I REALLY ENJOY READING THE JJ. I AM NOW LIVING IN WARRINGTON, PA. WITH MY FRIEND RITA PICCIONE ROCCHI WHO IS FROM THE CLAS OF 1945. I AM ENCLOSING A CHECK TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES AND ALSO FOR A COPY OF ROCKY BUMPS AND THE CALENDAR."

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND GOD BLESS YOU!"

MARIO GOOCH DELL AGUZZO. "I AM SENDING THIS E-MAIL FOR MY FATHER GOOCH. HE HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED A STROKE AND IS RESIDING IN A REHAB. MY MOTHER AND I BROUGHT THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE JJ. AS MY MOTHER RAED IT TO HIM. I COULD SEE HOW HAPPY HE WAS TO HEAR THOSE STORIES OF THE OLD DAYS. IT MADE HIM SMILE AND LAUGH. A LITTLE WHILE AGO MY FATHER DECIDED TO MAKE A LIST OF HOW MANY NICKNAMES HE COULD REMEMBER FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. THE LIST HE COMPILED AHD OVER 300 NAMES. I COULD NOT BELIEVE IT! THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THOSE MEMORIES ALIVE FOR HIM AND MANY OTHERS. IF ANYONE KNOWS MY FATHER AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT HIM, YOU MAY E-MAIL ME AT [SANDY@INFRA-METALS.COM](mailto:SANDY@INFRA-METALS.COM)"

CARMELA RIVIEZZO DIDONATO, 3000 BLOCK OF 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET. "IT IS SUCH A PLEASURE TO RECEIVE THE JJ. I ENJOY EVERY WORD IN IT. WELL, I AN OLD TIMER! I GRADUATED SME IN 1936. IN FACT I STILL HAVE MY GRADUATION PICTURE. I'M SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF MY CLASSMATES AROUND. MY HUSBAND IS DECEASED HIS NAME WAS DOMINIC (HOTTY) WGO USED TO HANG AT CATS CLUB. MY BROTHERS WERE RALPH RIVEZZO AND ALBERT (BEATTLE) RIVIEZZO. THEY HUNG OUT AT 23<sup>RD</sup> & CLEAFIELD STS. I AM ENCLOSING A CHECK TO HELP WITH THE EXPENSES. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!"

CHALIE LA FONTANO "THANKS FOR THE COPIES OF YOUR BOOK. ALL THE THINGS I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT ARE TRUE. ONCE I STARTED TO READ IT, I COULDN'T

PUT IT DOWN. I WAS FINISHED IN TWO DAYS. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE ALL OF THE OLD NAMES AND STRRETS AND PLACES THAT WE USED TO HANG OUT AT. WHEN I SHOWED MY WIFE THE PART ABOUT THE "MIGHTY MO'S AND FRENCH FRIES WITH GRAVY AT THE HOT SHOPPE, SHE ALMOST CRIED. THEY WERE THE ONLY THINGS WE WOULD ORDER. BOTH OF US HAVEN'T HEARD OF THOSE ITEMS SINCE THE 60' WHEN WE USED TO GO THERE. JUST A SMALL BIT OF INFORMATION! I HAVE A HIMALAYAN CAT WHOSE NAME IS "ROCKY". BUT AFTER READING THE BOOK I LOOKED AT HIM AND RENAMED HIM "ROCKY BUMPS". IT REALLY FITS HIM. THANKS FOR THE MARVELOUS JOB WITH THE BOOK. THOSE TWO DAYS OF READING MADE ME FEEL AS THOUGH I WAS BACK AT HOME IN SWAMPOODLE. IF YOU WANT A FEW MORE NICKNAMES, HOW ABOUT LOUIS AHAKY NATALE. ANTHONY CARROTS CARRACCIO. JAMES WEINER MARTOSELLA. ROBERT BONI BONITATIBUS. LOUIS DOONER RICCHUTTI. JOSEPH JO-JO WALKER."

FRANK LINARDO, SME 1942  
"ENCLOSE IS A CHECK FOR ROCKY BUMPS, AND A DONATION TO THE JJ!"

EARLE MERCADANTE "THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL THE MEMORIES. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR A COPY OF "ROCKY BUMPS". PLEASE RETAIN THE BALANCE AS A DONATION TO HELP IN OFFSETTING YOUR EXPENSES!"  
[PADISTRICT22@COMCAST.NET](mailto:PADISTRICT22@COMCAST.NET)

STELLA EOBBI MCLAUGHLIN SME1962 21<sup>ST</sup> & TORONTO STS.  
"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTINUING TO SEND ME THE JJ. I DO ENJOY READING IT. MOST OF THE PEOPLE YOU WRITE ABOUT ARE OLDER THAN ME."



YOU WRITE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE OF MY UNCLE JOE EOBBI, OR MY BROTHER PETE EOBBI'S AGE. I KNOW MOST OF THEM BY SIGHT AND STORIES. YOU COULD NOT HELP TO HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT KNIT COMMUNITY THAT IT WAS. IT IS A SHAME THAT IT DOES NOT EXIST IN THIS DAY & AGE. MY CHILDREN HAVE NO CLUE WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE ENTIRE AREA AND KNOW SOMEONE. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING A COPY OF ROCKY BUMPS. I HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK FOR THE BOOK AND EXPENSES. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES OF SWAMPPOODLE OR 22&A!"

RON ROCCO "THANKS FOR KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE OF A TIME WHEN PEOPLE WERE RESPONSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPECTFUL. ENCLOSED IS SOMETHING FOR EXPENSES."

MARILYN LOSCHIAVO, "I AM THE WIDOW OF TOM LOSCHIAVO WHO LIVED AT 25<sup>TH</sup> AND CLEARFIELD STS. UNTIL THE AGE OF SIXTEEN WHEN HIS FAMILY MOVED TO ROXBOROUGH IN 1951. HIS PARENTS WERE TONY AND THESA MACCHIONE LOSCHIAVO. HIS BROTHER WAS JOE AND SISTER MARIE AND LIZ LOSCHIAVO RUGGIERO. AT A RECENT FAMILY GATHERING I HEARD ABOUT THE JJ. MY HUSBAND, TOM PASSED AWAY IN 1993 AT THE AGE 58. HE AND HIS MOTHER TOLD ME MANY STORIES OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. I WOULD TRULY APPRECIATE BEING ADDED TO YOUR MAILING LIST."

PHILIP & ROSE GIUFFRIDA VISCONTO, 2219 W CAMBRIA ST., "WE NOW LIVE IN ROXBOROUGH AND OUR PARISH IS IHM IN ANDORRA. LOTS OF OLD NEIGHBORHOOD FOLKS HAVE

SETTLED HERE AND IT IS ALWAYS WONDERFUL TO MEET THEM AT IHM CHURCH, SHOP-RITE, ACME, KOHL'S JAFFE'S DRUGS, MCDONALD'S MARIA'S OR APPLEBEES. WE ARE ENCLOSED A CHECK FOR A COPY OF ROCKY BUMPS AND A DONATION TO KEEP THE MEMORIES COMING."

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

RICKY D'AMBRA

MAY 12, 1953

SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

OUR SON, BROTHER UNCLE, GODFATHER, GODSON, NEPHEW, COUSIN AND FRIEND. ALWAYS REMEMBERED, NOT ONLY FOR HIS QUICK WIT AND KEEPING US LAUGHING BEYOND TEARS BUT FOR THE MESSAGE HE GAVE TO ALL OF US. FROM ONE OF HIS FAVORITE GROUPS, "ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!" Excerpt from eulogy given by Richel D'Ambra

LORD MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOU PEACE. WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE; WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE; WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT; WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

O DIVINE MASTER. GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO UNDERSTAND; TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND; TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE; FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE; IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED; AND ITS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE. ST. FRANCIS

## CHIEF'S CORNER

We would like to welcome back Chief Petty Officer Eric Domenico from Afghanistan. He's home safe and sound. We proudly salute our soldier, Eric Domenico, a true American! Eric was recently named 'Fan of the Week' in the Eagles game day program on October 2, 2006. The following is the article that featured Eric.

At some point all Eagles fans have to stick up for their team. If the season isn't going the way it should or if some Dallas fan brags about their Super bowl wins, an Eagles fan that bleeds green will remain proud no matter what.

But Eric Domenico truly defended his Eagles. In fact, he defended every team, every player and every person in the United States. Domenico may seem like most passionate Eagles fans, but he put his life on the line for the midnight green.

A Navy reservist for over 20 years, Domenico returned from a 10-month tour of duty in Afghanistan just in time for the Eagles' home opener against the New York Giants. Domenico was deployed Dec. 12, 2005 to Bagram and was also stationed in Kandahar and Kabul. After experiencing combat firsthand, Domenico used the Eagles as an escape while serving overseas.

"We had access to the Internet, so I was able to go on the Eagles' Website and I took everything in segments over there," he said. "The NFL draft is coming up. We made it to the draft. Preseason is coming up. I was reading up on everything that happened at camp. It helped me keep my focus. I knew what I was fighting for over there. I knew I would get to come home and have fun with the EagleMobile.

A native of Haddonfield, N.J., Domenico went to Eagles games at Veterans Stadium with his dad who had season tickets. Domenico now lives in



Arlington, Va., but has season tickets at Lincoln Financial Field in Section 117. Through a friend named P.J. from Virginia Beach, Domenico was connected to a group of tailgaters who party before games in a bus called the EagleMobile.

In Afghanistan, Domenico was with a large contingent of Eagles fans, but there were others who only knew of the stereotypes of Eagles fans. Domenico helped put those to rest.

"They really got to learn what an Eagles fan is really like," he said. "They would hear stories and think, 'Oh, Eagles fans are rough and all of that.' I showed them it's all about friendship. It's all about having a great time at the game. A little bit of ripping on the other team, but their fans are welcome at the EagleMobile."

Domenico originally joined the reserves to get funds for college. But when the country was attacked on September 11, 2001, being a part of the military took on a whole new meaning.

"Now, I knew I had to defend my country," said Domenico, who coincidentally joined the reserves on September 11, 1986. "I had to make sure my family is taken care of."

"Before I went over there, I took some things for granted. Now, I really take the time to visit with my nieces and nephew and the rest of the family. I have a better sense of appreciation for life. I could get recalled three weeks from now and be on a plane."

That's the thing. Domenico loves the Eagles, but he has no problem risking his life again so that we can enjoy football. But he doesn't want to be called a hero.

"Everybody says that I'm a hero, but I don't feel like a hero," he said. "To me, the heroes are the ones who have given their lives. I did my share. I took the fight to them. I don't play the hero thing up too much. The best feeling was when

I flew into Raleigh-Durham Airport. I walked into the airport and people would get out of their seats and come up to us to thank us. I had so many people come up to me and thank me. That's where the overwhelming sense of duty to serve comes from."

"You get a sense of why you're doing it. It's for the everyday people."

It's taken Domenico a while to become one of the everyday people again. After 10 months of always being on the go, always having to be alert, he is getting adjusted to waking up in the morning and not having to do anything. After he returned from Afghanistan, one of the first things he did was rent a hotel room and watch SportsCenter all day long.

Now, Domenico can once again be just an Eagles fan. The problem is he now has so many people who are fans of him and every other member of the Armed Forces serving our country around the world.

-By CHRIS McPHERSON

## OUR GOOD OLD DAYS

By Vincent Pongia

During a visit to Florida, Gooch came upon a long, white, plastic tube. It looked like a staff. With his scraggly white beard, at first looked like one of the disciples come down from heaven. But then he changed his act to be one of a blind person. I was so embarrassed that I disavowed his friendship when asked by a passerby. Anyway his blind act was good and painfully funny until his brother Dominick (Lefty) intervened. He said to Gooch, "Cut it out, what if a blind guy sees you?" After much laughter, Gooch finally did quit but went promptly into his drunken act looking for a restroom. Some guys never quit, but he is funny.

One early summer evening when Shibe Park was still in its glory, Louie Doranzo (Lou) parked his '98 Oldsmobile on an

angle in front of Doc's Drug Store at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Cambria streets. Parking was at a premium due to a night game. Bill Basile, the cop, motorcycled by and proceeded to ticket Louie's car. Louie came out and stuttered, "Yo Bill, I only stopped for a pack of cigarettes." Bill was unimpressed and continued to write the ticket. Lou blew up and said, "You write the ticket and I'll leave the car right there." Be aware the car's orientation was such as to impede the flow of traffic. Bill threatened to have it towed, but Louie held his ground. Bill finally acceded and tore up the ticket. Bill had a tough cop reputation, but this was one he lost.

At the corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and Toronto streets there was a variety store run by Morris Garnick. We all called him "Mushy". I think you could find almost anything in that store, and Mushy was known for his generous portions of ice cream on cones. My Uncle Charles Frisco and I parked our truck on 24<sup>th</sup> Streets alongside Mushy's store. Each morning my Uncle would buy his Italian stogies, and I my cigarettes before driving the truck to work. This one morning, an old Jewish gentleman came into the store and was looking into the glass counter. In a strong Jewish accent he said, "Is that string?" Mushy responded with a similar accent, "No, you want some?" My Uncle and I got out of there quickly. Laughing and testing our mental faculties.

Another recollection I have of Mushy was the zeal with which he followed the Allied progress in battling the Germans in World War II. I would buy the daily newspaper and go over war maps with him. He loved to talk about the Grussians (his pronunciation) and how they were beating the Germans. I'm sure he was aware that many Russian soldiers were Eastern Jews. Mushy was a quiet, unassuming person but because of his compassion and kindness, a sort of a legend in his own right.

The war years of 1941 through 1945 were really not bad on the civilians. Yes, there was wartime rationing, but



generally life was not difficult, except for our worries for our loved ones in the armed services. I had one particular problem due to the birth of my sister JoAnn in June of 1942. My mother was unable to breastfeed her, so Dr. Cossa put her on formula. These being days prior to Similac, we had to follow a strict recipe which included blue can Karo. Since sugar was being rationed, many people turned to Karo and other sweet substitutes. In a word, Karo was tough to get. I prevailed on several local grocers by telling them about the need for my kid sister to have Karo for her formula. They took compassion and kept me adequately supplied. We had some real winners in our neighborhood merchants. Since I largely did my mother's shopping, I also knew the cheaters.

Each evening after dinner, it was customary to go down to your favorite corner and "shoot the breeze" with the guys. The old guys would do the same. Usually, they came down shirtless but wearing their winter long johns above their pants. The long john underwear included a trap door at the seat and was of very heavy wool. How they could wear them on a hot summer night is beyond me. Anyway, the point is they always said the same thing to me. "Me fa mala la skinna." Translated, this means, "My back is hurting me." What was then too hard to understand is now easily understood by most of the guys attending the breakfasts. We too, now have back problems, and we never worked as laboriously as they did. They were tough old birds.

This last story is of two old Italians having an animated conversation. The one fellow kept advancing on the other and unwittingly stepping on his foot. The second fellow in pain, broke away from him and in plain English said, "Valyo you steppa ona my foot." Literally, "Hey boy you're stepping on my foot." They were really hilarious.

## WOULD YOU LIKE A NEW CALENDAR?

All of you who attended are last reunion received a copy of the nostalgic calendar. Mario Amici did a fantastic job designing and printing the calendars for distribution. The cost of the calendar was included in the price of each ticket. Since the reunion the JJ has offered the calendar at a price of \$6.00 each and we still have about 200 more available. If anyone who did not get a copy is interested in purchasing one just send your check to the Judson Journal.

Mario has graciously volunteered to design a new calendar and distribute it through the Judson Journal. However, he needs your help in order to make it another nostalgic piece to treasure. Many people asked why he included only the pictures of a few families. Mario's answer to that question is very simple. "With the exception of a few pictures that were of such poor quality that they did not reproduce satisfactorily and one picture of Mike Pinque lighting the old gas street lantern that was lost I used every picture that was sent to me or to the reunion committee."

If you have any pictures of interest that depict your family, friends and old neighbors with an interesting background of the neighborhood sights send a copy to the Judson Journal.

The next step after Mario receives an adequate number of pictures will be to take orders in advance of printing for the new calendar. This means that there will be a limited supply printed by advanced order only. The price will probably be \$6.00 each. Pictures can also be sent via e-mail. The Judson Journal information is listed below.

## "AN AUTUMNAL AIRE ABOUNDS"

Crisp air, the rich hues of color on the trees, chrysanthemums in bloom, and pumpkins on the stoop all remind us that summer is gone. We welcome autumn for its bountiful harvest of goodies. Our attention shifts to pumpkin pie, warm autumnal soups, and the many squash varieties which seem to increase each year.

Let's talk about the squash family. Aside from yellow squash, zucchini, cantaloupe, and cucumber, we have butternut, buttercup, calabaza, sweet dumpling and vegetable spaghetti and they are all members of the Cucurbitaceae family. This family is rich in vitamin A, vitamin C, iron and potassium. They are modest in calories and low in sodium.

Take your butternut squash and dice it into 2 inch chunks. Meanwhile lightly sauté onion, carrot, garlic, and diced butternut squash. As they pick up some color, deglaze the pan with a small amount of white wine or sherry (preferred). Add enough flavorful broth to just cover. Blend all ingredients when tender into a smooth mixture. Garnish with a small dollop of sour cream and a freshly grated Granny Smith apple. Delicious! Or, take those seeds from a large pumpkin and roast them with seasoning, the kids will love them. My favorite is to take a pumpkin and cut it up into wedges. Take the wedges with the skin on and score them and season them. Drizzle with a good extra virgin olive oil and bake in the oven until tender. Serve as a new vegetable option, or melt blue cheese on top and serve as an appetizer. You can also take small chunks of steamed or al dente pumpkin and wrap



them in turkey bacon and cook until the bacon is crisp. Enjoy!

Remember that all vegetables are one with the ground. WASH ALL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BEFORE PLACING THEM ON YOUR CUTTING BOARD!

## Memorial Mass

The Greater Roxborough Lodge Order Sons of Italy #2217 will hold its Annual Memorial Mass to honor our deceased members as well as those veterans who made the supreme sacrifice for their country and are honored on the plaque which our lodge relocated from St. Mary of the Eternal parish to Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Roxborough, Pennsylvania.

The service will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 819 Cathedral Road, Roxborough, Pennsylvania on **Sunday November 12, 2006 at 10:30 AM.**

We invite you to join us for Mass and for refreshments following the Mass in Father Sullivan Hall.

Thank you,  
The Memorial Mass  
Committee  
Giustino Ludovici 215 482 1152  
Pat Ciammetti 610 825 2750

## Footnote to Memorial Mass Announcement:

I have had the extreme good fortune in my lifetime to have been able to attend many of the Annual Memorial Masses. I often think that the reason why I have been able to attend these Masses is because of the fact that these veterans made the "ultimate sacrifice"! The other thought that I have each year at the Mass is the age of the Attendees. It has occurred to me that when these people are no longer able to honor these men, who will do it? I am pleading to my younger "Old Neighborhood Friends" to please make an effort and show up and say a prayer. I am sure that our fallen Heroes would be proud to know that you cared. It may be good to show up and also say a prayer for our Heroes that our making the "ultimate sacrifice" every day to bring freedom to all people who desire democracy.

At last years reception after the Mass, Ray Balestrucci and Peter Rossetti both said a few words. They knew many of these men who gave their lives for the sake of freedom. In fact, they both had brothers Francesco Balestrucci and Joseph Rosetti who both gave their

lives during WWII. The emotion they shared with us is as deep today as it was when they first were told of their brother's demise. Ray and his wife Marie with Peter were instrumental in removing the Memorial that was in front of the Toronto Street "Sons of Italy" relocated to a suitable place. Do you remember the plaque? According to Ray, "When the building was sold the bronze plaque was removed from the granite stone support by Bill Festa and given to me."

In 1991, after many years of searching they found a home for the plaque at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Arnetown, Wrightstown, New Jersey.

## PRAYER TO SAINT RITA OF CASIA. MY CONSOLER.

*GLORIOUS ST. RITA, THOU WHO MIRACULOUSLY SHARED IN THE PAINFUL PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, OBTAIN THAT I MAY BEAR THE SORROWS OF THIS LIFE WITH RESIGNATION, AND PROTECT ME IN ALL MY NEEDS.*

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