



*The
American
Accordionists' Association
presents the*

Lifetime Achievement Award



Louis F. Coppola

Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

*Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
625 First Street Alexandria, VA*



We are proud to acknowledge

Louis Coppola

and congratulate him
as a recipient of this year's
Lifetime Achievement Award.
From all your tennis friends.

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Sincere Congratulations Lou!

To a well deserving fine musician and friend,

Steve and Julie Theodore

Congratulations!

from

George and Frances Alderson

Catonsville, Maryland

Congratulations!



*Richard
and
Karen
Kirkbride*



**AAA 80th Anniversary Banquet
& Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation to
Louis F. Coppola**

Program

**Cocktail Hour - 6:00 p.m.
Music by Joe Cerrito**

*The American Accordionists' Association
extends heartfelt thanks to the
following individuals who helped
make this event a success:*

Stephanie Myers
Donation of Banquet Flowers

Connie Racioppa
Banquet Floral Arrangements

Joan Grauman
Wine Bottle Label Design

Master of Ceremonies - Manny Bobenrieth
Welcome and Benediction
Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone

The AAA 80th Anniversary Festival Orchestra
Conducted by Joan C. Sommers



*Congratulations,
Uncle Lou...*

All the best!

from the

*Ciccione Family
Joseph, Ethel
Reagan and Gia*



Congratulations to Louis Coppola
on the well deserved
Lifetime Achievement Award!

M·C·M
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*Congratulations and
Best Wishes
to a Dear Friend,
Louis Coppola,
on being presented
with the
Lifetime Achievement
Award*

*From
Mary Janczewski
In Loving Memory
of My Husband
Stanley F. Janczewski*





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Congratulations, Lou!

Lou,

*Congratulations to our dear friend,
Air Force Colleague and
All-Star Accordionist.*

Your dear friends to these many years.

Ralph & Ginny Kass



Congratulations

*From your
Air Force
Friends
at
Falcons Landing*



July 14, 2018



The Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, USA
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Washington, DC

Congratulates



Louis F. Coppola

for his
Lifetime Achievement Award
from the
American Accordionists' Association

Thanks for entertaining us for more than a quarter-century!

About our honoree...

Louis Coppola

Lou Coppola, native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, has enjoyed a dazzling musical career with his accordion that most could only dream of. Armed with sky-high standards, a deep love of music, first class training and a passion for performing, Lou broke through barriers to become the “first” in many arenas for his instrument. However, when told he would receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the AAA on the evening of their 80th anniversary celebration, he was amazed to be included in the esteemed list of



past honorees. But those extraordinary “firsts”, coupled with an unbroken chain of memorable performances spanning 6 decades, were impossible to overlook. Lou is grateful for the recognition and will always cherish the memory of this night. In honoring him, it should be noted that Lou was the FIRST:

- 👑 Person to win the AAA’s US Virtuoso Competition four times, taking his first trophy when he was only 15 years old
- 👑 Accordionist to be accepted at the New England Conservatory of Music
- 👑 Representative for the AAA in the prestigious world accordion contest Coupe Mondiale, held in Brighton England in 1955
- 👑 Permanently assigned accordionist with the acclaimed USAF Strolling Strings
- 👑 Non string player to become leader of the AF Strings
- 👑 Person to be hired by George Mason University as a professor with the sole purpose of establishing a strolling ensemble replicating the USAF Strolling Strings

The start of Lou's professional career began as a solo artist concertizing nationally and as a private teacher. Then, fate intervened. An unexpected phone call came in to Lou's teacher, Rudy Molinaro, that the AF Band was in need of an accordionist and would Lou be interested in auditioning. That one phone call changed the direction of Lou's life.



Lou pictured above with his teacher, Rudy Molinaro

He won the intensive audition and performed with the United States Air Force Strolling Strings for over 28 years, ultimately becoming the leader of the organization. His Air Force career took him to the palace of Anwar Sadat, to the Far East and all over the



globe. He has played at the White House for hundreds of heads of state and performed for nine U.S. Presidents while in the military. Lou was an exemplary musical ambassador, a stellar accordionist who proudly served his country.

Lou is also a first rate accordion teacher. Concurrently with his AF duties, he zealously mentored students, many who went on to be national champions.



He founded and managed his own company, Stereo Strings, the civilian counterpart of the AF Strolling Strings, for over thirty-four years. Their long and distinguished list of engagements is one that any performer would envy. From playing four Rockefeller family weddings, performing with 28 musicians for the grand opening of both the Pittsburg International and Reagan National Airports, Stereo Strings was an important part of Washington's social scene. The group is extremely proud of their involvement with the city of Atlanta in their quest to win the Olympic games in 1996. Traveling



to Seoul, Tokyo and Barcelona, Stereo Strings worked for nine years as America's sole musical representative in this successful effort.

Lou and his ensemble had one of the longest consecutive engagements in the country, having performed dinner music every weekend at the Officers' Club in Fort Myer, VA for an amazing 44 years. During the same period, he played at Bolling Officer's Club for 23 years.

Lou has always placed quality and client satisfaction at the top of his list of objectives. Because of the excellent rapport between Lou and his clients, unrelenting professionalism and first rate customer service, his business prowess is unrivaled and respected.



Congratulations, Lou!



Joan, Dan and Metro!

Congratulations,

*To my good friend, Lou Coppola.
Wishing you a continued long life with
good health and happiness.*

*Sincerely,
Dan Desiderio*

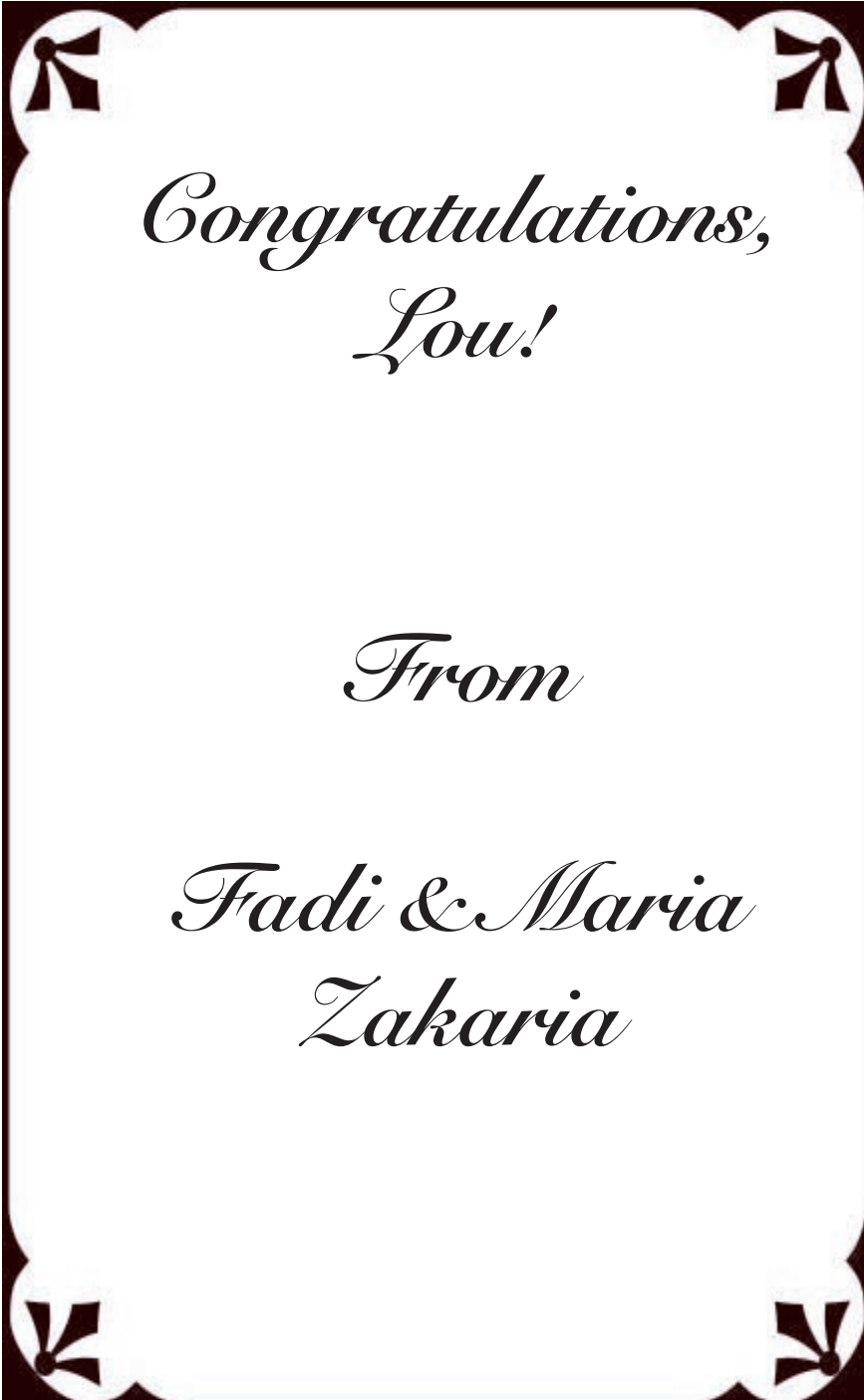


Lou, it has been an honor and privilege performing with you these past 44 years. You have been my boss, friend and colleague over this period. We have performed for some very prestigious occasions and for some very important people, from presidents, kings, queens, shahs, top brass, senators, congressmen, movie stars and people like Maria Von Trapp who gave you a kiss. The Atlanta Olympic Committee trusted that you would (with our music and their presentation), win the Olympics for Atlanta in 1996, and sure enough, they got it. On behalf of the Committee, I traveled with your team to Tokyo where the winner for 1996 was decided and to Barcelona, also representing the Atlanta Olympic Committee. What a thrill both of these trips were, as was the trip to Atlanta itself for the grand opening of the games. Apart from all of this, I felt your trust in me and my ability on the violin. I can't think of anyone more worthy of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" than you. Your funny, uplifting and patriotic e-mails sent to your friends, raise their spirits and keep you close. Lou, I have found you to be a fair and generous person. Musically, you have this wonderful gift of programming just the right music for any occasion. Your facility on the accordion is nothing but amazing.

I wish we were young enough to do it all over again.

To my forever friend and colleague, I wish you only the best in the days and years to come, good health and long life.

David Swanson



*Congratulations,
Lou!*

From

*Fadi & Maria
Zakaria*

Congratulations from the
Officers and Board of Directors of the
AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

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The American Accordionists' Association is a 501c3 corporation.
All contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.





*We Proudly Congratulate Louis F. Coppola,
Recipient of
The American Accordionists' Association's
Lifetime Achievement Award*

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President



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To Louis F. Coppola.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we add our congratulations to you — a most deserving humanitarian and consummate musician — for being honored with this very prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award." We consider it a privilege to have heard you make magic over these past many years. You are in the company of very few who have earned and achieved greatness.

With the utmost respect we thank you for your friendship.

Lowell and Suzy Graham

*Thank you for your lifetime commitment
to music and your unwavering dedication
to entertainment and education.*

*On behalf of all your friends and colleagues at
The United States Air Force Band,
the Air Force Musicians Association (AFMA),
George Mason University's School of Music,
and Accordionists the world over,
Congratulations, Lou!*





**Congratulations, Lou, from the Officers and Board of Directors of the
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