



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

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RUSS LoBELLO.....V.P. NWK Area

PHIL MADDALENA
25 FORDHAM STREET
VALLEY STREAM, NY 11581

Tel # (H) 516-791-2958 Fax # 973-924-1405 Email # philmaddalena@hotmail.com

February 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....While I always attempt to be upbeat in our Newsletters, sometimes it is impossible! The past year, 2015, was sad because of the passing of seven of our retired members. How many new members have we invited to join The Columbia Association in that period? Well, there were three new members!! That includes the Tri State Area and across the Country. It's sad but true. Part of the responsibilities of every Officer of our Organization is to recruit new members. It should also be the goal of every member of The Columbia Association. Does anyone have any suggestions how to improve this situation? I will pursue this problem after our Annual Dinner Dance. Thanks for lending me your ear!

69th ANNUAL DINNER DANCE.....will be held on **Fri, June 17, 2016** at Leonard's of Great Neck, now known as "Leonard's Palazzo". This year's Honorees are **Deborah Marinucci**, Acting Director NIS Division NYC; **Denise Faingar**, Supervisory Import Specialist NYC; **Gary Boire**, Deputy Chief JFK and **Lucille Cirillo**, Deputy Chief Newark. Tickets for this Gala are \$90 per person. Your support for this affair is the main Financial Asset of The Columbia Association, which includes our Membership Scholarship Program, the Columbus Day Parade, Membership Meetings and all our Charities. Please contact your area Officers for tickets. We look forward to seeing and greeting you at this very important affair.

RETIREES.....**Jerry Schiebel** (Deputy Chief JFK), **Paul Santino** (Deputy Chief JFK), **Mike Lynch** (Deputy Chief JFK), **Ray Zizzo** (Deputy Chief JFK). I have always had a special affection for Ray. As a young kid in Bldg #80 at JFK Airport, his office was next to mine but more important he became good friends with my late son Phil, who worked for a Customs Broker. I still have Ray & my son Phil's picture hanging in my office at home. I will always be there for you Ray!

PROMOTED.....**Chris Pistone & Joe Finn** to Deputy Chief at JFK Airport. Chris's father Joe & I worked together as clerks in Bldg #80 many, many moons ago. Joe was a terrific guy! God Bless you Pal.

BIRTHS.....**Timmy & Philomena** (aka Nina), the son & daughter-in-law of **Tommy & Janey Russo**, gave birth to triplets on Dec. 28, 2015 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip. The adorable little angels are: **Lila Faith** 4lbs 7ozs, **Tenley Annalese** 3lbs 15ozs and **Blake Oliva** 3lbs 4ozs. They are all at home safe & sound. Wouldn't it have been great if they were named, **The Nina, The Pinta and The Santa Maria?**

THE COLUMBUS DAY PARADE OCT 2015.....Explorer Post Scouts Participants were:

Gary Boire (Deputy Chief)

CBP Officers – **Raylan Roopnarine, Leisa Simplice, Manual Roman, Daniel Farkas, Elia Ramos & Valerie Sanchez**

EXPLORER SCOUTS –

Alexander Takalov	Kenia Delacruz	Andrea Trejo
Marcos Reyes	Ashley Criollo	Patrick Reichert
Christian Campisi	Shereen Peralta	David Vizhnay
Stephanie Rosa	Giancarlo Trejo	Sual Lopez
John Cirollo	Teresa Asitimbay	Jonathan Zheng
Joseph Sauer	Zianna Beltran	Yajaira Palaguachi

DECEASED.....the beloved Mother of **Janet LaBuda** (Director of Textile Enforcement Washington DC ret) passed away on Oct. 23, 2015... **Tony Liberta** (Regional Commissioner U.S. Customs NY/NWK/JFK Areas ret) passed away on Jan. 22, 2016 from Pancreatic Cancer. Tony was a good friend & someone I could always approach to discuss problems relating to our job. When our meetings were over, those problems were solved! He was perfect gentleman and a credit to our Italian Heritage. Goodbye dear friend and God Bless You... **Bill Celetano** (CBPO NWK ret) passed away on Jan. 27, 2016. I knew Bill well. He was a real gentleman! God Bless You Pal... **Ralph Cipriani** (Supervisory Customs Patrol Officer JFK ret) passed away from complications due to heart disease on Feb. 22, 2016. I remember Ralph from JFK, one of the good old guys. He was loved by everyone!... **Zelda Hendler**, the loving wife of **Gil Hendler** (Import Specialist JFK ret), passed away on Feb. 24, 2016. I also knew Zelda well! God Bless You Zelda. RIP. **Please pray for our deceased.**

CHATTER.....very happy to see and talk to **Gina Juliano Lange** at her husband's retirement party. I worked with Gina and her sister **Lisa Juliano** many years ago at Bldg #80 at JFK Airport...I was happy to attend retirement party for **Mike Lynch, Mike Lange & Ray Zizzo**. Three of the greatest ever at JFK!... **Janet LaBuda** (Director Washington DC ret) mentioned to me that she ran into **Jeff Margalit** (Customs Magnate ret) while on vacation in Arches National Park in Utah! Janet says hello to all her Customs friends!...also heard from **Linda Jacksta**, wife of "The Great One" Bob!...I was honored to attend the retirement party for **Susan Mitchell** (Port Director JFK) at The Jericho Terrace in Long Island, NY. It was unbelievable to see and greet all the "Great" ones who traveled from far & near to pay their respects to Susan. It's impossible for me to remember who was there but I will try to acknowledge those who came to my table to say hello especially **Bob & Linda Jacksta** who made me feel I was being honored!! Also at my table was **Joe DiSalvo, Ken Rich, Frank Maddalena, Frank Desiderio, Karen Connelly Van Ameluxen, Rich Pahopin, Russ LoBello, Tony Maresca, Mark Rossini, John & Delia Martuge, Tony Cacchione & Jeff Margalit**. Others who stopped by to say hello were **Dylan DeFrancisci, Reggie Manning, Pete Salvato, Joe Lazzara, Bob Meekins, Ben Sciacca, Sam Stabile, Mike Lynch & Ron Suess**. I wish I could remember more!!

DUES!...DUES!...DUES!.....as I traditionally do this time of year, I am writing to you to encourage you to support The Columbia Association by sending your yearly dues. Please be aware that our dues have increase from \$15 a year to \$20 a year as of January 1, 2016!!! **Lifetime Membership** will remain the same \$150! Our latest Lifetime Members are **Dylan DeFrancisci** (Port Director Miami Seaport), **Lucille Cirillo** (Deputy Chief NWK) and **Robert Puglisi** (Special Agent JFK). **Please become a Lifetime Member!!**

Fraternally,

Phil

Philip Maddalena
President