



AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.
P.O. BOX 848, JFK AIRPORT STATION, JAMAICA, NY 11430

www.columbiaassnusc.org

PHILIP J. MADDALENA.....President
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RUSS LoBELLO.....V.P. NEWARK Area

PHIL MADDALENA * 25 FORDHAM STREET * VALLEY STREAM, NY 11581
Tel # (H) 516-791-2958 Fax # 516-791-8512 Email # philmaddalena@hotmail.com

December 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving...now Christmas is almost upon us. It has been a successful year for our organization, but also a sad one because of all the members of our Customs family who have passed away. At this time of year it's a good idea to put any differences aside you may have had with any family members or co-workers. I mention co-workers with family because in most cases we spend more time at work than we do with our families. Once again, I wish to extend my gratitude to my executive committee for their support and to all my committee chairmen & members for their dedication to our programs.

To each of you, your families & the entire family of Customs & Border Protection, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and pray that past memories of joyous times will once again bring smiles to your faces. Those of you who will not be celebrating the joyous holidays, I wish you a blessed year ahead!

COLUMBUS DAY PARADE.....thanks to **Russ LoBello & Gary Boire** for all the work getting people to march in the parade and thanks Russ for making arrangements for the restaurant after the parade. Thanks also to **Marco Galiano & The Explorer Scouts** for marching with us.

30TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.....was held on Sept. 15 at Dyker Beach Golf Course in Brooklyn. While it was not a financial success (only 29 players showed up), we made approximately \$2,500. We had an enjoyable day & the weather was great. A big thanks to our Chairman, **Don Ambrosio**.

ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY.....was held on Oct. 6 at Russo's on the Bay. Our honorees were **Michael Massimino**, PhD NASA Astronaut; **Natalia Quintavalle**, Consul General of Italy in NY; **Edward Mangano**, Nassau County Executive and **Bill DeBlasio**, NYC Advocate. Our luncheon was a huge success with over 300 people attending. We had a special raffle to raise money for "Holiday Meals for Military Families". A special thank you to **Joann & Don Ambrosio** who sold the raffle tickets at the luncheon...believe it or not...we raised \$4,000 during the luncheon. A special thanks to my luncheon Chairmen-from NWK, **Russ LoBello; Bob Alvino; Rich Pahopin & Joe Mannucci**-from JFK, **Joe DiSalvo; Frank Maddalena; Pete Salamone; Bob Batchelor & Rosanna Licitra**-from Penn Plaza, **John Lombardi; Tom Campanelli & Pat Dellamura**-from Raymond Blvd NWK, **Sharon Marra**. Congratulations to **Richard Pileggi** (ret Asst Port Dir JFK). Rich was honored at our Italian Heritage Day Luncheon by The Italian Consul General. He was given the title of "Cavaliere" for his work with INS & CBP as an American & New Yorker of Italian Descent.

CONGRATULATIONS.....to **Susan (Terri) Giannetti**. Terri, who is a K9 Officer at JFK & her K9. Terri competed in the World Police & Fire Games K9 Competition recently. K9 Tery took the bronze medal in vehicle search, the gold medal in luggage search & the gold medal in overall, as in "The Best of The Best". I hope our members will reach out to Susan & give her our Congratulations!...I am filled with pride that my Granddaughter, **Samantha Maddalena** has been nominated to "La Societa Onoraria Italica" for her outstanding achievement in Italian. She was formally inducted earlier this year but I was only made aware of this recently...and I can't forget my youngest Granddaughter **Danielle Grace Maddalena** who was just awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award for her Cheerleading with the Levittown Red Devils Team.

SCHOLARSHIPS.....congratulations to our scholarship winners-**Thomas Avalone**, son of NIS **April Avalone**. Tom will attend Rutgers University in Piscataway, NJ; **Steven Lombardi**, son of NIS **John Lombardi**. Steven will attend Oneonta State University in Oneonta, NY; **Michael Mannucci**, son of Deputy Chief **Joseph Mannucci**. Michael will attend DeSales University in PA; **Nicholas Mello**, son of Import Spec **Dianne Mello**. Nicholas will attend Rockland County Community College; **Nicole Ferruzza**, daughter of CBP Officer **Vincent Ferruzza**. Nicole will attend St. Josephs College in Patchogue, NY and **Kristin Palazzolo**, daughter of Field Analysis Spec. **Priscilla Palazzolo**. Kristin will attend Villanova University in PA.

PROMOTED.....Marco Galiano to Branch Chief Enforcement, Newark...**Tom Russo** promoted to Dir NCSD (National Commodity Spec Div)...**Bill Ferri** to Asst Port Dir NWK Int'l Airport. Let's go out & celebrate.

DECEASED.....Timmy Brereton (ret Legacy Immigration Officer JFK) lost his battle to cancer on Sept. 20. Tim was a very active member of The Columbia Association & a very good friend. His legacy will be that he was bigger than life, always involved in every fundraiser & willing to help everyone. I will never forget Timmy & promise to keep his memory alive! God Bless you good buddy!!...**Michael Franzese** (ret Import Spec Team Leader JFK) passed away Sept. 18. He was really a character & a very nice guy...the mother of **John Tufano** (ret Nat'l Import Spec Asst) passed away recently. I never met her but thru my visit to the funeral home this past summer I learned a lot about this very special woman. I wish I had known her...**Kevin Walsh** (Liquidation Staff at JFK) passed away Aug. 12, 2011. While Kevin was in the hospital for depression, he contacted Infectious Meningitis & died...**Larry Rosenzweig** (ret Asst Port Dir NYC) passed away Sept 20 from complications of pancreatic cancer...**Bob Slomowitz** (ret NIS Supv) passed away from a long battle with prostate cancer...**George Kalkines** (ret NIS) passed away from cancer...**Ben Solebello** (ret Insp Waterfront) passed away...**John Will** (ret CBPO JFK) passed away in Nov...**Thomas McInerney** (ret Insp JFK) passed away Nov. 21...**Wally Diaz** (employee of H.W. Robinson Customs Broker) passed away suddenly Oct. 25. Wally was a good friend of The Columbia Association for over 30 years...**Frances Corrieri**, mother of **Teresa Natale**, former Corrections Officer & an active member of The Columbia Association passed away Nov. 4 ...**Thomas H. Kelly** (ret Office Administrator) passed away Nov. 14...**William F. McGrath** (ret Spec Agent JFK) passed away Dec. 4...**Eugene McCann** (ret Deputy Chief NWK) passed away Dec. 4...received an email from Raymond Page, the brother of **Bill Page** (ret Customs Tech JFK) advising me that Bill Page passed away in Nov. Bill was a Lifetime Member of The Columbia Association. Bill suffered a very severe stroke a few years ago that left him confined to a wheel chair. Ray says that Bill talked about the Italian Heritage Day luncheons we had at Russo's & how he enjoyed attending them. I knew Bill over 30 years & I was happy to be his friend. Please pray for our deceased.

RETIREES..... (from Penn Plaza, NYC)-Division Director (NCSD) **Robert Swieripski**; Nat'l Import Spec Asst **Maureen Marturano**; **Patricia Millan** & **Doris Rabinowitz**... (from Newark Area)-CBP Officers **Bill Backlund**; **Robert Barajas**; **Rich Cotugno**; **Fred Ivarone**; **Jack & Emily Kiershules** & **Norma Sullivan**; Secretary **Denise Williams** & Program Mgr **Mike Choma**... (from JFK)-Supvs **Jerry Pavone**; **Pete Pietrowski** & **Anthony Contorno**; Deputy Chief **Bob Stabile**; CBP Officers **Ralph Fasano**; **Junius Crawford**; **Ralph Lyons**; **Linda Inglese**; **Ken Norden**; **Bruce Bregman**; **Jules Persad**; **Dennis Wall**; **Bill Ward** & **Eileen Manna** & CBP Technicians **Ida Cruz** & **Mario Acevedo** & lastly Former JFK Area Director **Tom Mattina** who retired as Asst Port Director of Miami. May God Bless you all in your retirement!

SICK.....CBPO **Mike Fiore** having heart failure because of a previous virus he had the past year...**Frank Cutrone** (ret CBPO JFK) just completed Cyberknife treatment. He will be re-evaluated by doctor next week. Please pray for our sick.

BIRTHS.....**Jeffrey Zappulla** (S/A SAC NY) & wife **Eleanore** welcomed their baby girl, **Anabella Oliva** on July 27, 2011, little brother **Antonio** (2 ½) enjoying his little sister...**Mike Zitowsky** (ret CBPO NWK) celebrating the birth of his 3rd grandchild, **Kathryn Nicole Jackson**, 9lbs 3ozs.

CHATTER.....**Rich Cotugno** (CBPO NWK) sends best wishes to all & says retirement is terrific!...**Tom Leippert** (ret Supv Insp JFK) says he had a delightful reunion of old friends from JFK in FL recently. Attending were **Pat Maher**, **Ritchie Will**, **Paul Diosegey** & **Tom & wife Marsha**. Wives & friends were also present. Ritchie & Paul live in Punta Gorda. Tom says that Customs made lifetime friendships that are truly unique...talked to **Fran LeHecka**, wife of **Charlie LeHecka** (ret Entry Chief JFK). She told me Charlie is in a wheelchair & on oxygen 24/7. I promised Fran I would stop by Breezy Point to visit soon...thanks **Tony Liberta** for your generous donation to The Columbia Association...nice talking to **Gail David** recently...& to **Teresa Natale**...it was nice to see **Tom Russo** (Director NCSD) acting as MC for retirees Party from Penn Plaza. Tom is a real class act! We played softball many years ago in a JFK league. Tom was a great shortstop & ran like a deer, not as fast as me though. I saw so many old friends at the party, like **Neil Levy** (NIS) who was on my team at JFK many moons ago. I came away from Penn Plaza retirement party with a pair of glasses! Do they belong to **Vic Bartolotto**? Where was **Phil Ward**?...thanks **Joe Accardi** for the phone call!...as I am writing, I am listening to Jimmy Durante sing "Frosty The Snowman". What a great entertainer!...happy to hear **April Avalone** getting married next year to a guy she went to High School with. Lucky guy!...does **Rich Pahopin** (Deputy Chief NWK) have a relative that puts up home siding in LI? I had a guy with the same name do repairs on my home. Come to think of it, they are probably not related - this guy was nice! (only kidding)...had dinner in NYC a couple of months ago with **Bob Alvino**, **Dom Calise** & **Marco Galiano**. Thanks a lot guys!...did I hear **Bill Ferri** retired?...**Frank Franco** (ret Insp JFK) called me recently. He hasn't changed. He is still a tough guy. He's been retired 21 years. Wow!...good talking to **Bill Kuntz**. He works in Newburgh Airport... Welcome to new member, **Joe Lopez** (Deputy Chief NWK). No one can make an Italian Cheese Cake like **Jane Manne Cordero** (CBPO JFK). Take my word for it...did **Rob Murphy's** (S/A ICE) wife have a baby yet?...thanks **Joel Rubin** for your donation...Happy Holidays everyone! Buon Natale & Buon Anno!
Fraternally,

Philip J. Maddalena
President