



AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.  
 P.O. BOX 848, JFK AIRPORT STATION, JAMAICA, NY 11430  
[WWW.COLUMBIAASSNUSC.ORG](http://WWW.COLUMBIAASSNUSC.ORG)

**PHILIP J. MADDALENA**.....President  
**JOSEPH A. DiSALVO**.....Executive Vice President  
**JOHN LOMBARDI**.....Treasurer  
**JEANINE FARINACCIO**.....Corresponding Secretary  
**GERARD SCHIEBEL**.....Recording Secretary  
**FRANK MADDALENA**.....V.P. JFK Area  
**PAT DELLAMURA**.....V.P. NYC Area  
**RUSS LoBELLO**.....V.P. NWK Area

PHIL MADDALENA  
 25 Fordham Street, Valley Stream, NY 11581  
 Tel # (H) 516-791-2958 Email philmaddalena@hotmail.com

December 2019

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.....**Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Our Italian Heritage Day Luncheon held in October was another huge success as those of you who attended can attest. With your indulgence, I will take this opportunity to thank those members who were instrumental in our success this year. They are – **Joe DiSalvo, Russ LoBello, Pat Dellamura, John Lombardi, Frank Maddalena, Samir Attia, Bob Batchelor, Pete Salamone and Ritchie Schmidt** and my most trusted Assistant, **Margie Gallo**, who stays up all hours of the night doing my Newsletters, our Financial Books, Printing our Flyers, The Columbia Association Membership Database and mailing our Membership Dues Notices. Thank you!!

To each of you, your families, the entire family of CBP, Brokers, Attorneys & Freight Forwarders, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and pray that past memories of joyous times will once again bring smiles to your faces. Those of you who will not be celebrating the joyous holidays, I wish you a blessed year ahead. God Bless America!

**23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON.....**was held on Thur., Oct. 3, 2019 at Russo’s On The Bay. Our Honorees were **Kim Ciccoella**, Assistant Chief CBP JFK and **Reverend Anthony Cardone**, Former NYPD Officer, Special Agent Bureau of ATF, Special Agent U.S. State Dept. and Chaplain PAPD. Our thanks to our members and friends for another great turnout.

**COLUMBUS DAY PARADE NYC.....**was held on Oct. 14 on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NYC. Many thanks to CBP Officer **Ray Olpermire** for bringing the JFK Explorer Scouts to march with us. **Russ LoBello**, our Columbia VP from Newark brought CBP Officers **Santo Greco, Phil Colella, Joe Scalici, Mike Luongo, Andrew Crehan, Julio Amaya, Shafiq Munir and Daniel Pena**. Many thanks to **John LoBello** (Russ’s brother) and **Dan Barrow** (my cousin) for marching with the Columbia banner though out the whole parade.

**RETIREES.....**

**Newark** - CBP Officers – **Byron Kagahastian, Joseph Cunder, William Babos, Mike Flynn, Robin Solanky, Lucy Wackowski, Mel Phillips, Terry Lynch** and Agriculture Specialist **Chandra Poilsetty**.

**JFK** – CBP Officers – **Sm Shariful Alam, Remis Jeffrey, Robert Miller, Esther Fredericks**, Branch Chief **Robert Redes**, Deputy Chiefs **William Bowe and Sam Stabile** and Agriculture Specialists **Escolastica Veras, Bernice Medina** and Deputy Chief **Mary Benzie**.

**One WTC** – NIS **Patricia O’Donnell, Adleasia Lonesome, Patrick Day & Wayne Kessler**; NISA **Rosalie Bastone** and Supervisor CIE **Ellen Berg**.

**SCHLARSHIPS.....**\$1000 Scholarships have been awarded to **Andrew Ferruzza**, son of **Vincent Ferruzza** (Supv. CBP JFK) and **Thomas Mauro**, son of **Thomas Mauro** (Supv. CBP JFK). Good Luck! Hope to hear from our awardees.

**APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 FEEA SCHOLARSHIPS.....**applications are now being accepted for 2020 FEEA scholarships, open to federal employees and their family members interested in furthering their education. Current civilian federal employees with at least three years of service are eligible to apply and the scholarship is open to spouses and children of federal employees. Employees can be part-time students; dependents must be full-time. FEEA awards \$1,000 to \$5,000 to chosen recipients from all 50 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, selected because of their academic achievements and exemplary community service. Applications can be submitted online before the deadline of March 25, 2020. Read more about the scholarship program and FEEA's work for federal employees at <https://feesa.org/our-programs/scholarships>.

**CONGRATULATIONS.....****Joe Mannucci** (ret Deputy Chief NWK) celebrating the marriage of his son **Michael** to the former **Christina Quinn**. Joe's daughter, **Holly Mannucci Dietrick** & Husband **Anthony Dietrick** had a baby girl on Sept. 13, 2019. Her name is **Madison Page**. Joe and wife, **Jill** are still celebrating their 1<sup>st</sup> Grandchild! Joe invites everyone to this home for drinks!! (KIDDING!!!)...**Paul Casquarelli** (ret Supv CBP JFK) celebrating the marriage of his son **Ryan** to his Princess **Alyssa** on Dec. 14... a baby girl, **Claire Elizabeth DiSalvo** was born to JFK Airport Program Manager **Joseph DiSalvo** and his wife **Megan** on Tue, Dec. 17. The Grandparents, **Joe and Anne DiSalvo** are ecstatic!! Drinks are on the Guru!

**SICK.....****Emma Campbell** (ret Customs Insp JFK) suffering from Alzheimer. Please pray for our sick.

**DECEASED.....****Juan Cancino** (ret Supv CBP JFK) passed away in Veterans Hospital in the Bronx on Oct. 24...**Rodney Muhlon** (ret Supv Motor Vehicle JFK) passed away in Nov...**Fred Kaiser** (ret Insp NWK) passed away in Nov...**Lucy Pollichino**, 91 years young, beloved wife of the late **Matty Pollichino** (Treasurer Columbia Association U.S. Customs) and loving Mother of **Steve Pollichino** (NIS at Trade Center NYC). Lucy passed away Nov. 3...**John Curcio** (ret Sr Insp JFK) passed away on Dec 15...**Fidelis Okoi** (Agriculture Specialist) passed away Sept. 5, 2019...**Joseph Bodamo** passed away on Oct 13. Joe lost his battle to cancer. He was the President of JFK Air Cargo Association. Joe was the son of the late Supervisory Customs Insp. **Joe Bodamo Sr...****Mike DeLuca** (Owner of Elite Custom Brokers) passed away on Oct. 25...after a long illness, **Ed Dougherty** (beloved member of the JFK Chamber of Commerce) also passed away in Oct.

**CHATTER.....****Linda Vercillo** (ret Sr Customs Insp JFK & FL) now living in The Villages in Central Florida is starting a Villages Customs CBP & ICE Retirees Group there. If you are interested, please contact Linda at 954-857-8880 or email [lindavercillo@gmail.com](mailto:lindavercillo@gmail.com). Good Luck Linda! Make it a success!!...nice to see **Ed Nagel** at our Italian Heritage Luncheon. He has always been one of my closest Customs friend...Also happy to see **Camille Polimeni** & her husband, **Kevin Fox** at our luncheon. Camille was brought up in Atlantic Beach with one of our Honorees, **Father Anthony Cardone**...shocked to hear of the passing of **John Curcio** (ret Sr Insp JFK). I attended his funeral services tonight in Valley Stream, NY. John & I worked in the Entry Section in Bldg. #80 JFK before he became an Inspector...I was able to attend funeral services in Northport, LI for **Lucy Pollichino**, the beloved wife of **Matty Pollichino**. I was happy to talk to her sons, **Robert, Paul & Steve**. Matty's sons and I played many years of Golf together...glad to see **Greg Holder** (ret Sr Insp JFK). He showed up for our monthly breakfast at Mitchells in Valley Stream.

Fraternally,

*Phil*

Philip Maddalena  
President