



Ritzzo Family Education Foundation Inc

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORWALK STUDENT EMILY KOPA IS THE FIRST-EVER RECIPIENT OF THE RITZZO FAMILY EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Norwalk, Connecticut, May 23, 2024. – The First-ever Ritzzo Family Education Foundation scholarship winner is Ms. Emily Koba, daughter of Philip and Nancy Koba of Norwalk and a 2024 Norwalk High School graduate.

Members of the Ritzzo family were on the dais at the school's award ceremony to announce and present the \$5,000 award to Ms. Koba to help her continue her education at West Virginia University.

The Foundation's mission is to enhance secondary educational opportunities for students of Italian American heritage and to especially fan the flame of education for those with Calabrian heritage.

The long-time Norwalk family formed the Foundation to honor their father's legacy, baptized Michelangelo Rizzo from the little mountain town of Platania in Calabria, and re-named Mike Ritzzo by the US Naturalization Board, the fatherless, 13-year-old, traveled alone to America in 1910. His story symbolizes the struggles and challenges of those who came during that era eager to succeed in the "new world." The Blended family of 10 children established the Foundation in his memory and in honor of the tremendous work ethic and the commitment to family and community he instilled in his children.

The Ritzzo Family Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 registered in Florida and qualifies as a tax-exempt organization for donations from any US State.

Donations made to remember loved ones will be featured on the memorial wall of the Foundation's website.
<https://www.ritzzofoundation.org/>

Attached are photos of the event.



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Emily Koba, the first-ever winner of the Ritzzo Family Education Scholarship



Members of the Ritzzo family presenting the award,



The Ritzzo Family present at the awards. Left to Right: Dr. Michael Marotto, Raffaella Marie Rizzo Fenn, Michael Ritzzo, Jr., Emily Koba, Jason Ritzzo, Jason Jr, and Michael Ritzzo, III.