

THE WHITE HOUSE

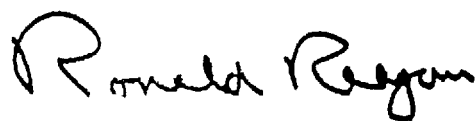
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1987

Warmest greetings to the members and guests of the National Italian-American Bar Association as you gather for your Fourth Annual Membership Meeting. Your choice of the city of Philadelphia for your meeting is an altogether fitting way to celebrate the Bicentennial of our Constitution.

Since its formation in 1983, your Association has been dedicated to recognizing Americans of Italian heritage who have made significant contributions to the high ideals upon which our Nation was founded. You continue that tradition this year by paying tribute to Philip Mazzei, the 18th-century Italian-American patriot and friend and collaborator of Thomas Jefferson. Mazzei's significant influence on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution has been brought to light by an increasing number of scholars. I applaud the efforts of groups like yours to give patriotic witness to the cherished traditions and ideals for which our Constitution stands: liberty under God, human dignity, self-government, and the opportunity to follow our dreams.

Nancy joins me in sending best wishes for an enjoyable meeting and for continued success. *Che Dio vi benedica.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.