

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, founded on June 22, 1905, in New York City, New York and originally called “Figli d’Italia,” the **Order Sons of Italy in America®** (OSIA) is the largest and oldest organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States, and represents more than 600,000 members in over 700 chapters throughout the nation, with additional chapters in Canada and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the mission of OSIA includes encouraging the study of Italian language and culture in American schools and universities, preserving Italian-American traditions, culture, history and heritage, and promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) is a private, philanthropic institution created in 1959 by OSIA and has since that time awarded nearly \$125 million in scholarships, medical research, cultural preservation, disaster relief, and other worthy causes; and

WHEREAS, an affiliate of the Order Sons of Italy in America, **La Nuova Sicilia Unita Lodge #1251**, also known as the Sons of Italy in Tampa, Florida, was established on October 23, 1923 in Historic Ybor City and its purpose is to promote national education, secure adequate laws, encourage the dissemination of Italian culture, organize programs for patriotic and humanitarian purposes, and to combat discrimination while protecting and upholding the positive image and prestige of the people of Italian heritage in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the oldest and largest lodge in the State of Florida, La Nuova Sicilia Unita Lodge #1251 is a benevolent organization that is an important and vital part of the Tampa Bay community, and has contributed to its history, cultural diversity, and growth for the past ten decades, and its members have awarded scholarships to deserving students, donate annually to cancer, Alzheimer’s and other worthy charities, co-hosts the annual Feast of St. Joseph that benefits MacDonald Training Center, and joins with other organizations to collect back-to-school supplies for children in need; and

WHEREAS, La Nuova Sicilia Unita Lodge #1251 will host its **100th Anniversary Celebration** on Saturday, October 14, 2013 at 3315 West Lemon Street, the organization’s location for the past 60 years, and reflect on all that has been accomplished since it was first established in 1923.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2023 as

“LA NUOVA SICILIA UNITA LODGE #1251 DAY”

and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating La Nuova Sicilia Unita Lodge #1251 on its 100th Anniversary and thanking them for all they have contributed to our community and nation over the years.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 10th day of October, 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor