

In 2012, the East Hanover Italian American Club has added a new award to its dinner program. "The Ace Alagna Italian Heritage Award" will be presented for the first time to his children and then annually to deserving Italian Americans who, by example and through their life's work, promote their Italian heritage.

Ace Alagna was the Publisher and owner of the Italian Tribune for over 30 years before his death in 2000.

Ace was a photographer for many years with the Star Ledger and then a member of the White House Press Corps photographing eight presidents. He then turned his journalistic skills to the Tribune and in 1971 he revived a longtime tradition in the City of Newark – the Columbus Day Parade. The parade had not been done for years in 'downtown' Newark. He moved the parade up to the North Ward where a large Italian American population lived. Ace brought all the 'greats' to his parade as Grand Marshals – Joe DiMaggio, Bob Hope, Joe Pesci, Danny Aiello, Tommy Lasorda, Vic Damone, Tony Bennett and Dom DeLuise, just to name a few.

Upon his death, the family continued the parade until 2001 when their focus became revitalizing the newspaper and now just hold a Columbus Day Celebration dinner and continue to bring star-studded Italian American honorees to the event.

Accepting the award will be Buddy Fortunato, Publisher and Ace's son-in-law, his wife (and Ace's daughter) Marion Alagna Fortunato and Ace's daughter, Joan Alagna. The trio has turned the Tribune into the largest Italian American paper in the country. Weekly, they make us proud to be Italian with articles on Italy, travel, traditions, holiday customs, a wide array of recipes, accomplishments of other Italian Americans and Buddy's 'straight forward' editorials.

The committee of the East Hanover Italian American Club is proud to present this deserving honor to the family of 'the guy who started it all.'