Watertown and Cercemaggiore are sister towns

To The Editor:

A delegation from Italy arrived in Watertown on May 20, and with them they brought a little of Italy to our town. From the first day, they had a full day of work.

Wednesday was a breakfast at the Watertown's Town Hall Annex. They met with our town manager, chief of police, members of the Town Council, town employees and the general public. The next day they were off to Waterbury to meet with Mayor Michael Jarjura. On Friday it was off to Hartford to meet with the Lieutenant Governor, Michael Fedele

On Sunday at the Grand Oak

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Villa, a dinner was held in their honor. They were given the key to the town and a beautiful painting of Watertown and other gifts were exchanged by the delegation from Italy and the Watertown officials. On Monday, they marched in the Memorial Day Parade alongside our town Representatives Williams and Kane. On Tuesday, they paid tribute to all the people that came through Elis Island in New York.

The Mayor, Signor Gino Mascia, the representative of the region Molise, Signor Michele Petraroia and 28 other citizens from Cercemaggiore came because many of their cousins, uncles and family members live in the Watertown/Waterbury area. They wanted to establish stronger ties with their brothers and sisters in the States.

On Sunday night, signor Michele Petraroia gave a speech, saying a seed had been planted for the two communities to explore each other culturally, commercially and gastronomically. He asked, "why did we wait so long for this to happen?"

He extended an invitation to all town officials to Molise and especially to Cercemaggiore. Father Carducci said, "We don't have much to offer, but the view that you get from our town is remarkably unbelievable. You need to go there and admire such a splendid scenery where the mountains seem to touch the sky. The people are friendly and the food is good."

Bruno Di Sisto Watertown