



AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members, I am very happy to yield this space to **Mr. Frank Russo**, The Port Director of JFK International Airport. Mr. Russo addressed our Honorees, Members & Guests at our 21st Annual Italian Heritage Day Luncheon on Oct. 5, 2017.

Italian-Americans consider Christopher Columbus a symbol of progress and cultural pride. But recently, critics have condemned Columbus for the enslavement of native peoples in the Caribbean islands. Legislators in Los Angeles recently voted to eliminate Columbus Day and renamed the holiday to honor "indigenous, aboriginal and native people. The city now joins San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, Berkeley, Santa Cruz and the states of South Dakota, Hawaii, Alaska, Maine and Oregon, in celebrating indigenous, aboriginal and native people rather than the famed explorer.

It is a travesty to blame Christopher Columbus himself for genocide at all. He bore no responsibility for it and as a matter of fact, if you do the slightest little bit of history on the man and read his diaries, and what was said about him following the years of the discovery, it is clear that Columbus personally had great affection for the indigenous people he encountered and went out of his way to order his men not to abuse them in any fashion.

Meanwhile, a commission appointed by Mayor De Blasio, the fake Italian, is examining whether controversial historical figures honored with monuments on public grounds are "oppressive and inconsistent with the values of New York City" — and subject to possible removal or alteration.

As an Italian-American leader who is proud of his heritage, I am deeply offended and you should all be too. I get it, it's easy to pick on Italians these days. The country might not be the power house it once was, and we are peaceful people who generally do not put up much of a fight when it comes to these issues.

The level of pretension by politicians and the media's ill-advised and divisive commission has created an atmosphere of ethnic tension and division. And I can tell you this, alienating Italian Americans and Catholics for that matter, is not a "healing" gesture.

I congratulate Fred Rizzo, Colleen Piccone, Judge DelGiudice and Sam Amer for their dedication to this country. Through their efforts, they have honored Columbus and are proud Americans. They might not have statues erected to honor them, but today, know that when I look at a Columbus statue, I will think of you and all Italian Americans who followed Columbus and honored his legacy with integrity and service to this country.

*As leaders for your respective agencies, you embody Columbus' drive for adventure and exploration. He would be proud of your accomplishments. So today, let's focus on honoring Columbus, and all the great Italian Americans who have helped shape this country. Because, after all, if we take down statues but leave terrible policies and politicians in place, what have we really accomplished?
God bless you all.*

36TH ANNUAL OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT.....was held on Fri, Sept. 15, 2017 at Clearview Golf Course, Queens, NY. **Paul Rivosecchi**, Former U.S. Customs Supervisor & TSA Executive was honored by The Columbia Association for his long association with our organization. Paul started the 1st Golf Tournament for The Columbia Association 36 years ago at Swan Lake Golf Course in Long Island, NY. We presented Paul with a plaque for his dedication. Thanks Paul for flying up to NY with your wife for this honor.

21ST ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON.....was held on Thur, Oct. 5, 2017 at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens. Our honorees were **Colleen Piccone**, Associate Chief Counsel U.S. Customs & Border Protection; **Judge Vincent M. DelGiudice**, Justice of Kings County Supreme Court; **Fred Rizzo**, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Homeland Security Investigations JFK and **Ibtisam Amer**, Border Security Coordinator NY Field Office. My compliments to our honorees and to our membership for your outstanding support and of course to the Customs Community. Thanks for your continued support over all these years.

COLUMBUS DAY PARADE.....thank you to the members of The Columbus Association who marched up 5th Ave. in NYC on Oct. 9, 2017, especially the Color Guard & The Explorer Scouts. For the 6th year in a row we were featured on TV. After the parade we enjoyed a dinner at the Dallas BBQ in Upper NYC. All 42 Marchers! Our day ended on a special note. A block away from the restaurant, a gentleman knocked on the window of one of our vehicles to introduce himself to our officers! His introduction wasn't necessary as we all recognized him as the Former Secretary of Homeland Security, **Jeh Johnson!!** Everyone was excited to greet and shake the hand of Mr. Johnson. He gladly greeted & talked to all of us as we took group pictures. He even took out his own camera & I took pictures for him of our Officers and himself. What a nice surprise and what a nice guy!!!

BIRTHS.....**Joseph DiSalvo** (Head Protest Section JFK) & wife **Anne** are celebrating the birth of their 1st Grandchild **Joseph DiSalvo**. The proud parents are **Joseph DiSalvo** (Program Manager at JFK) & wife **Megan...Barbara** (NIS WTC) & **Dave Kaiser** (Chain Specialist JFK C-TPAT) also celebrating birth of a Granddaughter, **Elizabeth Mackenzie Kaiser**. The proud parents are **Dan & Jen Kaiser...Lou Custini's** (CBPO JFK) daughter Amanda gave birth to son Brayden Zagherly in June. Life is beautiful!!

CONGRATULATIONS.....**Vito Gualario's** (NIS ret) Grandson **Ronald Clearie** accepted into Rowan School of Medicine...**Dylan DeFrancisci** (Port Director Miami Seaport) & wife, **Michelle** excited that daughter **Danielle** has successfully completed all requirements to be a Brownie Girl Scout!...Congrats to **Pat Orender** (Assistant Port Director Dulles Airport) on his receiving a plaque from St. Francis KofC Council #11136 in Purcellville, VA as "Family Man of The Year"...also **Bill Kuntz** (CBPO ret) received award from Msgr. Henry O'Carroll KofC Council #444 as "Knight of the Year".

SICK.....**Eddie Klein** (NISA ret) 7 months into his hip operation is having a slow recovery. Ed was operated on May 4, 2017...**Joe DiSalvo** (Head Protest Section JFK) had a fall taking a walk in his neighborhood on Aug. 13, 2017 and broke his right shoulder. Joe had surgery in late Aug and is on the mend...**Steve DelCasino** (S/A JFK ret) was very concerned when his doctor thought he might have a return of bladder cancer when he performed a biopsy on Steve. Steve says it appears he dodged a bullet. Biopsies were negative but bladder cancer is highly likely to return. Steve says he is enjoying the good news and will worry about tomorrow! Tomorrow!! We are all in your corner, Steve! Please pray for our sick.

NEWEST LIFETIME MEMBERS.....**Fred Rizzo** (Assistant S/A JFK ret), **Thomas Pagano** (CBP Officer JFK). Lifetime Membership is \$200. **Alfonso Marciante** (CBPO JFK) became a yearly member at \$20 per year.

DECEASED.....**Seamus Greenan** (S/A NY ret) passed away recently...**Sandy Baach** (Supv Insp. JFK ret) lost his battle to cancer on Aug. 29, 2017. I will miss you Pal! Please pray for our deceased.

CHATTER.....attended Annual Diversity Day in Newark NJ on Sept 14, 2017. Great to see our NJ members & friends. **Russ LoBello, Al D'Onofrio, Ed Fox, Dom Calise, Leon Haywood** amongst others...Also attended **Italian Heritage Day at World Trade Center on Sept. 19**. **Ms. Ibtisam Amer** (Border Security Coordinator NY Field Office) was honored for her years of service to Homeland Security and her retirement. Sam was very humble with her remarks and those in attendance made it known she will be missed for her expertise...Happy to hear **Ray Vargas** (Sr Inspector JFK ret) & family doing well recovering from hurricane in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico...enjoyed **Debbie Corriero's** going away party held on Aug. 3 at the Pompei Restaurant in Hempstead. Debbie off to Washington DC for better things! Good Luck Deb!...One of my Facebook friends mentioned to me that her Grandfather was **Gregory W. O'Keefe**, The Assistant Collector of Customs sometime in the 30's or 40's. Can anyone give me some history of this gentleman. I think he was born in Brooklyn, NY. But who wasn't??...Did I mention **Reggie Manning** (Port Director of the Southern Border) retired May 4, 2017?...**Harvey Davis** (CBP Supv. JFK ret) on vacation in Saugerties NY stopped by to visit his buddy **Jack Conti** (S/A JFK ret)...heard from **Tom Lippert** (Supv. U.S. Customs ret) & **Marsha Lippert** (Sr Insp. JFK ret) from Florida. Tom mentions although he & his wife have lost several parts of their anatomy in operations, they are doing well for 80 years old!! Tom also mentions he stays in touch with **Paul Watford** (Sr Insp. JFK ret) & **Muriel Kay** (Supv. CBP JFK ret)...it was also great to see old time broker from Bldg 80, Jerry Brady at our Italian Heritage Day Luncheon. What a treat talking to him.

Fraternally,

Phil

Philip Maddalena
President