



**AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.**  
**P.O. BOX 848, JFK AIRPORT STATION, JAMAICA, NY 11430**  
**[www.columbiaassnusc.org](http://www.columbiaassnusc.org)**

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, the end of the year is here and I am still President. I was hoping we would get some interest from some of our present officers to run for office. Unfortunately, I did not give our membership enough time to plan to run for office. I made my plans to retire in October after our Italian Heritage Day, but with the unexpected tragedy of "Sandy" I was not able to schedule meetings and discuss my plans with our members. I have been asked to rethink my plans to retire. I will gladly do that until our members have more time to think about running for office. The good news is that I have asked **Pat Dellamura** (NISA) to replace **Tom Campanelli** (ret. NIS) as Vice President representing Penn Plaza. Thanks Pat for accepting this very prestigious position. In the meantime, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year and Happy Holidays to all our friends.

**ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY.....**was held on Thurs, Oct. 4, 2012. As everyone mentioned, this was one of our best affairs ever. Our honorees were **John Martuge**, the Former Director NY Field Operations at 6 World Trade Center in NYC, who was presented a Special Award for his role on 9/11 at the Trade Center. Other honorees were **Anthony Scandiffio**, Deputy Special Agent in Charge of ICE JFK; **John Lava**, Assistant Port Director Tactical Enforcement NY/NWK; **Mary LaPicola Marion**, Deputy Warden NYC Dept. of Corrections & **Joseph Petruccio**, World Renowned Artist & Official Artist for Elvis Presley Enterprises. The acceptance speeches by our honorees were outstanding and attendance by our members was one of the best. Thank you all for your support.

**COLUMBUS DAY PARADE.....**was another success. Thanks again to **Russ LoBello** (Dep Chief NWK) for making arrangements for our luncheon after the parade. A big thanks to **Gary Boire** (Dep Chief JFK) for making arrangements for the Explorer Scouts from JFK to march in the parade. The Explorer Scouts made a nice presentation in marching up Fifth Avenue with The Columbia Association. Thank you to everyone involved for your dedication to our Annual Parade.

**RETIRED.....****Tom Fresolone**, CBP Officer JFK retired on Sept. 28, 2012. Tom served 30 years with Customs & is a Lifetime Member of The Columbia Association...**Terry Taddeo**, Intel Analyst Penn Plaza retired on Jun. 30, 2012. A good friend & a Lifetime Member of The Columbia Association. Terry is now in sunny Florida with her parents. Good luck beautiful!...**John Cronin**, Special Agent retired on Sept. 2, 2012...**Angela Zaccardi**, Executive Director U.S. Office of Personnel Management NWK retired on Jun. 3, 2012. Angela is also a Lifetime Member of The Columbia Association...**John Mirandona**, Asst. Port Director Passenger Operations JFK...**Sean Doherty**, Director C-TPAT NY Field Operations...**Connie Colon**, Entry Specialist Team Leader...**Loretta Blanco**, Entry Specialist...**Ann Marie Konset**, Sr Import Specialist...**Lee Jacobs**, Sr Import Specialist – all JFK Airport...From Penn Plaza, NYC – **Richard Dunkel** (NIS) National Import Specialist ...**Bob Ivers** (NIS)...**Richard Laman** (NIS)...**Ken Brock** (NIS)...**Linda Hackett** (NIS)...**Roseanne Bellino** (NISA) National Import Specialist Asst...**Nancy DelVacario** (NISA)...**Dan Griffin** (NISA)...**Patricia Sweeney** (NISA)...From NJ CBP Officers – **Bill Celentano** (member of The Columbia Association)...**Scott Boron**; **Gerry Bernard**; **Pete Arrayo**; **Bob Contrada**; **John Devine**; **Terry Donnelly**; **Franklin Dobbins**; **Pete McTernan**; **Vincent Pete**; **Richard Pollitt**; **Larry Tanacredi** & **Georgine Scalzo**...Supv CBPO **Andrew Kulp** & **Vincent Chan**...Deputy Chief **Denise Dungee**...Director C-TPAT NJ **Edwin Hotchkiss**...**John Lava**, Asst Port Director Seaport, a Lifetime Member.

**BIRTHS.....****Lucille & Bill Ward** (JFK) celebrated the birth of their Granddaughter **Gabriella Lucille Galli**, born Sept. 5, 2012, 7lbs 6ozs. The parents are **Catherine & Brian Galli**. Love those Italian names!...**Ema Qytega** (Supply Chain Spec JFK) & husband **Al** are the proud parents of a baby boy, **Tristan**, born Nov. 3, 2012, 7lbs 8ozs. Everyone doing well!...Baby **Kasey Ann Brodack** has arrived! 6lbs 4ozs. Mom & baby doing well. Congrats to **Jeff, Marilyn & big brother Jason**.

**CONGRATULATIONS.....****Marianne Ward** (daughter of **Lucille & Bill Ward** JFK) became engaged on Oct. 20, 2012 to **Ryan Wegenar**. No date set for wedding...**Peter DiSalvo** graduating Summa Cum Laude from State University in Farmingdale, NY...**Anthony DiSalvo** graduating from Nassau Community College with an Associate's Degree. They are the sons of **Joe DiSalvo**, our Executive Vice President...**Lou Piropatto** (ret NIS) & wife **Mary** celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in Aug...**Lou Custini** (CBP Officer JFK) says his daughter **Amanda** graduated in Aug. with her Masters in Teaching. Lou's son **Chris** is in college & looking to work for Homeland Security! Lou also won his 15<sup>th</sup> Trophy with his Indian M/C.

**SCHOLARSHIPS.....**the following member's children were awarded \$1,000 scholarships by The Columbia Association.

**Alec Alvino**, who will attend Seton Hall University  
**Nicole D'Onofrio**, who will attend St. Johns University  
**Neil Forgione**, who will attend Rutgers University  
**Stephanie Genco**, who will attend Eastern University  
**Justine Kuntz**, who will attend SUNY Orange  
**Joseph Lombardi**, who will attend Quinnipiac University  
**Amanda Marturano**, who will attend George Mason University  
**Ariana Hudson**, who will attend Southern Methodist University  
**Bennett Sciacca**, who will attend University at Buffalo

**DECEASED.....****Whitey Strohmail** (ret Sr Insp JFK) passed away in 2012. Whitey was a good guy & was always good for a laugh. I miss him!...**Charlie Lehecka** (ret Import Specialist Team Leader JFK) passed away in Nov. 2012. Charlie had been fighting the effects of pulmonary fibrosis for quite some time & he took a turn for the worst when he was evacuated from Breezy Point during the recent storm. I spent some of my best days in Customs when we worked together in the Entry Section at Bldg #80 in JFK. Miss ya pal!...**Debra Zezima** (Former Insp JFK) lost her Dad, **Michael Zezima** in Oct. 2012. Debbie asked that all of us remember her Dad in our prayers...**Frank Cutrone** (ret Insp JFK) passed away in Nov. 2012. Frank was one of our regular breakfast members that meet once a month in Valley Stream. Frank was one of my best friends at JFK...I only learned recently that **Bertha Alweis**, the Mother of **Jay Alweis** (Import Specialist JFK) passed away in Nov. 2012...**Ray Valdes** (NIS) passed away on Dec. 29...**Jerry Conway** (Sr Insp Bklyn Piers) passed away on Dec. 29...**Michael Felleman** (ret Insp JFK) passed away in Oct. 2012...**Joan Baron** (ret Public Affairs NYC) passed on Sept. 3, 2012...**Irwin Joseph** (ret. Import Spec NYC) passed away on May 25, 2012...**Marty Schulberg** (NIS); **Sal Della Ventura** (NIS); **Sal Valenti** (NISA) all passed away recently...**Matty "Matt the Hat" Pollichino**, passed away on Dec. 8. Matt was a Team Leader Import Specialist at JFK and a long time Treasurer of our Columbia Association. I will keep your memory alive dear friend. Thank you for your dedication to The Columbia Association. Please pray for our deceased.

**CHATTER.....**had a very nice letter from a former member of the Harvar Society of U.S. Customs. His name is **Mike Raff**. He retired from JFK in 1995 as a Supervisory Import Specialist. I received a check from Mike from Boynton Beach, FL asking to become a member of our Columbia Association. It's our pleasure, Mike! Hope you enjoy our Newsletter and thanks for the extra donation...Good Luck to **Vic Bartolotto** (NISA NYC). Vic spends a lot of his time lately caring for his Mom who has Alzheimer's Disease. Prayers are with you Vic...received another letter from **Bob Maran** (ret CBP Officer) with a request to become a member of The Columbia Association. Bob lives in Charleston, SC and enjoys reading our Newsletter. He sends his regards to **Sal Forgione, Dom Calise, Wayne Biondi, Mike Verdi & Eddy Moreira**...**Joel Rubin** (ret Info Mgt Spec JFK), another new member of The Columbia Association sends his best regards to **John Martuge** from Heathrow, FL. Joel was unable to attend our Italian Heritage Day honoring John Martuge but he made a donation to The Columbia Association in John's name. Thanks, Pal!...was shocked to learn that **Gil Hendler** (ret Import Specialist JFK) had a quadruple by-pass on Jul. 11. Let me know how you are doing Gil!...Our scholarship winner, **Ariana Hudson** is the daughter of **Debbie Zezima**, former Sr Inspector from JFK, who now is employed by the Federal Maritime Commission in Texas. Congrats Debbie...Thank you to **Russ LoBello, Rich Pahopin, Al Donofrio & Bob Cicero** who showed up in Staten Island for our "Old Guys" Christmas Party.

**DUES.....**Dues are due for the New Year 2013. Only \$15 per year. Lifetime Membership is only \$150 for new members and only \$100 for those who have been members for over 10 years. Hope everyone takes advantage of our Lifetime Membership. Look for a list of our Lifetime Members in our next Newsletter. All Vice Presidents will be issued a list of members who have not paid dues in over two years. You will be surprised how many of your friends/co-workers are no longer members.

Faternally,

Philip J. Maddalena  
President