

President's Speech for the Medal of Merit Award

May 7, 2011 Marconi Hall

Folgo Della Vedova

Good evening everyone:

Before I begin my main address I would like to take this opportunity on a personal basis and on behalf of the Northland Barbershop Chorus to congratulate you, Tony, Mr. Soccer, on also receiving the Medal of Merit Award. Well done and well deserved.

Mayor Debbie Amaroso, Councillors, Medal of Merit Committee Members, MPP David Oraziotti and Guests,

It has been quite a year for the Northland Barbershop Chorus as we celebrate its 50th anniversary. I think we are still wearing a smile generated from a recent memorable Gala Reunion-Dinner and a successful annual show and then, news of this. The Northland Barbershop Chorus is proud, honoured and humbled to receive the Sault Ste Marie Medal of Merit Award for 2010. We accept it with joyful hearts and sincere gratitude to Mayor Debbie Amaroso, the selection committee His Honour Justice John Kukurin, Sharon Graham and Mary Ellen Szadkowski and to the city of Sault Ste. Marie who since 1969 deemed it worthy to recognize an individual or group making a significant contribution to improving the quality of life in our community and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our nominators Sandra Houston and Harry Houston who are recognized as significant contributors to the arts and leaders of their respective organizations, the Arts Council of Sault Ste Marie and the Sault Theatre Workshop. Thank you for taking leadership roles in entertaining our community and thank you very much for your continued support and diligent efforts in nominating us for this award.

Last but not least we express our gratitude to the many individuals in their respective organizations who took time to write letters of support for our nomination. It is often not known how one's career or social activities and interactions affect those we serve or assist. We are profoundly moved by the encouraging and supportive written responses we received.

We will cherish our beautiful medal of merit and wear our pins with pride and honour. It is you, our valued community brothers and sisters, who encourage us and strengthen us individually and collectively to continue to do what we love best, to sing in tight barbershop harmony. Thank you.