



AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF SAVOY ORDERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2017

Contact at 212-972-0495

amsavoy@aol.com

HER EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT VICKI DOWNEY DGCHS TO RECEIVE SAVOY FOUNDATION'S 2017 CHIVALRY AWARD

New York, New York, April 7, 2017 - The Savoy Foundation's **Fifth Annual Chivalry Award** will be presented to **Her Excellency Vicki Downey DGCHS**, Lieutenant and head of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in the Eastern United States, at the Foundation's annual Spring Event - ***Festa della Primavera***. The event will take place at 6:30 -8:30 p.m., at the Columbus Citizens Foundation, 8 East 69th Street, in New York City on **May 17, 2017**.

The decision by the Board of Directors of the American Foundation of Savoy Orders (www.savoia.org) to honor Vicki Downey, the first female to head the Holy Sepulchre Order in the Eastern Lieutenancy, recognizes her outstanding commitment to humanitarian causes, in the Holy Land and here in the United States. As Lieutenant, she is involved in directing critical support to the institutional activities of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, including pastoral care, maintenance of clergy, support of the seminary, construction and maintenance of parish churches and school buildings, and subsidy of school operations, among others. Most recently Vicki has been working closely with The Halo Trust, a land mine clearing organization, to raise awareness of the hundreds of land mines still active in Palestine, especially around the Baptismal Site of Christ. These minefields have impacted Palestinian civilians for decades, causing accidents and preventing safe access to Holy sites for over fifty years. Under her guidance, the Eastern Lieutenancy continues to advocate for the preservation of the holy places and the Christian presence in the Holy Land through its financial support and pilgrimages.

The Chivalry Awards were inaugurated by the Savoy Foundation in 2013 to focus greater attention on the highest standards of knightly conduct, which history associates with Europe in the Middle Ages. Today the word "chivalry" is still synonymous with courtesy, honor and integrity. Chivalry survives as both a code of conduct and a way of life, embodying the highest ideals of civilization. Honorees for these awards are selected in recognition of their outstanding service, generosity and civility in their distinguished careers and their unselfish commitment to public causes and personal dignity. These principles reflect the noble and ancient chivalric traditions of the Dynastic and Hereditary Orders of the Royal House of Savoy whose charitable works in North America are fulfilled by the Savoy Foundation, a U.S. 501(c)(3) corporation based in New York City. Past recipients of the Chivalry Award have been television financial anchor Maria Bartiromo; former U.S. Congressman Frank Guarini; Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, the former Ambassador of the Holy See to the United Nations; Mrs. Eva Franchi, the wife of legendary Italian tenor Sergio Franchi for her promotion of Italian culture in the field of music; and Dr. Anthony Fauci for outstanding leadership in the field of science at the National Institutes of Health.

The reception on May 17 begins at 6:30 p.m. with the awards ceremony at 7:15 pm. Two hundred guests are expected to attend the stellar event at the Columbus Citizens Foundation townhouse in New York City. Tickets to the *Festa della Primavera* Spring Awards Reception begin at \$200 per person. Proceeds benefit the Savoy Foundation's Emergency Response Fund for victims of natural disasters.

About American Foundation of Savoy Orders, Incorporated

The American Foundation of Savoy Orders, Incorporated, a U.S. charitable 501(C) (3) organization, is an NGO in Roster Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It has three endowments: charitable causes, educational programs and operating expenses. Its Savoy Orders Pigott Scholarship was established to provide financial aid to students in the humanities and international studies. Annual grants are also made to educational programs, hospice programs and orphanages.

(<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/02/prweb14075469.htm>)

In order to raise funds for the support of its activities, the Savoy Foundation sponsors a winter event, *Savoy Ball of New York (Ballo di Savoia)* (<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2016/12/prweb13924916.htm>) and a spring event, *Festa della Primavera*. Members of the Italian Royal Family, headed by His Royal Highness, Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy, actively support, attend and lend their names through formal patronage of these Savoy Foundation events.

About The American Delegation of Savoy Orders

The American Delegation of Savoy Orders, which includes the United States of America and Canada, is a part of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy, among the oldest orders of chivalry in the world. The Savoy Orders are headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and have 35 Delegations worldwide that support the ongoing charitable works of these ancient Dynastic Orders of Knighthood and Merit. Their origins and their principles, traditions and humanitarian goals date back a thousand years. HRH Prince Victor Emmanuel, Prince of Naples and Duke of Savoy, is Head of the House of Savoy and Grand Master of the Savoy Orders. His ancestor, King Victor Emmanuel II, united the nation of Italy under his rule between 1861 and 1870 and the Prince's father, King Umberto II was Italy's last reigning sovereign. He died in 1946.