

# OBITUARIES

## Roselie Bellanca, 1911-2008

Roselie Bellanca (nee Militello) of St. Clair Shores died Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, at the age of 97. She was born April 28, 1911 in Detroit.

Mrs. Bellanca was a homemaker and was predeceased by her husband, James V. Bellanca Sr., and son, Peter (Mary Janet).

She is survived by her sons, Anthony (Marianne) and James Jr. (Diana); grandchildren Roselie Ann Posselius, Roselie Marie (Charles) Ruebelman, Helen K., James II (Lisa), Selia (Douglas) Bellanca Lucas, James III and Marie Antonette; great-grandchildren Giovanna, Christopher, Emily, Sofia and Zara; and sisters Josephine Nicholas and Mary Militello.

A funeral was held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. Visitations were held at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home. She was buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. Memories may be shared with the family at [www.bcfh.com](http://www.bcfh.com).



## Paul Lasala, 1929 – 2008

Paul Lasala born on Feb. 7, 1929, died on Sept. 13, 2008, at the age of 79. He was the beloved husband of Sandra and the late Catherine.

He was the loving father of Ann (James) Herrington, Ginny Houle, Anthony and Paul (Kelly). He was the loving grandfather of Jennifer, Michelle, Collette, Anthony, Matthew, and Dominic. He was the dear brother of Palma (David) Grasl.

Visitations were held at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. A funeral Mass was held at St. John Vianney Church. He was buried at Resurrection Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" at [www.WujekCalcaterra.com](http://www.WujekCalcaterra.com)



## Benito Ditommaso, 1936-2008

Benito "Benny" Ditommaso of Warren died Aug. 30, 2008, at St. John Oakland in Madison Heights at the age of 71. He was born Oct. 11, 1936, in Detroit.

Mr. Ditommaso was a very loving and caring father and grandfather. He was the former owner of Benny D's Lounge, where he sponsored many dinners during the holidays for those without families. Mr. Ditommaso was an avid fisherman and enjoyed riding his Harley motorcycle. He was a member of the F.O.P. Lodge #124 since 1982.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Maryann Sulek. He was the father of Pietro, Angela, Jacob and Susan (Randy) Richardson. He was the proud grandfather of Steven Richardson, Amanda Richardson and Nathan Richardson. He was the dear brother of Anna Ditommaso. He was preceded in death by his siblings, James Ditommaso and Angela Ditommaso.

Visitations were held at the Sterling Heights Chapel of E.J. Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. He was buried at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

## What Italians Want to Watch

Catch the latest episode of "Around Town With Dominic LaRosa" Cable TV (public access) station at 8 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

The show features the Italian Tribune calendar of events and personalities featured in the Italian Tribune newspaper.

## Andrea Biondo Named Parade Marshal

(Continued from Front Page)

saw in me that I was very willing to go to superior school. With the will of God and my willingness to achieve my dream of becoming a medical doctor, I started going to school. I was soon stopped at the age of 17 due to lack of money."

He was forced to leave his family and native land behind to board the ship Marine Shark, headed for New York, in January 1948.

He recalled the very cold day he arrived in the New York harbor, where his classmate Beppe Anania was waiting for him at the seaport. "Before I left New York, my friend showed me Ellis Island, where all immigrants of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were quarantined," he said. "I felt very sorry for those people for the way they were treated."

He recalled how his father and many others like him were treated as uncivilized peasants, even though they were arriving from civilized nations. Some immigrants were forced to sleep in bunk beds for 45 days if they didn't have medical certificates "so they would not contaminate the American population," he said.

At that time, he felt a calling to help his fellow countrymen. "This is the land of opportunity that our great Italian navigator, Christopher Columbus, discovered 500 years ago after he had the courage to cross the Atlantic Ocean," he said. "From the very first day I resided in the USA, I began to dedicate all my spare time to help societies already in existence, to develop more social activities," he said.

Many immigrants turned to the societies from their native regions as a means for help. "I knew and understood how they felt, away from their families. We did not know the language. We did not have an industrial trade. Life was not easy for us."

Post World War II, neither the Italian nor the American governments had the resources to help, he said. "The only source that helped their members were the societies, like the Societa di Santa Fara di Cinisi." The Santa Fara Society was started in 1926. Societies stepped in to help their members with additional needs.

The first society Biondo joined was the Non-Partisan Club downriver in Wyandotte, where he served as the secretary of correspondence and verbalist. Later he became involved in the Santa Fara club and eventually served as president. In 1963, he helped support the formation of the Societa San Giuseppe Lavoratori di Cinisi.

In 1984, Biondo was pleased to be reunited with his former classmate, Salvatore Favazza when he came to work as the Cancelliere for the Italian Consulate in Detroit. With Favazza's help, ICSA (International Committee for Sicilian Associations), was formed. Biondo was the first president.

"Today ICSA carries the name of the Federazione Siciliana a Detroit," he said. "In the 1990s, also with the help of Mr. Favazza, I was made the temporary chairman of COMITES (Comitato Degli Italiani All'Estero)."

In 1990 the Italian government issued a decree to form COMITES groups throughout the world for the benefit of the Italian immigrants. Later, Biondo was elected for two terms by Italian residents living within the consulate's district.

**1415 E. 12 Mile Rd. Madison Heights, MI**  
**1,600 Square Foot**  
**Business Condo**

Located in the Crown Office Village  
 Complex



**\$139,999.<sup>00</sup>**

**Ideal office for any type of service  
 or manufacturing.**

**Over 1,600 square feet, kitchen facilities,  
 2 bathrooms, carpet and window treatments.**

**Land contract terms with minimum down payment  
 of \$50,000.**

**A great location in a very high traffic area.**

### Location Description:

Close proximity to  
 St. John's Oakland &  
 North Macomb  
 Hospitals.  
 1-1/4 mile to I-75  
 & I-696 Expressway  
 entrances. 12 Mile Rd.  
 between Dequindre and  
 I-75. Located in  
 Automation Alley.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LARRY ROCCA**

**586-791-2223**