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NJ Hall of Fame honors Marconi

By MAUREEN
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At long last, Guglielmo Marconi, patron saint of radio fans everywhere, is being recognized by the state where the Italian immigrant chose to build his primary laboratories, New Jersey.

If you listen, you can hear the volunteers at Camp Evans, on the border of Wall and Belmar, home to InfoAge and the Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club (OMARC), cheering at the news that Marconi fans succeeded. They and student voters influenced the New Jersey Hall of Fame Academy to induct Marconi, among its other inductees, into its second group of Hall of Famers.

The New Jersey Hall of Fame was created under the Sports and Exposition Authority, in 2005, "to honor great people from New Jersey," according to the Hall of Fame's executive director Don Jay Smith.

"We wanted to create role models for young people in all fields and create excitement about New Jersey history," he said.

Teachers use the voting process to instruct students about elections, according to Smith. An entire school in Gloucester County cast votes and held speeches about why their nominees should be inducted.

Marconi, whom Hall of Fame officials call "the father of radio communications," shares the Enterprise category with Carl Sagan, world-famous astronomer, scientist and author whose signature phrase "billions and billions of stars" is still synonymous with the Rahway native.

This year's inductees also include Bud Abbott (Asbury Park) and Lou Costello (Paterson), the New Jersey comedy team best known in radio circles for their classic "Who's On First" baseball routine.

Smith is a veteran of radio himself, working for station WUVA in Charlottesville, while he attended the University of Virginia.

The induction ceremony, a red-carpet affair on May 3, will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Visit www.njhallof

fame.org.

Overnight Sensations
