

As promised during our phone conversation of late this afternoon, attached is a draft of a proposed Proclamation for consideration by the City Council, which I'm submitting on behalf of the Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, Inc. (GCICS), to recognize the cultural contribution to our quality of life by our Italian-American citizens.

GCICS has, for several years (15+), provided higher education scholarships for high school seniors, of full or partial Italian ancestry, graduating from local public or private schools. For almost a decade we have provided an average of eight \$1,000 scholarships. Our recent scholarship recipients include several graduates from Venice H.S. We have also provided \$1000, yearly, to each of the youth programs of the Sarasota Ballet and the Sarasota Opera.

The membership of our organization, like many other local non-profits is comprised, in large part, of "snowbirds". For many years we have held a "Welcome Back Brunch" near the end of October. Recently, we modified its theme to highlight our "Italian Heritage". This year our Welcome Back-Italian Heritage Celebration will be held at Mattison's 41 South, starting at 11:30 AM, on Sunday October 27. Our program this year will focus on the cultural heritage flowing from the Calabria Region of Italy.

We are confident that the success of our Heritage Celebration will, in no small measure, be enhanced by action of the City government to promote the recognition of the Italian American cultural contribution to our society.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially yours,
A. "Tony" Cagliostro

VP & Chair
GCICS Scholarship Committee