

Justin Karam

Sons of Italy In America

April 1,2020

What my Italian Heritage Means to Me

My Italian heritage is something that plays a role in my daily life, whether it is my choices of cuisine or the time I spend with my Nonna and Nonno. I take considerable pride in my Italian roots and it would be of the upmost honor to be recognized by the Sons of Italy in America. My Italian pride came to the forefront when I first visited the country in 2010, seeing the sites in Italy at such a young age exposed me to a new culture and helped elevate my appreciation for the nation my ancestors called home. During my travels in Italy I was introduced to extended family members that still live in Italy. Meeting my family for the first time helped me feel more of an attachment to my Italian heritage because I was able to see how my family still has an imprint on the Italian society. I have been back to Italy a few times since and I am very thankful that I have been fortunate enough to experience the sights and sounds of Italy throughout my life.

Being Italian has the Goodfella's and Soprano's stereotypes but I believe Italian-Americans are a strong community that is built through family. The strongest connection I feel towards my Italian blood is seen through the connections I have with my immediate family. Spending time with my aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents on holidays and other occasions gives me the biggest satisfaction with my Italian heritage. These experiences expose me to the greater meaning of being Italian and help me to feel a connection to my origins.