



AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....Wow! Haven't we had a great Summer! Who needs Florida! We have Florida in New York. I won't complain this winter no matter how cold it gets. Remember to send me antidotes about former & present customs employees that you think would be interesting to our readers. Give me a call at 516-791-2958. I enjoy talking to everyone. Maybe we could even meet for coffee. Try me!!

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE.....was held on Fri, June 17, 2016 at Leonards Palazzo. Our honorees were **Deborah Marinucci**, Branch Chief National Commodity Special Division; **Denise Faingar**, also Branch Chief National Commodity Specialist Division; **Gary Boire**, Deputy Chief, JFK International Airport and **Lucille Cirillo**, Deputy Chief Newark International Airport. As everyone who attended will tell you, it was a huge success! My thanks to our honorees for their interesting speeches. Also, thanks to the **Chris Michaels Band** who had everyone up dancing. For those of you who were not aware, our honoree, **Lucille Cirillo** is the daughter of the late **Ed Kwas**, "a legend" in Customs in the NY/NJ Area. Thanks again to our honorees for making this one of our most successful Dinner Dances.

ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON.....will be held on Thur, Oct. 6, 2016 at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens. This year's honorees are **Thomas Belfiore**, Chief Security Officer Port Authority of New York/New Jersey; **Richard DiNucci**, Acting Port Director NY/NWK Area. We are awaiting responses from other possible honorees. Flyers will be posted soon. Please make arrangements to attend. As usual the price for this celebration will only be \$40 per person.

EARTHQUAKE.....a 6.2 earthquake has hit Italy. The towns most affected by the earthquake are Norcia, Umbria, Lazio and Marche. The latest death toll is at 280. Some members have inquired of me as to what we can do to try to help the people in Italy in their time of need. I have decided that The Columbia Association will match all donations from our members – up to \$5,000. I will invite the Italian Consulate General in NY to our Italian Heritage Day and present him with a check from The Columbia Association. Please make all donations Payable to The Columbia Association of U.S. Customs. Any questions, please call me at 516-791-2958.

DECEASED.....**Joan Biondi**, Mother of **Wayne Biondi** (Port Director Dulles International Airport) passed away on June 10, 2016. Wayne's Mom & Dad had me over for lunch a year ago. What special people! Mrs. Biondi succumbed to Pancreatic Cancer... Mother of **Joan Mazzola** (NIS ret) passed away on July 6 in Florida...**George Barth** (NIS ret) passed away in May. Please pray for our deceased.

35TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.....will be held on Fri, Oct. 14, 2016 at Clearview Golf Course in Queens, NY. Look for flyers to be posted soon.

CONGRATULATIONS.....to **Lou Custini** (CBPO JFK), his daughter **Amanda** married the man of her dreams (**Zach**) on Oct. 18, 2015. They bought a house already in Farmingdale and Amanda just landed a job as a school teacher. Husband Zach works for MTA! Lou's son **Chris** is a Security Specialist at a Pharmaceutical Co. Of course with all the overtime money Lou is making, he bought another Custom Indian Motorcycle...also happy to hear from my old friend **Debbie Zezima** (former Sr. Customs Inspector at JFK). Debbie tells me her daughter **Ariana** graduated from college with honors & two Bachelor's Degrees and is doing her Graduate

Degree at John Hopkins University. Ariana will be living in New Orleans for the next two years teaching at a School of Need as part of her contract for "Teach for America". Ariana thanks The Columbia Association once again for our Scholarship. Debbie, if you come up from Texas, let's have dinner together. Miss ya beautiful!!... I was happy **Frank Russo** (Asst. Director Border Security) shared the good news that his daughter **Alexandra** graduated as Salutatorian of her class and received a full scholarship to two Catholic Schools. She will attend Xaverian High School in Brooklyn. Wow! Frank and his wife **Patricia** also celebrated their 17th Wedding Anniversary on June 12. Lucky Guy!...**Michael Lombardi**, son of **John Lombardi** (NISA) writes to thank The Columbia Association for our Scholarship Grant. Mike started his freshman year at Manhattan College in NYC where he will pursue a degree in Accounting. He will also compete at the Division 1 Level playing Lacrosse. We are proud of you Mike! Please keep in touch & inform us of your progress.

CHATTER.....waiting to hear from **Tom Casella** (Import Specialist) in Miami, FL. Tom will hopefully solicit new members for The Columbia Association in FL...happy belated birthday to **Jane Manne** (CBPO JFK). Her daughter **Jennifer** turns 28 on Sept. 2...**Pete DiRocco** (Deputy Chief JFK ret) celebrated his wife **Zofia's** birthday at the Baci Bistro in Kailua, Hawaii...**Joe DiSalvo, Jr.** (Program Manager at JFK) is getting married to his Princess Meghan on Sept. 18...**Al Cangiarella** (Past President Columbia Association) always writes & calls to keep in touch. Sorry I missed your last couple of calls Pal! Al sends best regards to all. If you have ever received a card or letter from Al, please take note of his penmanship. He puts John Hancock to shame. I have been told they do not teach penmanship anymore in school. Miss ya Al! Hope your wife is feeling better...for those of you retirees who have not made one of the Breakfasts at Mitchels in Valley Stream, you are missing out on seeing at least 25 friends at every breakfast. Remember, we meet every month. Keep in touch to get info! Believe it or not – everyone talks to each other!!...I still visit Bldg. #77 at least twice a month. Always good to see old friends & meet new ones...I had dinner at **Bob Cicero's** (CBPO JFK) house on the water in Freeport, Long Island. Bob & his lady (**Joanna**) are the perfect host & hostess. Thanks for the invite!...Congratulations to **Bill Kuntz** (CBPO NWK ret) on completing the 4th Degree in the Knights of Columbus. Join the Color Corp Bill!...happy to meet **Joe Scalici** (CBPO NWK) through St. Anthony of Padua Knights of Columbus in Staten Island. I am the Grand Knight and Joe just recently became a member. Joe was a member of The Columbia Association at JFK but I never met him. Good Guy!...**Samir Attia** (Supv. Entry Specialist JFK) is one of the good guys in Customs (Homeland Security). He has a good word and a smile for everyone!. Thanks Pal!... **Fred Aziz** (CBPO JFK ret) is a doctor in Virginia. Talked to Dr. Aziz on the phone a couple of weeks ago...also talked to **Harold Badaracco** (Chief JFK ret) about a month ago. He said we will get together for lunch soon. Give me a call! I'm Hungry!...**Marty Black** (Supv CBPO JFK ret) riding all over my neighborhood in Valley Stream on his bicycle!...To **Loretta Blanco** (Entry Specialist JFK ret), when are we getting together for lunch??...always good to see **John Swift** (CBPO JFK ret) on Facebook. He always has intelligent things to say!...had a phone call from **Raj Thackurdeen** (CBPO JFK ret). Raj was hurt in an accident and was forced to retire. He now lives in Newburgh, NY. We were always good friends. Keep in touch Pal!...Facebook also keeps me in touch with **Shelly Meza** (Entry Spec. JFK ret) and **Maryann Verdi** (Entry Spec. JFK ret)...I am looking forward to visiting One WTC to see the spectacular view and to visit my Customs friends!...Can't think about my late friend **Henry Hill** (NIS) without also thinking about **Ed Nagel** (Director Fines & Penalties NWK) and **Mike Zitowsky** (CBPO NWK ret). We had a blast going to Coney Island for lunch & riding the bumper cars. The people at Coney knew us by our 1st names. Of course we worked at JFK then...for those members that work at Newark & Port Elizabeth, I will be attending your **4th Annual Employee Diversity Day Event on Sept. 15, 2016** representing The Columbia Association as your President. I will have a table with literature from The Columbia Association and will be soliciting membership. Please come over to say hello and give me a hand. God Bless you all!!

DUES ARE DUE!!...

Dear Members,

Dues are the life blood of our organization.

Please note dues are \$20 per year, \$10 for retirees

Lifetime Membership is \$200 for eternity!!!

Fraternally,



Phil Maddalena
President