



**STERLING BANCORP**  
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**NEWS**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STERLING BANCORP CHAIRMAN AND CEO LOUIS J. CAPPELLI  
NAMED “MAN OF THE YEAR” BY BOYS’ TOWNS OF ITALY**

NEW YORK, N.Y., April 2, 2004 – Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL), a financial holding company with assets of \$1.8 billion, announced today that Louis J. Cappelli, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, has been selected by the Boys’ Towns of Italy as “Man of the Year.” Mr. Cappelli will be honored at the Boys’ Towns of Italy 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Ball of the Year” tonight at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City.

Founded in 1945, Boys’ Towns of Italy is one of the oldest registered United States charities authorized for service abroad. The organization provides assistance to children who are victims of abandonment, family dysfunction, domestic violence, wars and oppressive poverty. Previous Man of the Year” honorees include President Harry S. Truman and Frank Sinatra.

“It is an honor to be recognized for such a prestigious award and to be listed among such esteemed past honorees,” said Mr. Cappelli. “Boys’ Towns provides services that make a difference for children across the world. I am proud to be associated with a truly remarkable, charitable organization.”

Mr. Cappelli, a native New Yorker, is also active in other philanthropic organizations including the Catholic Youth Organization, AmeriCares humanitarian mission to Kosovo; Development Corporation for Israel Bonds; United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York and The American Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Mr. Cappelli has previously been honored by a number of organizations for his charitable contributions and business successes including State of Israel Bonds, Anti Defamation League, Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center, United Cerebral Palsy, Ohel Children’s Home & Family Services and Calvary Hospital.

**About Sterling Bancorp**

Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL) is a financial holding company with assets of \$1.8 billion, offering a broad array of banking and financial services products. Its principal banking subsidiary is Sterling National Bank, founded in 1929. Sterling provides a wide range of products and services, including business and consumer loans, commercial and residential mortgage lending and brokerage, asset-based financing, factoring, trade financing, equipment leasing, corporate and consumer deposit services, trust and estate administration, and investment management services. The Company has operations in New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina and conducts business throughout the U.S.

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