

Italian Army's Chief of Staff to accept awards in Philadelphia

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PHILADELPHIA – Gen. Carmine Masiello, the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army, was to be the guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by the Union League of Philadelphia on Oct. 20 and attended by numerous dignitaries from the Italian American community.

Gen. Masiello distinguished himself with his skills in the field as well as in the complex dynamics of national and international security. He currently holds a position on the Council of Misters of the Republic or Italy as Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. The appointment marks the first time since 1941 that an officer from the specialty of paratroopers has reached the highest position in the Italian Army.

"This recognition is not only a personal honor, but also a tribute to the values and dedication of the men and women of the Italian Army in safeguarding the security framework that allows out international community to thrive in freedom and peace," the general wrote in a letter accepting the Union League tribute.

"Since October is Italian Heritage Month, we wanted to have a high-ranking member of the Italian government visit Philadelphia," said Scott Sigman, a criminal defense attorney in Philadelphia and member of the Union League. "Thanks to the help and coordination of the Hon. Amato Berardi and [past Union League President] Frank Giordano, we were able to secure the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army."

In addition to receiving the Union League Award, the general will receive awards from groups including the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, the Grand Lodge of the Pennsylvania Sons and Daughters of Italy, the Italian Navy Veterans of Philadelphia, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, the Knights of Columbus and the Philadelphia Police Department.

The Union League will fly the Italian flag throughout Gen. Masiello's two-day visit to Philadelphia.

The lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Union League of Philadelphia, Broad and Sansom streets in Center City. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$60 each. For tickets email Breanna Pleis, Assistant Director of Member Events, at PleisB@unionleague.org

The Union League of Philadelphia was founded in 1862, and has hosted U.S. presidents, heads of state, industrialists, entertainers and dignitaries from around the globe and has proudly supported the American military in each conflict since the Civil War.

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