



# MARINAI d'ITALIA NEWSLETTER GRUPPI USA



## ANMI USA Groups Activities January-April 2026

These first 4 months of the year have been characterized by our usual meetings via Zoom, by the elections of the social offices that took place for 3 of our 4 Groups in the United States and by the presence, truly unusual, for this winter period, of one of the most prestigious units of our Italian Navy. It was the FREMM Alpino which, under the command of C.F. Sara Vinci, spent a long period on the East Coast. Its assignments were to fulfill purely operational tasks of integration with the units of a



Battle Group of the U.S. Navy, and to conduct those tasks of naval diplomacy so delicate and important these days of complex international entanglements. The Alpino called at the ports of Boston, Norfolk and New York in the time frame between January 26 and March 8 of this year. In each port our 4 Groups were present and, together with other Italian and American visitors, they were able to spend time with the crew, who was always very friendly and welcoming despite the many commitments and the not always favorable weather conditions. It is enough to mention, one for all, the mooring operations at the quay in Boston during a heavy snowfall!



When the Alpino was on the East Coast, a very significant event occurred for the first time. Chief Caforio, in the dual role of member of the Crew and President of the ANMI Group of Latiano, province of Brindisi, in Puglia, warmly welcomed our members and exchanged gifts with the Presidents of the Groups. We all thank him and wish him the best successes for the continuation of his career and as President of the Latiano Group. A very special thanks to Commander



Vinci who welcomed us with great availability, cordiality and sympathy. Before embarking on the return voyage to Italy, on March 19, the Alpino visited the ports of Halifax and Saint John in Canada.

Another very interesting activity is the ongoing project to ensure that the Crest of the USS Scorpion Nuclear Submarine, in our possession, will be delivered by the US Groups to a descendant of one of the crew members of the submarine. The USS Scorpion disappeared in mysterious circumstances off the Azores Islands, in 1968, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The project is in full swing and we are looking at two opportunities: delivering the Crest to a U.S. Navy Representative during a ceremony to be identified or handing it over to the U.S. Navy Submariners Association which is planning a convention in Corpus Christi, next September. In both cases, our delegates will deliver the significant object.



For spring / summer 2026, two events of great interest are looming. The first will be an informal meeting in Philadelphia for all members of the US Groups to celebrate the Italian Navy Day. This meeting will take place on Saturday, June 6th since June 10th will fall on a working day. It will be an opportunity to meet as we did last year, in the delightful and welcoming home of Angelo Tartaglino, advisor of the Philadelphia group. We are all invited to take part.



The second, very special event, will be linked to the presence of the Vespucci in New York, on July, for the celebrations of the 250th birthday of the United States. After a stop in Baltimore on 6/24, on the 4th of July the Vespucci will join other tall ships from



throughout the world for a naval parade on the Hudson and afterward will dock in the harbor. Details are yet to be provided but most likely visitors will be allowed on board during the rest of the visit. Should that be the case on Sunday the 5th, we could meet for an on board visit, followed by an informal meeting for members and families. After NY the Vespucci will stop in Boston from the 11th to the 14th of July.



JANUARY-APRIL 2026



## An episode of the battle of "Mid-June" as it was shared with one of us.

The Battle of Mid-June (12-16 June 1942) saw the Italian Royal Navy achieve a clear strategic victory against the British Royal Navy, preventing the island of Malta from being resupplied.



Incrociatore R. MONTECUCCOLI

The battle involved the units of the VII Naval Division that, under the command of Admiral Da Zara, sailed from the harbor of Palermo. The Division consisted of two light cruisers (Eugenio di Savoia and Raimondo Montecuccoli), seven destroyer escorts and ten submarines. The Italian ships, together with intense Italian German air attacks, forced the British convoy MW11 to reverse course, inflicting severe damage on the enemy units. Next June will be the 84th anniversary of the naval battle of "Mid-June", the most important victory of the Italian Navy over the British Navy. All the participants in this battle were decorated with a medal of military valor and even my father, Paolo Recchia, founder and President for over 20 years of the ANMI Giovanni Caboto group in Philadelphia, was one of the protagonists. He was a Sergeant embarked on the cruiser Raimondo Montecuccoli as an Electrician. In all the years we spent together, first at work, then with the ANMI, practically all his life, he always shared with me stories about events and episodes that happened during the 11 years he spent on board the Montecuccoli.

One in particular was very dear to him. During the Mid-June battle with the British fleet, the Officer in charge of the ship's electrical system summoned him and ordered him to go and check Gun Tower 2, as the lights inside

had stopped working due to an electrical failure, and the gunners were shooting in the dark. Upon arrival in the tower, my father, an Electrician Non-Commissioned Officer, immediately noticed that there was a short circuit in the system that blew a switch. (Note that in the tower the space was limited, the charge and the projectile, at that time, were separate, loaded manually, quite large and of considerable weight). He immediately went back to the Officer and, as he was about to explain that it was impossible to repair the fault, especially in the dark and with the strong vibrations of the cannon, he started saying: "but...". At that point, the Officer interrupted him and told him: "There are no ands or buts. Fix it!" My father ran back to the Tower and, while reaching with his hand in the pocket of his work jacket, found a deck of playing cards that he used during his free time. That gave him the idea of isolating the short circuit by placing few folded cards inside the switch box, between the metal wall and the electrical contacts. The expedient worked and the light returned inside Tower 2. When he told the Officer that the fault had been repaired, the only comment he got was: "Bravo"!



My father told me this story dozens and dozens of times and I always pretended not to remember it, but I too, during my work as an electrician, learned that you can insulate electrical cables using only cardboard if necessary. It just takes a little imagination... typical of an Italian.

## Celebration of the Italian Day of Remembrance

On February 10, 2026, the Italian Day of Remembrance, a ceremony took place in New York to commemorate and honor the victims of the "Foibe" massacre, perpetrated between 1943 and 1945.

The new Italy's Consul General, Mr. Giuseppe Pastorelli, attended the ceremony, which took place at the headquarters of the Consulate of Italy in New York.



Present at the ceremony were also other civil authorities, representatives of the Armed Forces Associations (ASSOARMA) in New York and a delegation of the AMNI Group of New York, Amerigo Vespucci, composed of the President of the Group, Mr. Rocco Munna, and Mr. Paolo Romagno.

## June 10<sup>th</sup> - Italian Navy Day

The Italian Navy was formed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1860 by the unification of the navy of the Kingdom of Sardinia, the navy of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the navy of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and the navy of the



Papal State. After the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy by the parliament of Turin on March 17, 1861, the Italian Royal Navy was born. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1861, the Ministry of the Navy was established, separate from the Ministry of War. In the same year were created the "Marine's Regiment", which through the years has evolved to become today's "San Marco" marine's brigade, and the Royal School for Student Machinists, today's Navy Non-Commissioned Officers School. In 1866 the corvette Magenta set sail and was the first ship of the Regia Marina to circumnavigate the globe, completed two years later. In 1881 was inaugurated in Leghorn the Naval Academy for the training of future naval officers.



The Day of the Italian Navy, dear to all of us as "Italian Navy Day", is celebrated on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary day of the 1918 Premuda's feat. The Premuda exploit took place during the Great War and was conducted



by two fast torpedo-armed vessels, MAS 15 and 21, under the command of the section leader, C.C. Luigi Rizzo, already decorated with M.O.V.M. for the sinking of the Battleship Wien in 1917. At dawn on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918, the two MAS departed from the port of Ancona for a routine patrol in the Adriatic. Several prior ones had been uneventful, but that day, off the Island of Premuda, they came upon a huge Austrian naval formation headed toward the Strait of Otranto to force the naval blockade of the channel enacted by the Regia Marina. Without hesitation Rizzo attacked, torpedoed and sunk the battleship SMS Szent István (St. Stephen). MAS 21 torpedoed the sister battleship Tegetthoff but his torpedo hit but did not explode. Admiral Rizzo, nicknamed l'Affondatore, the Sinker, with two Gold Medals for Military Valor is still the most decorated soldier in Italy.



## Our future Naval Aviators visit the Marino Improta memorial in Corpus Christi.

On April 30, 2026, a group of Italian Navy Officers, in training at the Corpus



Christi Naval Air Station to become Naval Aviators with multi-engine qualification, visited the STV Marino Improta memorial. Marino was undergoing the same training when he died following a tragic accident during a routine training flight in November 1974. The Grumman S2A, the aircraft

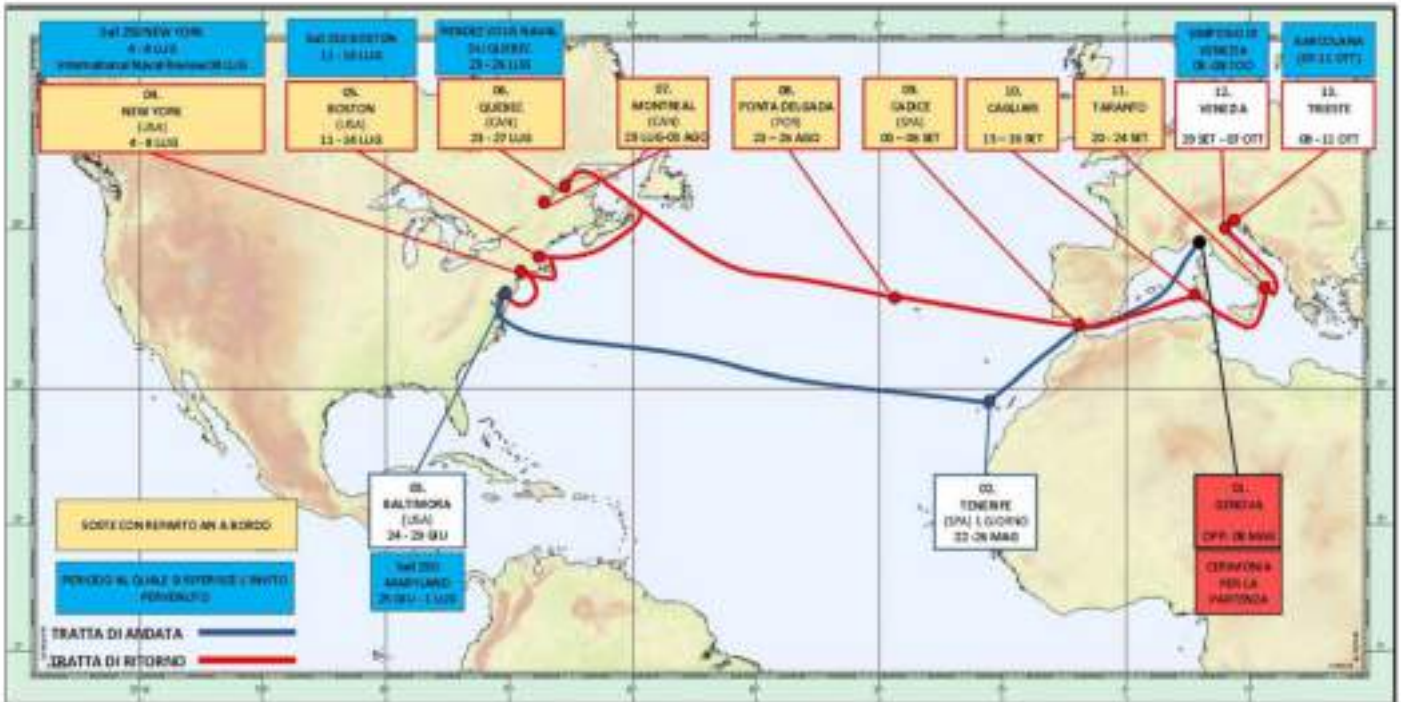
used in those years for multi-engine qualification, crashed in short final at Cabaniss Field, a naval outlying airport still in use today for practicing take-offs and landings, killing Marino, the instructor, and another pilot in training. The commemorative brick was donated eight years ago by the members of the Italian Naval Aviation Association, Marino's colleagues, and members

of the ANMI USA, and is laid in the square that surrounds the bronze statue (nicknamed Ace) erected as a monument to honor fallen military aviators. Seeing these young Officers pay homage to Marino after eight years was very emotional for me, because the original intention for the memorial was to honor Marino but also to have this place become a point of reference and reflection for our future young officers who come to Corpus and aspire to become Naval Aviators, just as Marino, who unfortunately never realized his dream.



# ITS Vespucci Training Campaign 2026 (250th US Anniversary)

Below is the latest variant, that we received at the end of April 2026, to the ITS Amerigo Vespucci Training Campaign in North America. The second stop scheduled in New York for the end of August has been canceled to allow the unit to return to Italy for the Symposium scheduled during the first week of September in Venice.



## Motivation, Leadership, Innovation and Responsibility.

The ITS Vespucci on the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States will return to New York. The Vespucci, the training ship of our Navy, the truly recognized Ambassador of everything Italian, is always close to the heart of us, sailors, and lately is even dearer to the Italian people who, not too long ago, followed it with pride throughout the journey around the world.

In Baltimore, the 1<sup>a</sup> Class Cadets will embark for the first time on a ship after a very tasking academic year at the Naval Academy, in Leghorn, and they will confront the primary element with which they will share the joys and difficulties of our profession: the sea. What prompted these young men and women to embrace military life? What advice could we give them in these times of uncertainty, in terms of values to be inspired by?

In a recent article, Marcello Veneziani deals with four themes that concern young people: motivation, leadership, innovation, and responsibility.

The Vespucci will be for these students the test to prove their initial motivation. It will be the first verification of the choice they made. You do not begin the difficult path to become a Naval Officer just to have a job that will give you a salary. It is the choice of a lifestyle that imposes sacrifices that can never be remunerated with adequate economic compensation. On the Vespucci, the Officer Cadets will learn to appreciate those satisfactions that will repay them for the many difficulties they will encounter and will learn to overcome.

From the very first sail manning station, they will understand the importance

of the kind of leadership they will have to learn to build their own, in a natural way, building based on their own disposition and character. Charisma, Veneziani writes, "is a grace, it is not people pleasing". It is true that some are born leaders, but life on board the Vespucci will teach each of these young people how to become one, proving with daily actions that it is necessary to acquire the right amount of leadership in order to adequately manage human resources and assets.



Innovation is a theme that will appear to the students as something especially important to learn how to manage to take advantage of it. Calculating the ship position by observing the stars at sunrise and sunset will be the basis for understanding how much progress has been made with increasingly advanced technologies. Data management and analysis, to make the right decisions, will only be possible by keeping up with the ever-increasing innovations.

Veneziani writes also that "responsibility is to assume the consequences of one's actions and thoughts, to answer for what is said and for

what is done". Very well! The Vespucci will teach that our actions will generate consequences, that we can act well or not, but that we will always have to assume our responsibilities.

More than giving advice we would like to send to these young Cadets our most fervent wishes for Fair Winds and Good Work! You are about to embark on an adventure that will remain forever engraved in your hearts, just like it is in ours, who preceded you by a few years... (we do not say how many)...