

*JoAnn Ward
Andy Maggio
2024 Distinguished Citizens of the Year*

Our Distinguished Citizen of the Year 2024 for the Sons and Daughters of Italy (SDOI) goes to two exemplary members of our order.

Our First winner has been a very busy member of our organization and has given their all in whatever duty is undertaken. In the community she have volunteered at an Elementary School and assists with administrative clerical tasks, sets up parties for the kids and helps the teachers when needed.

In the community, she was recording secretary for her Woman's Club, Managed the Lending Library, and stepped up to be Treasurer-balancing the account, collecting dues, issuing reimbursements, and issuing checks to the clubs charities, and a past member of the Knights of Columbus women's auxiliary.

To our SOI Lodge, JoAnn Ward is an invaluable member who is always willing to lend a helping hand. She has been the Recording Secretary, Elected Vice President and graciously stepped up as President for a time to help in a difficult time. At present, she is assisting our Social Chairman, helping with scheduling events and activities, as well as, helping to put together baskets for the festival.

She is an individual that excels in everything she volunteers. A dedicated, thoughtful and caring person who quietly works many times behind the scenes, it gives me and our committee great pleasure to recognize our first Winner of the Distinguished Citizen of the Year 2024, JoAnn Ward.

Our Second Winner of the Distinguished Citizen of the Year 2024

started his remarkable journey in 2019 when he contacted the Chaplain in the Veterans' Hospital where his brother-in-law was terminally ill, requesting that a scapular be placed around his neck. The chaplain told him he had no scapulars or rosaries to provide. And so, the Rosary and Scapular Initiative (RSI) was born.SDO I meetings. However, his modest presentation does not convey the extraordinary success of his efforts and the impact of his outreach ministry. This ministry serves the Christian community not only in our local area around the eastern shore but across the United States and in



several foreign countries. The RSI has grown through his leadership, commitment and dedication, a now recognized 501(C3) charitable organization.

Over 300,000 Rosaries and Scapular prayer kits have been distributed. As their President and founder, he has recruited scores of volunteers from around the country to help in this endeavor. These kits have been sent across the U.S.-150 Veteran Hospitals, Boys Town, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Covenant House, and Catholic schools in Maryland and Delaware, Churches, Sussex Correctional Institution, and various hospice organizations. Globally they have been sent to the Ukraine, Cuba, England, the Virgin Islands, India, and Africa. Two of St. Ann's parishioners personally delivered 200 kits in Bosnia.

Initially the cost of materials, shipping and operational expenses were funded solely by him. As the ministry grew and expanded, he had a small number of individual donors, and thus eventually the 501(C3) charitable organization status.

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*Congratulations to JoAnn and Andy
The Lodge is proud of your accomplishments*