



Pierino “Peter” Galetto
November 5, 2011

Peter Galetto’s contributions to Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries were those of a patron. As my father in-law he was a great teacher; he taught me the value of philanthropy and was a great role model in developing my commitment to our community. I am forever grateful for the many examples he set for me in business and family matters. He placed great value in hard work. In spite of his considerable business successes he lived a modest lifestyle. His joy came from generosity to others and to the community at large. He fostered this same interest in his four children and their spouses. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

Please see his obituary beneath the Annual Message.

His passing was mentioned in the January 2012 Annual Message.

Well, each year we reserve space at the end of this annual message for remembrances of members who no longer grace the earth. This year has been especially unique for me, and for the organization, in that my husband and I sadly have both lost our parents. Nevertheless we were left with a wealth of wisdom in their absence. So I take the liberty of using this space to commemorate, and apologize if anyone objects to my decision. In six short months we lost CU members Enes and Peter Galetto, my in-laws, and my mother, Teresa Morton. All were great supporters of CU and our efforts. The Galetto Foundation, funded by Enes and Peter, gave generously on an annual basis, and shortly before Teresa's death she donated the single largest individual gift to CU.

But the gifts that I would like to talk about are much more important than that. When I grew up I was given a huge amount of freedom to explore the great out-of-doors. I would spend the entire afternoon after school and all day in the summer in a stream near our home, in the woods every day! People tell me those were different times, and maybe they are right; we never locked our homes, either. At age 10, I paddled and sailed Union Lake unassisted and rarely with any rescue personnel available. Yet I believe that we now live in a time where folks expect to be protected, insured against any possible mishaps (well, with the exception of those crazy X game types). And with that protective attitude we sometimes protect our children so much and organize everything so thoroughly that we forget that life does not come with insurances. And the freedom to explore and take risks is the very foundation on which we LIVE, and on which America was founded. I was blessed to have had parents who let me explore and take those risks, although naturally they knew where I was - well, unless I lied.

Today's youth, by and large, are not familiar with the out-of-doors and are deprived of those same experiences. Sometimes it is because their schedules are filled with other activities. Or possibly they live life through computer and TV screens, or grow up in areas far from nature. This separation leads to a serious lack of understanding about basic natural resources - where our medicines come from, our water, even our food. It is a total disconnect from nature.

Today, CU tries to fill that void and allow folks to explore the great out-of-doors. Yes, we take reasonable precautions. My point is not about risk-taking but rather about opportunities to broaden horizons and be introduced to the wonders of nature. But in spite of this mission, we nearly did not commit to Raptor Discovery Days this year because of lack of funding. When the Trustees found out, I thought they might want to string me and Lillian up, and my neck was feeling mighty tight. So we made a commitment, the same commitment my folks made to me - a commitment to give children the opportunity to explore. The generosity of many people will allow this to happen. We have accepted the financial risk, something taught to me by my father-in-law. We are acting for the good of the community, and in this sense my in-laws were the best role models. We have not stopped there; in developing our calendar we make that same commitment so that people of all ages can remember what it is like to be a child again, to hug a tree, paddle a boat, watch a bird, hike a forest and, yes, to have an advocacy voice in protecting that which we hold dear- Down Jersey.

Newspaper Obituary
Pierino “Peter” Galetto
November 5, 2011

Pierino (Peter) S. Galetto passed away on November 5, 2011. Born in Tonco, Italy in 1920, he moved to Vineland at the age of eight with his mother, Columbina to join his father, Louis, who had left Italy shortly after Peter was born so that he could make a better life for his family. He attended school at both Sacred Heart and the Vineland Public Schools. He never finished eighth grade because he was needed to work on the family farm. He married Enes Rochetti of Vineland in 1943. He worked on the family farm on Grant Avenue until the establishment of Stanker and Galetto Building Contractors in 1948. Friends and family all called him “Pete”. Pete and Enes had four children: Patricia, Sandra, Peter and Paul. Pete and Enes became actively involved in the community by supporting their parish, St. Isidore the Farmer and Catholic education in the Vineland area. Peter was also involved in the North Italy Beneficial Association, Newcomb Hospital, Citizens Bank, New Jersey Builders Contractors Association, the Vineland Industrial Commission, Local 451 Laborers and Local 33 Masons Pensions and Welfare Funds, Wheaton Village, the Vineland Serra Club, the Fellowship Gun Club and the Landis Sewerage Authority.

During his lifetime Pete received many awards and honors, among them: The Gregor Mendel Award from the Augustinians of St. Augustine Prep, Citizen of the Year Award from the Vineland Chamber of Commerce, Philanthropist of the Year from the Vineland Library Foundation, Outstanding Commissioner from the Association of Environmental Authorities of NJ and the Distinguished Service Award from the Hendricks House. In 2006 Pete received an honorary degree from Cumberland County College. In 2010 the Landis Sewerage Authority named its Agricultural Site in Pete’s honor for serving the longest tenure as chairman of the LSA.

Pete is predeceased by his parents, his wife of 67 years (Enes), his daughter Sr. Marie Pierre, DM (Patricia), his brother-in-law Albert Rochetti and sisters-in-law Olga Barsuglia Rochetti and Gloria Martini Rochetti. He is survived by his children, Sandy D’Onofrio (and her husband Mark), Peter Galetto (and his wife Jane Morton Galetto) and Fr. Paul Galetto, OSA. Pete and Enes had five grandchildren: Kara D’Onofrio Byler (and her husband Ethan), Kristin D’Onofrio Hannon (and her husband Casey), David D’Onofrio (and his fiancée Laura Hindman), Amanda Galetto and Ashley Galetto. He greatly loved his family especially his sister Marie Corcoran (and her husband Michael) and his brother Louis Galetto (and his wife Doris) as well as brother-in-law William Rochetti, and his nieces and nephews all of whom were a constant presence in his life.

Pete and Enes established the Galetto Family Foundation that supported Catholic education at Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Sacred Heart High School and St. Augustine Prep. The foundation also supported local parishes, the diocese of Camden, the South Jersey Healthcare System, Cumberland County College and other local charities. He was a phenomenal and respected businessman who worked hard everyday of his life. His family was an integral part of his life as he became the patriarch of the Galetto family; he looked forward to beating his grandchildren at cards on Sundays at the Shore even at the age of 90. He also enjoyed playing pinochle and gin rummy and being with his friends at the club.

Viewing and visitation with the family will be at the new De-Marco-Luisi Funeral Home on Sherman and Lincoln Avenues on Friday, November 11 from 6:00 until 9:00 PM. There will be a viewing in the morning from 9:00 until 10:00 at St. Isidore the Farmer Church (1655 Magnolia Rd.) The funeral liturgy will take place promptly at 10:00.

The family requests that no flowers be sent; rather, donations in honor of Peter Galetto may be made to the Daughters of Mercy (1009 Main Rd; Newfield, NJ 08344), St. Mary School in East Vineland (735 Union Rd; Vineland, NJ 08360) or St. Augustine Prep (611 Cedar Ave; Richland, NJ 08350).