

Antonio M. Matarese was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia on March 21, 1914. His mother died in 1923 when he was nine years old. His father moved back to the Italian island of Ischia to raise his children near relatives who could help him. As a young man Antonio was inducted into the Royal Italian Army. That saved his life when Italian forces invaded Albania in April of 1939. His Royal Army unit was captured by Albanian partisans but was spared the certain execution that Mussolini's Fascist troops suffered. In 1943, Italy surrendered and the the Royal Italian Army then fought alongside the American and British against the Germans. At the war's end Antonio was awarded a certificate signed by H. R. Alexander, Field Marshal and Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater. The certificate commended Antonio for his combat service with the Allied Armies and his contribution to the cause of freedom. In 1954 he left Ischia, boarded the Italian ocean liner, *Andrea Doria*, and came back to America. It was only two years later that the *Andrea Doria*, considered the most beautiful ocean liner of its time, sank off Nantucket after a collision with the Swedish ship, *Stockholm*. Antonio married Maria, also an Italian from Ischia, and they set up their home, first in Princeton near Dorothea's House, and later In Princeton Junction. Antonio worked as a gardener and groundsman for many years at Princeton University. Maria and Antonio's vegetable garden and Italian cooking were legendary in the Junction. The star, in loving remembrance of him, was incised on August 19, 2018, by his daughter, Antoinetta Matarese and his grandson, Antonio Berrios.



A portrait painting of an elderly man with a mustache, wearing a yellow jacket with a small Italian flag on the lapel. The background is dark green with a large orange circle in the upper left. Red horizontal bands contain white text. The man's hair is rendered with purple and blue tones.

ANTONIO DI  
AGRICOLTORE  
SOLDATO

ELL' ISCHIA  
UOMO DI CUORE

CARO  
IL MIO  
UOMO

COPY No. 2786



12

# Certificate of Merit

AWARDED TO

Soldato *Mattearese Antonio*

of

*Div. Mantova*

A MEMBER  
WITH THE  
AND WHO  
ALLIED CO

OF THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES WHO FOUGHT  
ALLIED ARMIES FOR THE LIBERATION OF ITALY  
IS COMMENDED FOR HIS SERVICE UNDER THE  
COMMAND AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

*H.R. Alexander*

30 SEPTEMBER 1945

FIELD-MARSHAL  
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER  
MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE

N.º del Passaporto  
4380232 P

N.º del Registro  
6116-

Repubblica Italiana

IN NOME DELLA LEGGE

Il Ministro per gli Affari Esteri  
rilascia il presente passaporto

al Signor **MATARESE**

Antonio Marino  
celibe

accompagnat da<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Possono iscriversi sul passaporto i figli minori di 15 anni.

- 1 -

938  
c



Firma del Titolare

Matrese Antonio Marino

Autenticazione della firma di Matrese  
Raffaele

Firma dell'Autorità



Dato il 6

6 1955

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Lepratti, Visti

Tassa concessione governativa  
di L. 3230 versata all'Ufficio  
del Registro di Ischia  
(bolletta N. 2800 e 2801 in  
data 21-1-1954)

CEDUTO:

32 in assegni  
in banconote

CREDITO ITALIANO - GENOVA

UFFICIO CAMBIO

Genova, le 24/2/54

Visti

Nationality Italian } X Quota	Immigration Visa No. 3650
Dated 18 JAN 1954	
Issued to Antonio M. MATABESE (Name)	
William M. Kahmann Vice Consul at	

