



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

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September 2019

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Members...for most of us this is probably the last time of the year to get together. We have just 13 days left until our 23rd Annual Italian Heritage Luncheon at Russo’s. Let’s make it a joyous occasion and make plans to attend. For us retirees, this is the perfect opportunity to talk about each other and who was the best and the least liked (only kidding)!!. Help keep The Columbia Association viable and able to continue our Scholarship Program.

23rd ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON.....will be held on Thurs. Oct. 3, 2019 at Russo’s on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens. As most of you are aware, now that we will no longer have our Annual Dinner and Dance in May, our luncheon will be the only function for our members & friends of the Columbia Association to attend. Last year we had 320 people attend. We hope for the same turnout in two weeks as we honor our Honorees for this year. They are **Kim Ciccolella**, Assistant Chief CBP JFK and **Rev. Anthony Cardone**, former NYPD Officer, Special Agent Bureau of ATF, Special Agent U.S. State Dept & Chaplain PAPD. Let’s make this luncheon another success for our Columbia Association. Please purchase your tickets from me or your designated Officers where you work.

CONGRATULATIONS.....To **Dylan DeFrancisci**, the Port Director Port Everglades/Fort Lauderdale. He will serve as the Acting Port Director New York/Newark as of July 2019...**Patrick Contino**, son of retired NIS **Mike Contino** was recently promoted to GS13 CBP Supervisory Officer in the Narcotics Division at JFK.

RETIREES.....forgot to mention my good friend **Rafael (Raffy) Corro**, (Pau CBP JFK) retired on May 31, 2019. Good Luck Pal!

SICK.....**Bob Meekins** (ret Assistant Area Director JFK) broke his hip on a cruise ship vacation. He is doing well!...**Joel Rubin** (ret Info Management Specialist JFK) receiving Chemo for his Lung Cancer. Joel says he has lost weight & his hair but he went on a Cruise with his family in Aug. You’re a fighter Joel! Please pray for our sick.

DECEASED.....Andy Garay (ret Auditor WTC) passed away on Sept. 8 from Pancreatic Cancer...Wally Kingman (ret Asst. Chief Cargo Branch JFK) suffered a fatal heart attack mowing his lawn. Please pray for our deceased.

DUES.....my thanks for the following members for paying their dues – **Jay Alweis, Debra Brown, Anthony Cortorno, Richard Cotugno, Lou Custini, Wendy Davis, Emil Grossi, Alfonso Marciante, Deborah Marinucci & Joan Prato**. As per our previous Newsletter requesting a response to our mailing asking for outstanding dues, we will now remove those that did not respond from our mailing list. If there is anyone unable to pay our dues, please contact me by email or telephone, I will make arrangements for you to remain on our mailing list. 516-791-2958 or philmaddalena@hotmail.com.

CHATTER.....always enjoy talking to **Wayne Biondi** (ret Port Director Dulles Airport). Wayne says he's doing background checks & investigations for DHS Applicants & those seeking to do work for the Government. Wayne's wife, **Debbie**, is working with CBP at the National Targeting Center with the Operational Support Division...met **Pat Maher** (ret Supply Chain Specialist JFK) at our breakfast recently. She looks great – lost 46 pounds, WOW!...**Paul Rivosecchi** (ret Supervisory Insp. FL) and I talk on the internet all the time. He is a great guy!...it was nice to see the following Customs Retirees at **Wally Kingman's Memorial** – **George Burns, Sean Dougherty, Gil Abrams, Bob Meekins, Dick Tracey & Tom Falanga**. Sorry I missed **Joe Smith**, Opps!!...a big thank you to **Wayne Biondi** for his very generous donation to The Columbia Association. I have deposited it in our Scholarship Fund...I always enjoy running into **Marty Black** (ret Supervisory Insp JFK) as I drive around Valley Stream & Lynbrook, LI. Early in the day Marty can be seen riding his bicycle. Of course, we have to talk about 30 minutes...my thanks to **Patti Buffolino** (ret Supervisor OAS WTC) for putting together the monthly lunch meetings for our retirees in Valley Stream, Lynbrook & now Freeport, LI. I love it. Patti has also passed along information on bus trips. I'm all for that also!...went to visit **Kim Ciccolella** at the Mail Branch JFK...how nice to see all my old friends like **Frank Anton, Mark Maher, Steve Solarsh & Gio DiMaiolo**...nice to visit **Anthony DiChiara** (Supervisor CBP JFK) at Bldg. #77...also dropped by to say hello to **Joe Perone** (Supervisory Import Specialist)...and I mustn't forget **Michelle Stanley** (Entry Specialist) who gave me a big hug & kiss (on my cheek)...it was nice to run into **Gloria & Tony Stingone** (ret Import Spec) at Hofstra Italian Festival. **Hope to see you on Oct. 3!!!**

Fraternally,

Phil

Philip Maddalena
President

Columbia Association of
U.S. Customs & Affiliated Federal Agencies
www.columbiaassnusc.org



P.O. Box 848, J.F.K. Airport Station,
Jamaica, New York 11430

23rd Annual
Italian Heritage Day
Luncheon Celebration

Thursday, October 3, 2019
at
Russo's On The Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard, Howard Beach, NY

HONORING

<p>Rev Anthony Cardone Former NYPD Officer Special Agent Bureau of ATF Special Agent U.S. State Dept. Chaplain - PAPD</p>	<p>Kim Ciccolella Assistant Chief CBP JFK US Customs and Border Protection</p>
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All are welcome to attend!!!
Donation: **\$50.00** Per Person
Cocktail Hour 12:00pm - 1:00pm / *Dinner* 1:00pm - 4:30pm

For Tickets, Contact:

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