

A Special Message

On behalf of the Italian Historical Society of America, and in memory of my father, John N. LaCorte, founder of the Society, I want to express my deep appreciation to the Department of Justice for their continued support in commemorating Charles J. Bonaparte, who was the driving force behind the creation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On June 22, 1961, the Italian Historical Society of America was privileged to present the Charles J. Bonaparte Monument to the Department of Justice. This monument is permanently installed at the entrance to the Department of Justice Building. On June 9, 1977, the Charles J. Bonaparte Auditorium was dedicated, further acknowledging the great contributions of Bonaparte.

Over the last forty-seven years, the Italian Historical Society of America has proudly maintained the tradition of commemorating Bonaparte in June, the month of his birth. This year, as in the past, we seek to keep alive the memory of the contributions of this great American of Italian heritage.

I also want to extend special thanks to three individuals at the U.S. Department of Justice who have coordinated the planning of this ceremony: Francesco Isgro, Senior Litigation Counsel, Linda Sackie and Anna Rosario, EEO Program Managers.

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THE FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL

Ceremony in Commemoration of

Charles J. Bonaparte

Founder of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
46th Attorney General of the United States

Sponsored By

The Italian Historical Society of America

August 30, 2007

Robert F. Kennedy Building
Pennsylvania Avenue and Tenth Street
Washington, D.C.

CHARLES JOSEPH BONAPARTE



Charles J. Bonaparte was born in Baltimore, Maryland on June 9, 1851. His grandfather was Jerome Bonaparte, Napoleon's younger brother, who had married Elizabeth Patterson on a trip to America. After receiving a law degree from Harvard University, Bonaparte began to pursue a distinguished career in jurisprudence.

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him the 46th Attorney General of the United States. Bonaparte soon discovered that he was hampered in carrying out President Roosevelt's "trust busting" policies because of the absence of a permanent investigative staff. Until that time, the Justice Department had been limited to hiring only temporary investigators, usually borrowing them from the Treasury Department's Secret Service.

On July 28, 1908, acting on Presidential instructions, Bonaparte issued the order that made his special investigative force a permanent subdivision of the Department of Justice. In 1935, what had begun as a 23-man unit under Bonaparte's direction, was renamed the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In addition to his service in the Department of Justice, Bonaparte is remembered for his important work as founder of the National Civil Service Reform League, and as an organizer and president of the National Municipal League.

PROGRAM

Introduction

Francesco Isgrò
Senior Litigation Counsel, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Invocation

Fr. Lydio Tomasi, c.s.
Holy Rosary Church
Washington, D.C.

Opening

Nina Di Gregorio
Italian Opera Company, President

Welcoming remarks

Ronald A. Cimino
Chief Criminal Section
Tax Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Frank Sorrentino, Ph.D.
Vice-President
Italian Historical Society of America

Remarks

Hon. Joseph G. Golia
State of New York, Supreme Court
Appellate Term, 2nd Judicial Department

Conclusion