

Vicenza Credenza

Wednesday, 26 September 2007

Day 3 of 11

Attending the U.S. Army ceremony

Army dedicates memorial garden to Nan's mom

The U.S. Army's 173rd Combat Brigade at Caserma Ederle near Vicenza, Italy dedicated a memorial garden to Nan's mother, the late Margaret Williamson, this afternoon. The ceremony was held indoors because of scattered showers.

Lisa Preysler, wife of Col. Charles Preysler, commander of the brigade, and several Army officers spoke at the dedication at which a portrait of Mrs. Williamson was presented to the base.

Nan also cut a yellow ribbon to open the garden.

Although currently deployed to Afghanistan, the 173rd is normally based at Caserma Ederle. Nan's father, the late Gen. Ellis Williamson, was the unit's first commander.

The event was the highlight of a day on which spouses of all active 173rd personnel were honored.

What does Caserma Ederle mean?

"Caserma" (ka-SIR-ma) means "barracks" in Italian.

Ederle Barracks is named for Major Carlo Ederle (EH-der-lee) of the Italian Army who was a World War I hero. A native of nearby Verona, he was wounded twice in 1916 and then killed in battle Dec. 4, 1917.



Nan with portrait of her mother, Margaret Williamson

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Here's our full itinerary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 23	24 Fly to Italy	25 Arrive in Venice	26 Vicenza Dedication of Margaret Williamson Memorial Garden	27 Vicenza to Lake Como	28 Lake Como	29 Lake Como to Rome
30 Rome	Oct 1 Rome to Florence & Tuscany	2 Tuscany	3 Tuscany to Milan	4 Fly to United States	5	6

Italian trinket supply depleted

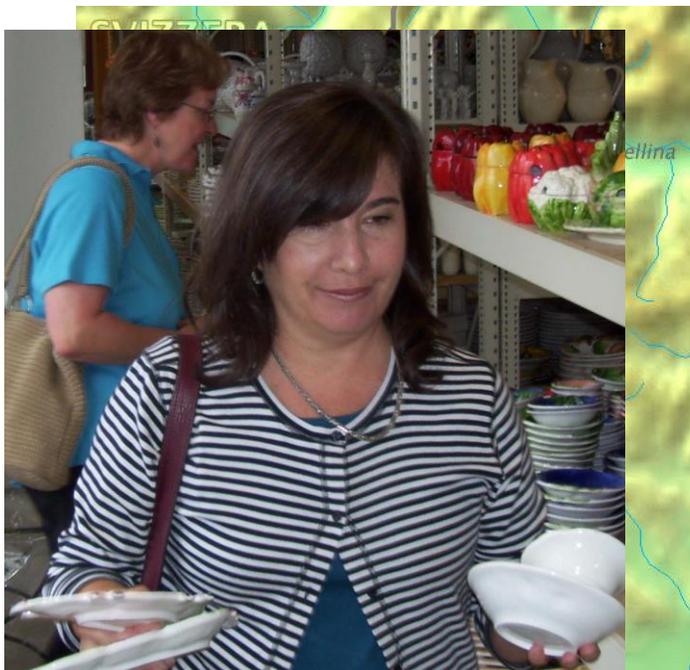
Pewter and ceramics prices hit all-time highs on Italy's commodity markets today after an American shopping expedition led by Tamela Johnston, a Texan with an eye for bargains and wife of an Army colonel based at Caserma Ederle.

Johnston led an assault to plunder a pewter place just outside the Italian town of Nove, which resulted in the purchase of a custom-designed bracelet strung with charms of tourist sites we plan to visit. That went to Beth along with a pair of earrings for Nan.

Then the column moved into Nove proper, which is located in an area of rich clay and is home to several ceramics industries. Boxes of spoon rests, trivets and bowls are now en route to the United States.



Today we travel from Vicenza, near Venice, to Lake Como, just north of Milan, by train



Would it be OK to call?

<i>When it's this time in California / it's this time in Italy</i>	<i>When it's this time in N.C. / it's this time in Italy</i>
9 a.m. / 6 p.m.	9 a.m. / 3 p.m.
Noon / 9 p.m.	Noon / 6 p.m.
3 p.m. / Midnight	3 p.m. / 9 p.m.
6 p.m. / 3 a.m.	6 p.m. / Midnight
9 p.m. / 6 a.m.	9 p.m. / 3 a.m.

Piano concert in the key of double Borgato



It looked more like an organ from the keyboard end of the instrument because of the 37-note pedal board.

The other end of this handmade piano built by Luigi Borgato looked like a concert grand piano at first glance. But at second glance, it looked like two grand pianos, the second set of strings and sounding board mounted beneath the first and connected to the foot pedals.

Mirco Bruson played a concert for Nan's mother featuring works by Robert Schumann, Cesar Franck and Johann Sebastian Bach on the instrument, which is called the Doppio (double) Borgato.

Burgato designed the instrument because he was inspired by Ludwig van Beethoven's compositions, although why they left poor Ludwig off today's program was never explained.

Today's picture pages



Beth, Nan and Jody in the Margaret Williamson Memorial Garden. The bench in the background will have a plaque commemorating Nan's mother.

Nan interviewed by the Armed Forces Network after the ceremony.



Keen eye for ceramic bargains. La Ceramica VBC in Nove, Italy produced a commemorative pattern for the State of South Carolina, which is sold at the State House in Columbia.



An unfinished ceramic bowl (left) before it goes through the kiln (right).



The interior of the Marostica Castle near Nove. The walls surround this plaza and its human-sized chessboard (on which a match with people in medieval costumes is played every two years) and stretch up the mountainside to the peak above.

Looking into the upper interior of the Doppio Borgato piano.



This angle shows the separate strings underneath played with the foot pedals.

Your tax dollars at work: Buffet line following the piano concert hosted by the Army. Great shrimp and champagne.

