

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Donald Donato
Tel. 983-4375

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BARBARA TOGNOLI RECEIVES 12th ANNUAL “LUKE” AWARD FROM THE PACIFIC ITALIAN ALLIANCE

STOCKTON, May 3, 2007 – “Today people of Italian descent in San Joaquin County celebrate the life and achievements of **BARBARA A. TOGNOLI**, founding executive director of the Hospice of San Joaquin,” announced Donald Donato, executive director of the Pacific Italian Alliance.

Barbara has provided leadership to the quest for ever-better and more compassionate health care for the terminally ill in San Joaquin County since 1981, the year she was selected for leadership by the first Hospice of San Joaquin Board. Always striving to enhance the quality of the care provided to the community by Hospice of San Joaquin and ready to learn from others, Barbara has lead the agency thorough the rigorous, but not mandatory process of Accreditation by the Joint Commission of Health Care Organizations, the same agency the accredits hospitals.

The Pacific Italian Alliance recognizes Barbara Tognoli’s lifetime of dedication to the terminally ill, and we ask that our community celebrate the devotion of a fellow Italian-American and her significant contributions to San Joaquin County.

The Luke Award is named in memory of F.M. “Luke” Lucaccini, long-time friend and crusader for the Italian people, language and culture in the San Joaquin Valley. The award statue depicts St. George (San Giorgio), sculpted by Donatello and housed at the Orsanmichele in Florence, Italy. The exact replica of this work of art awarded to Barbara Tognoli is cast of solid bronze by artisans in Florence.

The award ceremony takes place today at the Brookside Golf & Country Club in Stockton at noon.

.....