



# MARINAI d'ITALIA

## NEWSLETTER GRUPPI USA



### Meeting of the US ANMI Groups - Philadelphia 10/11/2025

In the welcoming and dynamic setting of a Philadelphia that is teeming with modernization, and restructuring of entire areas of the city, on Saturday October 11, took place the second annual meeting of the US ANMI Groups, following the one held in 2024 in Lambertville, New Jersey. The meeting began inside the now decommissioned and completely open to the public Naval Base of the US Navy, at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, known for having hosted events organized by the ANMI Giovanni Caboto Group of Philadelphia. Here is the location of the memorial to the Fallen of the Sea, built in 2017 thanks to the vision of Cav. Paolo Recchia, President of the Caboto Group from 1983 to 2009, the full collaboration of the Navy General Staff, the determined and active practical contribution of the current Vice President, Mr. Angelo Tartaglini and, certainly not least, by the determination of the current President, Mr. Massimo Recchia, to complete the monument and to care for it. Our meeting began with honoring the fallen with the deposition of a wreath of flowers at the monument while the notes of Taps, flawlessly plaid by Ethan, a young trumpet player and a student at the New York Musik Conservatory, filled the air. The ceremony then continued with the unveiling of a bronze plaque dedicated to the memory of Admiral Giasone Piccioni, Italian Navy Chief of Staff from 1985 to 1988, with the following motivation: "With deep gratitude for having donated this anchor, brought to Philadelphia by the Amerigo Vespucci ship in 1986, to the



Representatives of the US Groups and active duty staff who attended the ANMI USA 2025

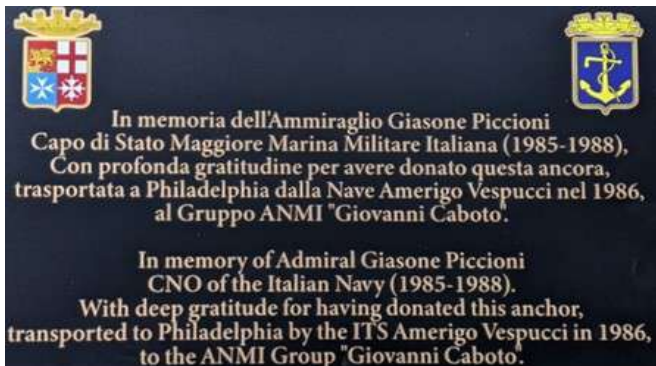


Exchange of presents between C.F. Tortoriello, Commander of the Orsa Maggiore and the President of the Philadelphia Group Massimo Recchia

ANMI Giovanni Caboto Group. The Italian Navy sailing training ship Orsa Maggiore was visiting Philadelphia as part of her world tour campaign, and the presence to the ceremony of the Captain, C.F. Carmine Tortoriello and the Officer in 2<sup>a</sup> STV Francesco Rocco, provided a particularly perceived and appreciated "naval dimension" to the event. The presence of the active-duty personnel stationed at Itanavrep Philadelphia, the C.F. (CM) Claudia Marcolini and the LLGGTT Alessandro Puglisi and Alessandro Lucente, with their families, have sanctioned, once again, the excellent relationship between today's sailors and those of some time ago. At the end of the ceremony, all the guests gathered inside the Chapel of Four Chaplains where the Director Bill Keamer recalled the events that led to the dedication of the Chapel in perennial memory of the four chaplains that sacrificed their life to help the wounded till the end. The meeting then continued with a sober "lunch" in a former church totally restored with great taste and skill by the Vice President, Mr. Angelo Tartaglini who has made it his home. At the end there was the opportunity to virtually connect with the other Members living in faraway states who could not attend the meeting. Fortunately, the meetings via Zoom have become a routine

for us and this is how we have been able to exchange ideas and opinions with other Members residing in Texas, California, Massachusetts, and even Poland. During the meeting we had the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the current Regulations for the implementation of the revised ANMI Statute, and we developed proposals and ideas then transmitted to the National Presidency in Rome for the necessary evaluations.

Details of the Amm. Piccioni plaque unveiled at the monument of the Fallen at the Sea, by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains



Monument to the Fallen at the Sea in Philadelphia



OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025



# Memorial ceremony for the Italian soldiers buried in the Pinelawn Memorial

On November 8, 2025, near Farmingdale, a town located on Long Island, New York, in the presence of civil, military, and religious authorities, a memorial ceremony took place to honor the 54 Italian soldiers who died during the Second World War and are now buried here. The fallen, 36 of whom were unknown and buried in a communal grave, were part of a contingent of 1,800 prisoners of war aboard the SS Benjamin Contee, a British-run Liberty-class U.S. ship, part of a convoy to transport them behind British lines. On August 16, 1943, the ship was hit by a torpedo fired from a German plane while off Bone, Algeria. Many prisoners perished and many were missing. The ship was temporarily repaired to allow her to return to New York. During the work to complete the repairs the remains of the 36 unknown Italian prisoners were found between the torn steel plates. The celebration, organized by the National Association of Italian Sailors in New York, was attended by representatives of the Military Office of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, staff of the Italian Embassy in Washington D.C. The representatives of the Servicemen' and Ex-servicemen' Associations (Carabinieri and Alpine Corps) and of the ANMI Amerigo Vespucci Group of NY paid homage to the Italian fallen by laying two wreaths of flowers by the burial site. Monsignor Ellis Tommaseo, Chaplain of the Suffolk County Sheriffs Office, officiated at a short religious ceremony, at the end of which he imparted the blessing. During the ceremony, the President of the ANMI Group of NY, Rocco Munna, and the Military Advisor of Italy to the United Nations, Major General of the Carabinieri Alfonso Manzo, addressed

the participants underlining the importance of commemorating and keeping alive the memory of these otherwise forgotten fallen.



# The US Groups celebrate the Festivity of Saint Barbara



Petty Officer Alessandro Puglisi, and the members of the group with their wives and families.

The members of the other groups instead, given the lack of venues and distances, connected via Zoom for the celebration. Among the participants were the naval attaché at the Italian Embassy in Washington, Commander Perrotta and the Commander Maltese.



As a tradition every year, the ANMI US Groups celebrated the feast of Santa Barbara.

The Giovanni Caboto group of Philadelphia did so with a meeting and reception in the beautiful residence of the group's vice president, a church that he renovated. Among the participants were the commander of the Italian contingent at the NAVSUP, CF Claudia Marcolini and Chief

## ITS Alpino—North America Campaign 2026

Welcome to the East Coast! Nave Alpino and its Crew will arrive in Norfolk on January 28, 2026 to participate, under the Command of C.F. Sara Vinci, in a Training Campaign that will see them engaged, with other NATO navies, in order to achieve a perfect level of integration in air and naval operations with a Battle Group operating in a complex and challenging environment.

For the first time Nave Alpino, a very modern FREMM and one of the crown jewels of our fleet, returns to the USA under the command of a female Senior Officer, an unequivocal sign of the changes and the progress that our Navy is making also in terms of gender integration. Changes are happening at an amazingly fast pace and are increasingly complex in



nature.

*Our most heartfelt congratulations to you Commander Vinci and, as always, "ad maiora"!*

There is another first that characterizes this visit of Nave Alpino. We can say for sure that for the first time in history, the active President of an ANMI Group will be on board of Nave Alpino as an integral part of the crew; Lieutenant Saverio Caforio, former Chief Radar Operator and On-Board Flight Controller, is the President of the ANMI Group of Lattiano, in the province of Brindisi, in Puglia.

To him we extend our warmest greeting and a special and affectionate "Welcome to America"!

## ITS Alpino — 2026 North American Campaign—Scheduled Stops

During the 2026 North American Campaign, Nave Alpino will call at the following ports:

NORFOLK (USA): 26 JAN - 01 FEB 26  
BOSTON (USA): 25 FEB - 02 MAR 26  
NEW YORK (USA): 03 - 08 MAR 26  
HALIFAX (CAN): 10 - 13 MAR 26  
SAINT JOHN'S (CAN) 15 - 18 MAR 26

## Seafaring trivia: "Batti Otto" (Strike Eight Times)

"Batti otto", strike eight times! On a sailing ship this was the order that the officer in charge of navigation was giving to the person in charge of signaling with the ship's bell to announce the "exact" noon. The Navigator, while the ship was sailing, was able to determine the exact moment the sun crossed the meridian, noon, using the sextant. The officer, close to the presumed noon, could in fact observe with the sextant that the sun continued to rise until it reached its peak and then began descending beginning the journey toward sunset. The moment it peaked, was the moment it passed the meridian, therefore



the moment of true noon. At sea, in the absence of clocks, the watches, four-hour shifts, were regulated in real time starting at noon.

The change of each four-hour watch was announced with the sound of a bell, starting at noon, giving a double strike for each hour plus a single one for the half hour. For example, to signal one o'clock in the afternoon, the first hour of watch duty after noon, the bell was struck twice; to signal 1:30 p.m. it was necessary to strike the bell twice followed by a single strike. At half past two, two double strikes and one single one were needed, and so on. At four o'clock, at the end of the four-hour watch, four double strikes were struck.

# REFLECTIONS ON 2025 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Dear Members of the ANMI USA Groups,

this is how we define ourselves and this is how we are identified within our Association at a national level. I welcome all you, and send to you and your families my best wishes for Serenity and Peace for this 2026 that has just begun, in a climate that is very far from

what we would hope for all of us and for the whole world!

At the end of each year, we always talk about how good we performed and what we accomplished, and we try to answer recurring questions that often remain without concrete answers. How did it go this year?... Good! ... Better than in previous years... Or: Not so well... Things were better before... But what does better or worse mean? Only those who can define easily measurable indicators that everyone understands and shares can answer this question. Before venturing into the search for these spent indicators defined as KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) I would like us to reflect on the following two points:

## Step 1

Last year at this time we wrote that the positive points that distinguished us were:

- Strong attachment to ANMI by the Effective Members
- Large and varied presence of the staff on duty among the participants in our meetings

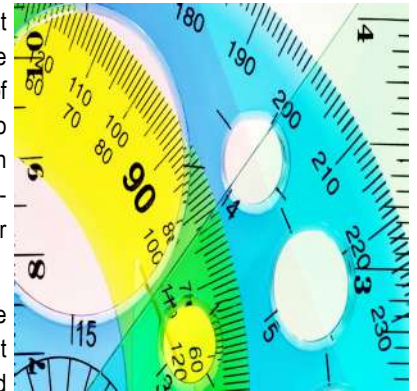
- Unconditional support from the P.N.
- Large presence of Naval Units on the US coasts
- The publication and distribution of 4 Newsletters, one every three months, as scheduled
- The meeting in Lambertville in which we drew up guidelines for the future

## Step 2

We also wrote the following about the points we wanted to focus on in order to see some signs of improvement:

- To better spread knowledge of the ANMI Mission
- Have greater visibility outside (Italian Consulates, Schools, Cultural Institutes)
- Improve communication between Members within the Group
- Increase the number of new sign-ups

There was no shortage of good intentions in 2025! The facts that could have made us say that we have moved in the direction of expectations are less evident to list and to be able to evaluate in order to identify corrective actions that can give us hope for improvement.



In the following table we can see some examples of indicators that we could adopt. It could be food for thought for our next meetings. We will talk about it in the next meetings via Zoom!

Tracker (KPI)	Description	Units of measurement	Value 2025	Target 2025	Status	Target 2026
Monthly meetings	Zoom meetings	Number	10	10		10
Meeting Minutes	Minutes of the end of the meeting	Number	10	10		10
External visibility	Meetings of Consulates, Schools, other Italian Community Bodies	Number	0	>1		2 per group
Internal communication	Virtual/in-person meetings per group	Number	0	>1		4 per group