

## Military Personnel Support Bocce Invitational

SOMERSET, NJ - Hundreds of amateur and professional bocce players are expected to compete in the 3rd Annual Bocce Invitational Tournament at Colonial Park, Mettlers Road, in Somerset, NJ, on Saturday, June 20 from 8 am to 6 pm.

The New Jersey Bocce Invitational is an Italian-American cultural event designed to allow people of all backgrounds to compete for the benefit of local New Jersey charities. Beneficiaries of the event are Operation Shoebox New Jersey, an organization that collects items and ships care packages to combat troops overseas and the Boys & Girls Clubs of New Jersey. Participating sponsors include the Italian Tribune, Order Sons of Italy NJ Foundation & CSJ, and the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey.

Among our supporters are Operation Tribute-To-Freedom, an organization which shares the stories of Soldiers who have or are currently serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The program connects these Soldiers with their

local communities through speaking and appreciation events, as well as media outreach

Chief Warrant Officer(Ret)-USMC, Pat DeChirico has been instrumental in assisting in making this event a success. As a founding committee member, US Marine DeChirico, with 45 years serving the military, shares his expertise and knowledge of what it is like for a soldier to receive a care-package from home. His mom was known to send hard salami and provolone which Pat shared with the soldiers. Pat was recently quoted as saying " Our military personnel deserve all the support we can give them. This bocce event along with Operation Shoebox is the hometown support that enables us to show our appreciation. "

Our guests include Will Jimeno, retired Port Authority Police Officer of NY/NJ and inspirational speaker will assist in the festivities and throw out the ceremonial first ball on behalf of Operation Shoebox New Jersey. Will is one of only two people to survive under the rubble on 9/11 and his story



PAT DiCHIRICO

was told in the Oliver Stone motion picture "World Trade Center".

Giada Valenti, singer and songwriter will perform selections from her recent CD "And I Love You So". Giada is from Venice, Italy and has performed throughout the United States and most recently at Feinstein's at the Regency Hotel in New York City. Moreno Fruzzetti, from the Tuscany region of Italy, will be performing Pop to Classical to the American



FRANK VALANZOLA

Classics. He has been awarded the prestigious honor of "Ambassador of Italian Music to America". Moreno will also perform for our attendees.

Comedian and "Saturday Night" alum Joe Piscopo, vocalist Bobby Valli, and Rutgers University football players are expected as repeat guests. Vicki Wallace will perform "Fallen But Not Forgotten" for Belleville P.O. Kenneth Santucci who lost his life in the line of duty and "When Will I See You" as a tribute to the soldiers. The Italian Chicks will also perform offering their unique style of comedy

and song.

Funds raised from entry fees and sponsorships will be donated to each of the non-profit organizations, according to Frank Valanzola, founder and director of the Bocce Invitational. "The continued success of these organizations is important because their efforts make a difference in the lives of many New Jersey residents and their families," Valanzola explained.

Operation Shoebox New Jersey will host a packing event in conjunction with the tournament, providing an opportunity for all guests to pack a box of personal care items that will be sent overseas to U.S. troops - many of them soldiers, Marines and sailors from New Jersey - who are now deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Mideast locations. With the aid of the children of Boys & Girls clubs in New Jersey we hope to prepare over 1,000 care-packages which we anticipate will arrive before the 4th of July.

Visit [www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com](http://www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com) to register a team or to find out about sponsorship opportunities.

ORDER SONS OF ITALY  
NJ FOUNDATION & CSJ  
**PRESENTS**  
NEW JERSEY  
**BOCCE**  
INVITATIONAL  
June 20, 2009

*The New Jersey Bocce Invitational is an Italian-American Cultural event designed to allow people of all backgrounds to compete for the benefit of local New Jersey charities.*

*Our 3rd annual event will benefit Operation Shoebox: New Jersey and The Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey!*

**Join us for a great day for great causes!**

Miss Italia New Jersey

Joe Piscopo

Giada Valenti

Moreno Fruzzetti

Bobby Valli

Will Jimeno

For more information contact Frank Valanzola at 908.400.0851 or visit [www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com](http://www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com)

Viki Wallace

The "Italian Chicks"

RUTGERS FOOTBALL

Colonial Park  
Franklin Township  
in Somerset County