

WINKER #1

Frank Finocchiaro Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by the Italian Society of Savannah

Benedictine Military School (Grade 11 Only) Scholarship Entry Form

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Personal Statement

I attest that the attached Essay is my original work and that all personal information is true. I understand that once the Essay and Resume have been submitted, they become the property of The Italian Society of Savannah for whatever use they deem appropriate. When asked, I agree to cooperate with The Italian Society of Savannah in any and all promotional activities related to the scholarship competition, and should I be selected a winner, I give them my permission to use my name and photograph in their promotional activities.

Signed by: Brett Peloke Date: 3/14/16

Teacher Verification

I have read the enclosed essay and attest that the above named student is in good standing and verify that the Essay reflects the student's original work.

Signature: Karen W. Marshall Date: 3-14-16

All entries must be submitted to the Guidance Office by March 15th, 2016

Brett Peloke

Mrs. Marshall

Italian Society Essay

The American population is essentially built on a collaboration of all cultures and ethnicities. We are a society of immigrants, an emulsion that allows for the retention of individuality that has become our signature. Since its founding, millions of people have left their homeland in search of a better life in the United States. One significant ethnic group that made the journey to the United States originated in Italy; many of these hardworking individuals contributed greatly to their new home. One such example is Enrico Fermi, an Italian physicist born in Rome on September 29, 1901. Enrico Fermi greatly contributed to the United States and the modern age through his involvement in the Manhattan Project and his contributions to Nuclear Power.

From a young age Fermi showed an aptitude for science. Later, he was accepted to the Scuola Normale Superiore, a prestigious college, at the age of seventeen. At the age of twenty four he was appointed professor of experimental physics. While a professor, Fermi contributed important advancements in physics that made the nuclear age possible, and he won a Nobel Prize in 1938 for his work on artificial radioactivity produced by neutrons and nuclear reactions created by slow neutrons. (Enrico Fermi -Biographical). In the same year, Fermi immigrated to the United States due to discriminatory laws in Italy that affected his Jewish wife. After reaching the United States, Fermi continued his research and made plans to build the world's

first nuclear reactor. In 1941 the United States entered World War II, and Fermi's objective became federally funded. Soon after, work began on his first reactor, Chicago Pile-1, which went critical (began fission) in December 1942. This was a major step in the atomic research field, and it put the U.S. one step ahead of the Germans and the Japanese in the quest for a nuclear weapon. During mid-1944, Robert Oppenheimer convinced Fermi to join his team in Los Alamos, New Mexico where Fermi was appointed Associate Director of the efforts to create an atomic bomb. Fermi's work led to the Trinity Test the first detonation of a nuclear weapon- and he devised a basic procedure used to measure the bomb's yield. Fermi was also a member of the committee that decided that the bomb could be used on an industrial target without warning. Fermi's contributions to the Manhattan Project helped save the lives of hundreds of thousands of American and allied soldiers that would have died in the otherwise requisite invasion of Japan. (Zachary Keck, "How Hiroshima and Nagasaki Saved Millions of Lives.")

After the war, the Manhattan Project was replaced by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), which tested the effects of nuclear energy on the environment and regulated atomic works such as nuclear power plants. Fermi served on the General Advisory Committee of the AEC. This committee served as an influence in further nuclear advancements and regulations. Enrico Fermi's work both during and after the war made the production of electricity by a nuclear reactor possible. Because of this, the United States gained the ability to produce cheap, clean energy. His reactors paved the way for future nuclear fission devices. Nuclear power has the potential to provide plentiful and affordable energy to the world without harming the environment, due in part to Enrico Fermi.

Few men have contributed more to the field of nuclear physics. Through his pioneering work in the atomic field, Enrico Fermi brought the Second World War to a more expedient end, saving an estimated four million lives, and created the energy source of the future. In the U.S. alone there are one hundred and four nuclear power plants which provide twenty percent of the country's energy demands, a number which is expected to increase to thirty percent by the year 2030. Enrico Fermi is one of the many hard working Italians that made their legacy and a resounding impact by contributing their talents and ambitions to their new home.

Works Cited

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