



## Bene Emeritus Award *Jennifer Rubé*

Jennifer Rubé was born in Ridgewood, NJ and spent the first years of her life in Bologna, Italy before settling with her parents in Rochester, NY, where she lived until her death in 2014. To all who were a part of her world, Jennifer was known as a kind, compassionate woman with an infectious smile and a heart of gold. For many years, Jennifer was a local business owner with a gift shop located first on Main St in Victor, NY and then in Schoen Place in Pittsford, NY. As if owning and running a local business is not enough work, Jennifer also ran a successful online business selling her shop wares on Ebay. She would come home at night after a long day in the shop and get right to work online to grow her

business on that platform. There were many nights, especially during the Christmas season, where she was up all night working through her online orders. She was passionate about her shop and the people she served.

Jennifer was very close with her family - parents Joe and Nancy, and sister Marisa. It was this close bond that prompted her to join the Sons & Daughters of Italy Vincent Lombardi Lodge in 2004. She got involved quickly with the inner workings of the lodge, first as Recording Secretary and later on, as President. In addition to this, she took on the role of Deputy to the Geneva Woman's Lodge, Vincent Lombardi Lodge Delegate to the Italian Civic League, and Lodge Delegate to the NYS Commission for Social Justice, where she joined the fight against discrimination of Italian Americans. Locally, she became active in the fight to keep Italian language in our schools, and volunteered as committee chair for several lodge events, including bringing to the organization what is now our annual winter clambake. But her work didn't stop with the business of the lodge. She did all that she could to help out our members, particularly our older members, when they needed support. She was known to chauffeur our members who weren't able to drive themselves, in order to make sure they were able to attend our events and socialize with others. She worked diligently with the Gift of Sight Program of the NYS Grand Lodge for a reading machine for one of our members who suffered from macular degeneration, ultimately securing this machine that allowed the member to read, making her more independent.

Jennifer also had a creative side. She was a lifelong amateur photographer, particularly fond of photographing nature. Starting from a young age, she also wrote poetry, filling notebook after notebook with beautiful poems, a few of which were even published. Another artform that she was particularly fond of was pencil sketching, as evidenced by her many sketchbooks of portrait drawings. When computers came into play, she took to graphic design, where she ultimately designed the Vincent Lombardi Lodge logo that we use today.

If Jennifer were alive today, there's no doubt that she would have continued her journey with the Sons and Daughters of Italy, both on local and statewide level. She was so proud of her Italian Heritage and involvement in the Italian American community in Rochester, and loved her lodge family deeply. We know she is looking down on us today, humble and filled with pride at receiving tonight's award.

