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July 2024

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.....**

Hope our readers enjoyed our Mother’s and Father’s Day Holidays. I have been advised that many of our members and friends have still become infected with Covid. Be cautious and wear your masks on your shopping sprees again. I had to miss my July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration Upstate in Salisbury, NY because of Covid Pneumonia. Thanks to my son Frank & my girlfriend Margie’s insistence, I was taken by ambulance to Mt Sinai South Nassau Hospital for a 4 day stay to be treated for Covid Pneumonia.

For the past 77 years, the Columbia Association has been a cornerstone in promoting a spirit of brotherhood, honor, courtesy and integrity within our agency. As I reflect with pride on the growth and accomplishments of our Association, I am happy to say that without question our success is the result of the unfaltering dedication of our members, past and present.

To those of you of Italian Heritage, remember your Italian Heritage is in jeopardy. We must fight for the preservation of Columbus Day as a National Holiday. This past year, Columbus Day and our Italian Heritage were all in jeopardy. It is up to our youth to take the challenge to protect our rich Italian Cultural Heritage.

**CONGRATULATIONS.....**to **Joseph Sauer**, son of **Mike Sauer** (C-TPAT JFK). Joe is a former Explorer Scout at JFK. He was sworn in as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the U.S. Air Force. Joe was also married to his **Princess Cayden Horne** on July 28, 2024, in Florida.

**DECEASED.....**we are all deeply saddened to inform our membership and friends of the passing of **Leon Horowitz**, a lifetime friend of **Hope Abada** and the Columbia Association. He passed away on Jan. 4, 2024 ...**Al Barnett** (ret Import Specialist Team Leader JFK) passed away on Feb. 26, 2024...**Jane Black**, wife of **Marty Black** (ret Supervisory Customs Insp JFK) passed away on Mar. 29, 2024...**George Cipriano** (ret Supervisory Customs Insp JFK) passed away on Apr. 28, 2024...**Bruce Corey** (ret. CBPO-I believe) passed away on Apr. 4, 2024 ...**Ken Thompson** (Sr. Insp JFK) passed away on May 10, 2024...**Roger Silvestri** (ret Director National Import Specialist Division NYC) passed away on Jun. 10, 2024. Roger was the father of **Steve Silvestri** (Asst Port Director of Fort Lauderdale FL)...**John Khantzian** (ret Supervisory Customs Insp JFK) passed away on Jul. 21, 2024. Thank you for the monthly breakfast for our retirees John. Thanks for the memories. **Please pray for our deceased.**

**BIRTHS.....****Anthony DiSalvo**, son of “The Guru” **Joe DiSalvo** (ret Head Protest Section) has been blessed with the birth of a baby boy named **Milo DiSalvo**...**John and Mary Naclerio** became Grandparents to Son Michael’s baby girl, **Hailey**, 8lbs. This is their 4<sup>th</sup> Grandchild. All Girls, ages 13, 3 and 3months...**Jerry and Donna Monaco** celebrating the birth of their 2<sup>nd</sup> Grandson. **God Bless everyone.**

**SICK.....****Fred Iavarone** (ret CBPO JFK) spent a week recently in the hospital...**Ritchie Schmidt** (ret CBPO NWK) had a kidney removed recently. Ritchie adds to his "Ripley" records of hospital operations...**Bob McCrossen** (ret S/A) has been through enough surgeries that he could write a book. Your friends have been asking about you Bob. Give me something good to write about you. Miss ya Pal. **Please pray for our sick.**

**CHATTER.....**welcome to **KellyAnn Caravello**, a member of the **U.S. Park Police** and a new Lifetime Member of the Columbia Association of U.S. Customs. Of course, the name is familiar, her Mother is **Jean Caravello** (Import Specialist JFK). Kelly's auto was stolen a couple of months ago and the thief found our Membership card in the car and threw it out. It was picked up by a good Samaritan and brought to a local police station. The police contacted me at home, and I put them in touch with Kelly. Kelly's car was recovered upstate by the police. I also heard you injured your wrist on the job Kelly. Hope you are back to normal. Also hope your Mom is well...always nice talking to **Chris Kane** (Customs Attorney)...happy to hear from **Angelo Sferrazza**. Thanks for your dues...nice talking to **John LaForgia** (ret CBPO JFK) who now calls Troy, NY his home...always happy to hear from **Raffy** (ret CTPAT JFK)...thank **Ray Varga** (ret CBPO JFK) for keeping in touch...Thanks also to **Vincent Ferruzza** (ret SCBPO JFK) for your dues...**Joe Accardi** (Lifetime Member) continues to send dues to Columbia Association. Thanks for your \$30 donation...after trying to reach out to our good friend **Camille Polimeni** (ret Area Director JFK) for a couple of years, I was pleasantly surprised when I received this note from Camille this past March. I am attaching it for your reading pleasure!

*Hi Phil,*

*Kevin and I were delighted to receive the Newsletter. I am embarrassed for not getting in touch sooner. Please forgive me. So nice to hear you are a great grandfather. Congrats to you and Frank! How time flies! Kevin and I are doing well. We escaped the Florida heat the past two summers in Montreal. It was a nice time. Had to brush up on my French - and Kevin took lessons but most speak English anyway.*

*Exciting news for both me and Kevin - I obtained my Italian citizenship "jure sanguinis" one year ago. Kevin also got his Irish citizenship. We hope to get to Europe this summer. It was easy for Kevin to get his Irish passport, but I've been trying to get mine for almost a year. Seems the town in Italy has to register me on their books before I can apply for one. The Consulate in NY sent in a request to register me but no action has been taken in Italy. The Consulate in Miami said for me to contact the town directly or have the Consulate in NY follow up. I emailed the NY Consulate who told me to contact the town. So I have been emailing the town of Adriano - but of course they never reply. Those Italians!*

*My niece got married last September and guess who performed the ceremony- Father Anthony Cardone. It was nice seeing Anthony. You remember, my sister and I have known him since we were teenagers. My niece got married in the same church as her mother, which is the same high school/church that Marianne and I attended. Seems she started a tradition. My mother, God bless her at 97, thoroughly enjoyed herself.*

*Well again, thanks for sending the newsletter.*

*Wishing you well,*

*Camille*

**NEW CBP BUILDING.....****Francis Russo** (Director of NY Field Operations for Homeland Security) informed the JFK Brokers & Freight Forwarders at a Local meeting at JFK International Airport that CBP would be moving from Building 77 to the FAA Building on Rockaway Blvd. sometime in 2026 and that the new CES Facility managed by WFS would be Headquartered at the new Bldg. 260.

Fraternally,

*Phil*

Philip Maddalena

President