

Naples artist, an old salt, adds to his collection in the Pentagon

By Suzi Hosfeld

When Larry Tofani started out as a 12-year-old street artist during the Great Depression, he never imagined that one of his paintings would hang in the Pentagon. Now he has three!

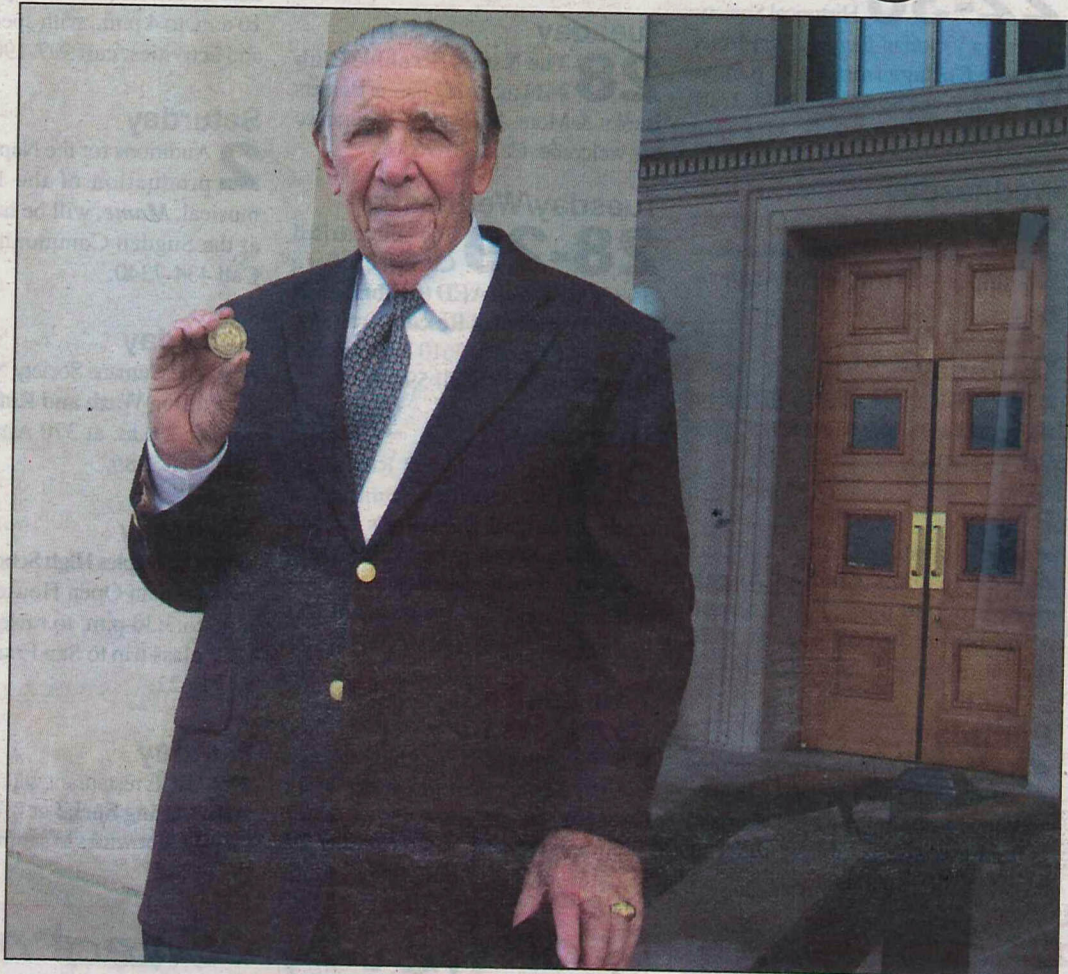
On November 14, Lorenzo, as he is nationally known, met with Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy, who thanked him for his latest contribution, a three by four foot painting of the battleship *New Jersey*. The painting is impressive enough, but it holds special memories for Lorenzo.

The painter got the royal treatment to and from the Pentagon in a chauffeured limousine. "It was a pretty big thrill," said Lorenzo, himself a one-time Navy sailor. "Just to have met with the Secretary of the Navy is almost unheard of."

Secretary Winter presented Lorenzo with a bronze medallion to show the nation's gratitude.

Just getting into the Pentagon took months to prepare, as clearance was needed, cars had to be approved, drivers and passengers cleared.

"It used to be that you just drove up to the Pentagon, now there are checkpoints, barricades, guards and more guards," stated



Larry Tofani with his bronze medallion outside the Pentagon.

PHOTO BY SUZI HOSFELD

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PENTAGON