

Villafranca Piemonte grants honorary citizenship to the Italian Army

The municipality also awarded the City Seal to Defense Minister Guido Crosetto and the Fanfara della Brigata Alpina “Taurinense”.

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At the Church of the Beata Vergine delle Grazie, the municipal administration of **Villafranca Piemonte** (TO) granted honorary citizenship to the **Esercito Italiano**.

With the award, the municipality sought to express its gratitude for the Army's service in protecting the community, national security and the Republic's founding values.

The ceremony was attended by the Commander of the Army's Training, Specialization and Doctrine Command, Lieutenant General **Antonello Vespaziani**, along with civilian, military and religious authorities. Representatives of the Associazione Nazionale Alpini and local residents were also present.

Parade opens the ceremony

The event began with a parade by the **Brigata Alpina “Taurinense”**. This was followed by the flag-raising ceremony, the performance of the national anthem and the screening of a video on the activities and commitment of the Esercito Italiano.

The mayor of Villafranca Piemonte, **Agostino Bottano**, presented the certificate of honorary citizenship to General Vespaziani. In his remarks, he explained that the award holds profound significance for the Villafranca community.

According to Bottano, the symbolic gesture renews the bond between the local community, state institutions and those who serve the nation every day.

Vespaziani thanks the Municipal Council

Vespaziani thanked the mayor and members of the **Consiglio Comunale**. He described the honorary citizenship as an award of particular value, accepted with pride and a sense of responsibility.

The general also stated that the award is not merely a formal act, but expresses the community's closeness to and gratitude toward the Esercito Italiano, regarded as a point of reference for the country.

During the ceremony, the **Sigillo della Città** of Villafranca Piemonte was also awarded to the Minister of Defense, **Guido Crosetto**, and the Fanfara della Brigata Alpina “Taurinense”.

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