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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....A simple Thank You to our members & friends is not adequate enough to express my gratitude for the support you show to me to continue our good work with The Columbia Association of U.S. Customs. I promise to continue our Programs: Scholarships & Charities and encourage ties of friendship among all employees and to foster better understanding among all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. Of course, I will continue to ask you for your suggestions to improve our Newsletter and to make it interesting for our members and friends to read. I hope you all have a Blessed Holiday and Happy New Year to all. God Bless you all.

CONGRADULATIONS.....**Victoria Rose Mauro** (Daughter of **Tom Mauro** (CBP Supv JFK) engaged to her Prince Charming **Connor**. **Tom & wife Denise** are celebrating...**Frank Genco** (FDNY) Son of **Pete Genco** (ret CBPO NWK) engaged to his Princess **Marisa Hoffman**...Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to **Frank Festa** (Chief) & wife...**Bill Kuntz** (ret CBPO NWK) celebrated his 65th birthday in March 2025...**Joe Mannucci** (ret Deputy Chief NWK) & wife off to a River Cruise to Portugal...**Russ LoBello** (ret Deputy Chief NWK) writes....*It's the best feeling ever. My daughter Ellie has Abigail who turned two years old in March! She's the love of our lives and Ellie is expecting my Grandson in October. My other daughter Louise is doing well in Lancaster, PA and my wife Linda retired last October and loving being a Grandma. Life is Good, paisan!*

SICK.....**Pat Dellamura** (V.P. Columbia Association NYC) into the hospital in August 2025 for Cardiac Ablation (sometimes referred to as the Electrician of the Heart). Pat was in White Plains Hospital...**Jean Caravello's** (Import Specialist JFK) Daughter (U.S. Park Police) still recuperating from accident on the job. Please pray for our sick.

RETIRED.....**Mark Nackman** (Branch Chief NCSD NYC) retired...**Richard Loria** (Director C-TPAT JFK). As everyone knows, Rich is the Son of the late **Charles Loria** (National Import Specialist JFK). Charlie was affectionately known as "Charlie the Good" for his personal attitude about everything. God Bless you Charlie. I'll miss you, Rich. So will everyone you are leaving at JFK. Good Luck!

DECEASED.....viewed mass on April 11, 2025, for **Adele Silvestri**, the wife of the late **Roger Silvestri** (ret Director National Import Specialist Division NYC) and the Mother of **Stephen Silvestri** (Assistant Area Director Trade Operations Miami Airport)...**Sal Ingrassia** (Area Director JFK) mourning the loss of his beloved Sister, **Elizabeth Ingrassia Cuttitta**...**Frank Anton** (ret Supv CBP JFK) passed away suddenly in 2025. Frank was a good friend. I still am not aware of Frank's illness as it came about during a lapse in the printing of our Newsletters...**Wenne Davis** (CBPO JFK) killed by auto crossing a street in NYC Dec. 8, 2025...**Lem Lockhart** (ret CBPO JFK) passed away Dec. 8, 2025. Please pray for our deceased.

Yvette Bass (ret CBPO JFK) writes.....*So glad you're doing better, Phil. I was a little worried about you when you didn't come to Russo's on the Bay. Your son Frank said you were doing okay. I'm so grateful that you have kept this Customs family together through the Columbia Association. It means so much to all of us, especially the retirees...* **Yvette Bass** writes again.....*Hope you are doing well. I thought about sharing some news with our Customs family. My son, Jeffrey Bass, had worked a summer with us as a part-time Inspector, while in college. He went on to get his doctorate in psychology and went into the Army. After two deployments, Iraq and Afghanistan, he became a Commander of the 243rd Medical Detachment Unit at Fort Bamholder in Germany. After various stations, he is now stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. On November 1, 2004, Jeffrey was promoted to Army Colonel. The ceremony was held on the Intrepid Air and Space Museum in NYC. A reminder to those of us, who worked long hours, weekends, and holidays. We can thank our families, especially our children, for keeping it together. We couldn't have this amazing Customs family without their love and support. Thank you, Phil, for keeping it going.*

Patti Buffolino (ret Program Analyst NYC) writes.....*Doing well. Nice to read your Newsletter. It is the only communication most of us received about our former colleagues. It's sad to read of some of their passing but do enjoy reading of the births & promotions of the next generation. Thanks again. Be well and Happy Easter to you & your family. I will keep forwarding your Newsletters.*

Joe Accardi (Broker/Jagro Brokers & Lifetime Member) writes.....*I cannot thank you enough for the Newsletter and all that you have done and still do for the Association and its members. I miss you Phil and I am glad to hear that you are doing better. Time flies too quickly. Helen sees you on Facebook and she keeps me updated on what is going on with you and your family. It was like yesterday I would sit up in your office at Building 80 when I was a field man at 18 years old and we would talk about life and family and the business we were in. You have always been a great friend to me and my family, and I just wanted to take a moment to say hello. I will call you over the weekend. Be well and love from me and Helen.*

Michael Baretta (Corbett International Inc.) writes.....*Nice to hear from you again and always glad to receive the Newsletters. Reading about so many people whom I've come in contact with over the years and to see where they are at in life is very nice. It's unfortunate to hear about those that have passed, especially those that I knew. More importantly, it's nice to hear you are recovering from your kidney stones and covid issues. Since I hadn't received a Newsletter for some time, I was wondering what was going on. Glad you're back in action and are feeling better. Keep up the good work and wish you and your family the very best.*

CHATTER.....Maddalena Bowers (ret Entry specialist CA) writes from California she looks forward to Newsletters to keep in touch of her old friends & co-workers from JFK...**Meg Assip** says hello to our USCS Family!...spoke to **Ritchie Schmidt** (ret CBPO). He can't wait to get back to the Golf Course. Rich is also planning a river Cruise in the near future...**Nora Maldonado** (ret Executive Clerk JFK) says she enjoys reading our Newsletter even though she is not Italian! She is happy to read what everyone is up too! Nora says The Columbia Association keeps the retired members of our Customs family together. We miss you also Nora!! Keep in touch with Nora at NTD11561@gmail.com...**Eddie Klein** (ret NIS NYC) writes.....a lot of sad news in the Newsletter, but it is still important and he appreciates keeping in touch by all who view it. As usual Ed signs off as "Slow Eddie"!...spoke to **Jerry Monaco** (ret Assistant Director JFK). We agreed we will call each other at least once a week to see if we are still kicking...**Janet LaBuda** (ret Special Director USC Headquarters) says hello to **Ann Kreitsch**, her old neighbor from Howard Beach...In closing my thanks to the following for keeping in touch: **Steve DelCasino – Raffy Corro – Chris Kane (Attorney) – Mike Jamison – Sikes Reese – Jim Forkan – Hope Abada – Nick Amitrano – Paul Andretta** (I will call you back, Paul!) – **Debbie Carriero** (Don't forget you are coming over for lunch!) – **Bob Cicero – Donna Corsi – Joe DiSalvo – Peter DiRocca – Roberta Dunn – Fred Iavarone – Ed Nagel – Teresa Natale** (Corrections) – **Shelly Meza – Jerry Pavone** (Thanks for the donation, Pal!) – **Paul Rivosecchi – Larry Ryan – Pete Salamone – Andy Stone – Sam Stabile – Marilyn Baboo**

DUES.....Your dues are the only source of income the Columbia Association has at this time. Please pay your dues. Thank you!!

Fraternally yours,

Phil

Philip Maddalena
President