



AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....Time is flying! I can hardly believe that I have been retired 11 years. I don't regret not one day that I have served U.S. Customs & certainly, I am very proud to be a part of The Columbia Association of U.S. Customs & Affiliated Federal Agencies. I was voted in as President in 1982 after President **Al Cangiarella** left office. I remained President until 1985 when Special Agent **Pat Pacifico** was voted into office. Pat's term of office expired in Jan. 1987 and I was voted into office again. In April of 1992 **Joe DiSalvo** was elected President of The Columbia Association. Joe remained President for one year and had to step down because of job conflicts. The Board of Directors asked me to assume office again and I have been in office ever since. As most of you are aware, we will have an election in November. All of the present Officer's positions were appointed by me and as such, all will expire at the end of this year. Of course, anyone in office can be nominated to run for office in the next election in November. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I will visit all Areas before November and will be happy to discuss how our Election will be held. In the meantime, please support our Italian Heritage Day on Oct. 4, 2012. God Bless you and keep in touch.

31ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.....will be held on Thur, Sept. 13, 2012 at Clearview Golf Course, located at 202-12 Willets Point Blvd, Queens, NY. Price for a day of Golf, Continental Breakfast, Lunch and Indoor Buffet, with wine, beer & soda, coffee & dessert is \$150. Profits from this affair will be donated to N.Y. Families For Autistic Children, located at 164-14 Cross Bay Blvd, Howard Beach, NY. We hope you will be able to attend and support this very worthwhile charity. Starts promptly at 8am – free parking. Please contact your Area Reps for info. Looking forward to seeing you!

ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY.....will be held on Thur, Oct. 4, 2012. This year's Honorees are – **John Martuge**, The Former Director, NY Field Operations at 6 World Trade Center in NYC. Also, John will be presented a Special Award for his role on 9/11 in assuring all Customs personal were evacuated and in doing so, not one person from U.S. Customs was injured. I assure all of you that Mr. Martuge is not fully aware of the Special Award Presentation. He will become aware when he reads this newsletter. The other Honorees that day are **John Lava**, Assistant Port Director Tactical Enforcement NY/NWK; **Anthony Scandiffo**, Deputy Special Agent in Charge ICE JFK International Airport; **Mary Lapicola Marion**, Deputy Warden NYC Dept of Corrections and **Joseph Petruccio**, World Renowned Painter & Official Artist for Elvis Presley Enterprises. Once again, we need your support. Please see your area reps for tickets. Donations are \$40 per person. All are welcome to attend.

COLUMBUS DAY PARADE.....will be held on Mon, Oct. 9, 2012. We will March up 5th Avenue starting at 44th Street. The Parade usually ends at 70th Street and arrangements will be made by our Vice President, Newark, Russ LoBello to have lunch together immediately following the Parade. Please make arrangements to attend and march with The Columbia Association in this Grand Parade. Family & friends are welcome to march with us. Hope to see you! Any questions, call me at (H) 516-791-2958 or (Cell) 516-317-4840.

SCHOLARSHIPS.....my apologies to everyone for not explaining our "New" Scholarship procedures. We discontinued the Outstanding Scholar & Scholar Awards 15 years ago in order to make more Scholarships available to our Member's Children. Under the original system, we awarded only three Scholarships a year, totaling \$4,500 a year. Under the present arrangement, we award \$1,000 each to those students who qualify (if we are financially able to do so). In fact in 2008, we were able to award \$9,000 to nine High School students without disappointing anyone. This year we will award \$8,000 to eight High School students. Because of an inquiry by one of our members, I realized that I must make corrections to our Scholarship Applications. I

realize now that others may also have had questions about our Scholarship Awards but did not question us. I researched our records and found that we have awarded \$81,000 in Scholarships to our Member's Children in the past 15 years (pretty good!) thanks to our Members. Unintentionally, I may have hurt some feelings and disappointed some of our applicants. I pray I have not.

CONGRATULATIONS..... **Wenne Davis** graduated from K-9 school on June 29, 2012. Her new partner is called Ari. Wenne says he is a very handsome, intelligent German Sheppard. Stay in touch, Wenne!...recent 2012 College Graduates – **Holly Mannucci**, Kings College; **Ellie LoBello**, Rutgers' University and **Dominick Calise**, Rider University. Good Luck to everyone!

PROMOTED..... **Jeannine Pernciaro** (Supply Chain Spec JFK) promoted to Program Mgr in Washington, DC...**Hope Abada & Anthony Grossi** promoted to National Import Specialist (NIS)...**Ed Fox** promoted to Chief of Staff, Port of NY/NWK...JFK Watch Commander, **Frank Russo**, promoted to Border Security Coordinator at NY Field Office.

RETIRED..... Pete DiRocco (Deputy Chief JFK) is officially retired...

BIRTHS..... **Dr. Fred Aziz** (Former Insp JFK) & wife **Kristine** celebrating the birth of identical twins, **Christian & Alfred**. They were born on July 20, 2012 & were two pounds each. They are home now & are doing very well...**Deb Edwards Gerbosi** (ICE Agent) gave birth to **Ava Gerbosi** on Aug 9/ 2012, weight 7lbs 14 ozs. Best Wishes to all!

DECEASED..... **Philip Gemo** (ret. Customs Agent, NYC) passed away on July 11, 2012. He was 95 years young...**Pat Sullivan** (ret. Legacy Immigration) passed away on Aug. 4, 2012. He was a real nice guy. Pat is the father of **Mikie Sullivan** (CBPO on TDY in Canada)...**Margaret Doherty**, Mother of **Sean Doherty** (Director C-TPAT NY Field Office) passed away in Aug...**Angela Modugno**, sister of **Gino Pira** (CIE Supv Penn Plaza) passed away in Aug. Please Pray for our deceased.

SICK..... **Mike Fiore** (Imp Spec NWK) battling numerous ailments, including Congestive Heart Failure is on The Leave Share Program...**Fred Iavarone** (ret. CBP Office JFK/NWK) out of the hospital with two new hips & on his way to recuperation. Miss you pal! Hope to see you soon...**Frank Desiderio** (Senior Law Partner of Grunfeld, Desiderio et al) will go into the hospital for a knee replacement (old football injury)...also just heard that **Tom Russo** (Director National Commodity Spec Div Penn Plaza) is also going into the hospital to have a hip replacement. Good Luck Everyone. Please Pray for our sick.

CHATTER..... **Sharon Marra** (Reg Audit NWK) & husband celebrated their 30th wedding Anniversary on the Amalfi Coast in Italy. They visited Rasello, Amalfi, Positano, Ischia & Castelabbate, Caserta & Rome. Sharon also mentions that 6 people from Reg Audit visited Italy in the last 9 months...**Wayne Biondi** (Asst Director NTC-P, VA) writes to say he enjoyed his stay at JFK as Acting Port Director and thanks The Columbia Association for inviting him to our social events. Wayne also says hello to all his friends at JFK & Newark and asks everyone to stay in touch...visited **Frank Franco** (ret. Customs Insp JFK) at home in Staten Island. I can hardly believe Frank is 85 years young. He has been retired 24 years. Thanks to his wife **Betty** for lunch...while I was in Staten Island, I also visited the wife of **George Santucci** (ret. Supv Import Spec JFK). George passed away four years ago...never have to worry about talking to my Customs friends – **Pat Dellamura & John Lombardi** call me every week to check up on me. I enjoy it!...no one asked, but my son **Frank** calls me every day! (I'm bragging)...of course you wouldn't know unless I told you but **Paul Russo** (ret. Customs Insp NWK & Past President of The Columbia Association) and I talk about 10 times a week on the internet. Paul now lives in Bluffton, SC...I also talk to **Ralph Conte** (ret. NIS) on FaceBook. Ralph lives with his daughter in Friendswood, TX...**Sharon Marra** (Reg. Audit NWK) says she will become a Lifetime Member. Thanks Sharon. Anyone else?...it was nice meeting Deputy Special Agent in Charge, **Anthony Scandiffo**. A real nice guy! I am proud that he accepted our invitation to be one of our honorees at our Italian Heritage Day on Oct. 4!...I was very happy to see Agents **Rosanna Licitra, Robert Buonaspina, Christian Andretta & Bob Puglisi**, all members of The Columbia Association...Opps! Almost forgot I also talked to **Lauren Zizzo** (Seized Property Spec), the wife of my good friend **Ray Zizzo** (CBP Supv JFK)...**Mario Tilelli** (CBPO NWK) will retire at end of this year. Mario sent in his check for \$100 to become a Lifetime Member. Thanks pal!...**David Copozzi** (CBPO JFK) became a Lifetime Member in May! Thanks pal!...does anyone remember **Maddalena Beltrami**? She worked for me many moons ago in the Entry Section at JFK. Well, Maddalena (Maddie) is now known as Maddie Bowers and has retired as Head of The Entry Section in Los Angeles. I came across Maddalena on FaceBook. She is now a Lifetime Member of The Columbia Association. I went to her wedding many years ago when she became **Mrs. Eugene Marino**. Everyone teased us years ago and said if Maddalena married me she would be known as **Maddalena Maddalena**, ha! ha! Miss ya beautiful!

DUES ARE DUE!!! \$15 A YEAR!

Faternally,

Philip J. Maddalena
President