

*Vito and Donna Potenza*  
*2018 Distinguished Citizens of the Year*

I'm going to make this speech short, but this is not to be mistaken that I don't have a lot to say about this year's awardees because there is much to be said in their honor. In accord with a tradition the Lodge initiated a couple of years ago, the recipients of the 2018 Sons and Daughters of Italy of Ocean City (Maryland) Distinguished Citizens of the Year Award are a couple that you all know well. Their accomplishments and qualifications as awardees are obvious to everyone so I'll just touch on a few so you'll know whom I am talking about:



**Pictured Left to Right:** Vincent 'Vinnie' Mollicone (SDOI of OC Vice President), Donna Potenza, Vito Potenza (SDOI of OC President)

- He is a member of the Knights of Columbus; she is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Knights -- they are both very active.
- They quietly support a multitude of local charities and non-profits and participate in numerous fund raising activities in their community
- At any meeting, you'll find her in the kitchen area helping set things up and get food and desserts ready to be served.
- He is a Member of the Executive Council.
- She'll help setting up the hall in preparation for the meeting doing whatever else needs to be done.
- He arrives for the meetings and dives into final preparation of the hall for the Executive Council meeting and then the General Membership meeting where you all see them both.
- She disappears into the kitchen with the Mistresses of Ceremonies to help out again with the food and desserts.
- Her experience as an educator has led to her being called upon to help out at Most Blessed Sacrament School in various roles, including acting Principal.
- As Chairperson of the Lodge's Scholarship Committee, she is instrumental in seeing that our scholarships are awarded to qualified and deserving students.
- He has served as an election judge at the local polling places in our community.
- He has represented our Lodge on multiple occasions at Grand Lodge meetings and functions both locally and in Baltimore.
- He worked multiple shifts for the Lodge's very profitable Beer Truck at Sunfest this summer.
- He has served our Lodge for four years as Vice President and for the past three years as our President where he is very hands-on both behind the scenes and before you at meetings and other functions.

I am pleased and privileged to present the Sons and Daughters of Italy of Ocean City (Maryland) Distinguished Citizens of the Year Award for 2018 to Vito and Donna Potenza.

*Congratulations to Vito and Donna.*  
*The Lodge is proud of your accomplishments.*