

Armando and Barbara Graziosi – 2016 Distinguished Citizens of the Year

This year's "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" was given to two individuals, Armando and Barbara Graziosi, at the January General Assembly Lodge Meeting on Thursday, January 5. Like so many of us who join the Lodge and participate in Lodge events with our spouse or significant other, the Lodge many times recognizes our contributions as coming from one couple or another. With this concept in mind, the Nominating Committee, with the Executive Committee's approval, decided to consider this year's Distinguished Citizen Award as a co-recipient award.

Armando and Barbara have been members of the Ocean City Lodge for close to 20 years, and before that, they were active in the Lodge in New Freedom, Pennsylvania, until they moved to the Ocean City area. They both held offices in that New Freedom Lodge. When they joined the Ocean City Lodge in 2004, the Lodge consisted of only 38 members who met in the small church hall of the First Presbyterian Church on 14th Street.

Armando and Barbara's contributions are many and varied:

- Armando has served as Sergeant-at-Arms and President.
- He was the catalyst that started the growth of our organization in 2008 that has brought us to our current membership of over 200.
- During his Presidency, the Lodge set up booths to sell Italian food and merchandise specialties at both SpringFest and SunFest in 2008 and 2009.
- He was instrumental in starting our annual St. Joseph's Day Festivals.
- He has chaired the last two beer truck events.
- He has chaired our involvement in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for the last three (3) years.
- Barbara has served as Corresponding Secretary and Financial Secretary.
- She published the first Directory of Lodge Members shortly after joining in 2004.
- She has been the Food Team leader for our St. Joseph's Day Festival since the beginning six (6) years ago.
- Both Armando and Barbara have led the team in the 3-day task of cooking sauce and meatballs (Barbara's family's recipes), as well as, running the kitchen on the festival days.
- They have been a force behind the growth of this Lodge for the last 12 years.
- They continue to be involved in their current roles as Co-Historians.



**Left to Right: Vito Potenza (SOI of OC President), Barbara Graziosi
Armando Graziosi, Vincent 'Vinnie' Mollicone (SOI of OC Vice President)**

Congratulations to Armando and Barbara Graziosi. The Lodge is proud of your accomplishments.