

NELLO BORTOLOTTI

IT GIVES ME GREAT HONOUR TO BE ABLE TO PAY THIS SPECIAL TRIBUTE THIS EVENING TO ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED GENTLEMEN OF OUR COMMUNITY MR. NELLO BORTOLOTTI. A FRIEND, A COLLEAGUE, A MENTOR AND A WONDERFUL PERSONIFICATION OF WHAT MAKES A GOOD PERSON. IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY OF THE BORTOLOTTI FAMILY HERE WITH US AS WELL.

HAVING KNOWN NELLO FOR MANY YEARS AND HAVING WORKED WITH HIM IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES ON COMMITTEES SUCH AS SETTIMANA ITALIANA, THE REVITALIZATION OF PIAZZA DANTE, VILLA MARCONI'S ITAL FEST AND NOW BOTH THE NATIONAL CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL CONGRESS FOUNDATION, I HAVE HAD A GREAT VANTAGE POINT TO WITNESS THE QUIET PERSPICACITY THAT NELLO HAS, TO GAIN INSIGHT AND OFFER HIS OWN LEARNED WISDOM AND SAGE ADVICE.

NELLO'S WORK WITH THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ITALIAN CANADIANS FOUNDATION(EASTERN ONTARIO AND OUTAOUIS DISTRICT) IS SYNONOMOUS WITH HIS PASSION FOR EDUCATION. THE GIOVANNI CABOTO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, OFFERED BY THE NCIC FOUNDATION, ACT AS PROOF OF THIS PASSION AND HIS LEARNED INSIGHT AND CORPORATE MEMORY OF HOW THESE AWARDS CAME TO BE IS TO BE VALUED AND RESPECTED. IN HIS WORK WITH THE CONGRESS, NELLO HAS BEEN VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN TIMES OF GREAT TRAGEDY, SUCH AS WHEN MAJOR EARTHQUAKES HAVE DEVASTATED VARIOUS REGIONS OF ITALY. NELLO HAS INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE MANY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS, BE IT THE FRIULI, SICILY, AND ABRUZZO EARTHQUAKE DISASTERS, MOST RECENTLY IN AUGUST 2016. MANY MEMBERS OF THOSE REGIONAL GROUPS ARE IN THE HOUSE THIS EVENING-FOGOLAR FURLAN, SOCIETA SICULA AND CENTRO ABRUZZESE.

NELLO ALSO BELIEVES IN THE UNITY OF OUR GREAT COMMUNITY. IT IS SOMETHING OF WHICH NELLO IS QUITE ADAMANT ABOUT. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS-AS HELEN KELLER WROTE-"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH" LET US ALL
PAY HEED TO THAT.

I QUOTE FROM A POEM ENTITLED "TRUTH"
WRITTEN BY MUHAMMED ALI MANY YEARS
AGO-

"THE SOUL OF TRUTH IS FLAMING, THE HEART
OF TRUTH IS WARM, THE MIND OF TRUTH IS
CLEAR AND FIRM THROUGH RAIN AND STORM"

THERE IS NO MORE TRUTHFUL GENTLEMAN
THAN NELLO. HIS IS A LIFE LIVED DAILY, FULL
OF GREAT CHARACTER AND RESPECT.

IT IS AN HONOUR TO CALL HIM MY FRIEND. I
NOW WOULD LIKE TO CALL ANOTHER DEAR
FRIEND TO THE PODIUM WHO WILL TOAST OUR
NELLO-MR. CLAUDIO PAGANI.