

UNSUNG SOLDIER

NAME: SGT. 1ST CLASS ANTONIO GIULIANO

JOB: Senior Vocalist, The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own"

AGE: 43

RESIDENCE: Ft. Myer, Va.

FAMILY: Wife Isabella and Gucci, the couple's German shepherd dog

NOTABLE APPEARANCES: Sang solo tenor at the burial ceremony for Presi-

dent Ronald Reagan, and the Medal of Honor awards ceremony at the Pentagon for Lt. Col. Bruce Crandall.

DREAM OF HIS YOUTH:

All I wanted to do was be a Marine. I wanted to be a drill instructor, and guard the White House.

DREAM TODAY: To be a lead tenor with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

FINDING HIS VOICE:

I was a jock playing varsity football and track and field, wrestling, a little rugby, all that kind of stuff.

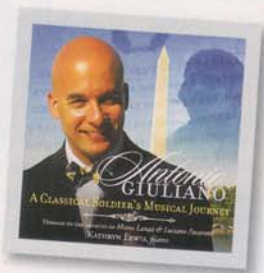
I'd been singing in church and I knew I could carry a tune. But my junior year, something prompted me to audition for the choral group. In my junior and senior years, I won the state of Florida award for "Best Male Vocalist" for pop music. My chorus teacher, Mary Joe Robertson, said, "You have such a beautiful voice, you could be an opera singer. Don't waste your talent in the Marine Corps. Why don't you audition for a scholarship to Pensacola Junior College and be a vocal opera major." I said OK and she set up the audition.

INTEREST IN OPERA:

I saw one of those TV commercials offering a double album by Luciano Pavarotti. I was 18 and I had never heard of Pavarotti. I said, "Wow, this guy is awesome." I bought his album, got my scholarship, and never looked back.

HOW HE JOINED THE ARMY: The U.S. Army Chorus was the only professional group performing at the southeastern region of the American Choral Directors' Association convention in Nashville, Tenn. Dr. [Larry] Wyatt was sitting to my left, and when they finished singing, I [thought], "Wow. If I went into the Army, I would love to do that."

Two years later, Wyatt got a call from the commander of the Army Chorus. He said they were looking for a first tenor — did he know anybody. "Yeah," he said. "I've got the perfect kid: Antonio Giuliano." God wanted me to go study singing, but he wanted me to serve my country too. And I'm doing it this way, not as an infantry guy, but as a soldier-musician.



NEW CD: A tribute to Pavarotti and Lanza.

BODYBUILDING: Bodybuilding is a very intense and beautiful sport. Like opera, bodybuilding requires discipline. I won runner-up and best pose in the Mr. Pensacola category. There are pictures on my Web site, www.antoniojuliano.com.

CURRENT PROJECT: I've created the "ARMY STRONG Sings!" program, portraying a positive image of the American soldier by presenting recitals to at-risk children in the District of Columbia public school system.

LOVE OF COUNTRY: Every time I see Old Glory flapping in the wind, I'm reminded how blessed we are to live in this country. After 9/11, some Americans said, "We deserved to be attacked." I thought "What a shame they feel this way." I wanted to say to them, "Go live in a country that is ruled by a dictator for six months, and you'll see what you have here." I love the United States of America and I thank almighty God that I was born here every day. Every person in the armed services wants the American people to know we need your prayers and we really, really appreciate them. Freedom isn't free. It never has been, and it never will be. □



TOUGH TENOR: Sgt. Giuliano is a gifted opera singer, talented bodybuilder, and a proud Army (inset pictured with his dog Gucci).