

**Columbus Lodge**



**COMMEMORATIVE  
2020-21 JOURNAL**



**HEROES WORK HERE**

THANK  
YOU!

YOU  
ROCK!







# President's Message

January 28, 2021

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

Since taking the oath as your President, your officers and I have experienced something that is unprecedented in OSDIA history – a National Emergency and shut down of all OSDIA events.

During this time we had to be creative and progressive in our communication through ZOOM meetings, an upgraded website, and additional communication through e-mails and calling posts in order to provide you, the member, a full accountability as to what is going on at your lodge. Our *“Drive-By Childrens Christmas Party”* was a huge success as over 80-children received gifts from Santa. Please be assured that while holding regular lodge activities remain challenging, my number one priority is your safety.



Our Italian-immigrant ancestors faced all kinds of bigotry, discrimination, and poverty that is often forgotten by today's younger generation. The pandemic restrictions we face today pale to the injustices that occurred when our Italian ancestors came to this country. Many of our youths do not know or understand the ethnic divide our ancestors went through. Our Order was established to unite the Italian community.

In recent times, chants of hatred against Christopher Columbus due to misinformation and discrimination against a Catholic Italian Saint are running rampant by some political leaders and our misguided young men and women. Columbus Lodge and the Order of Sons-Daughters of Italy in America will not stand for this social injustice.

Currently, two of our past presidents are on the Executive Committee for the NYS Commission of Social Justice fighting these injustices. Pandemic or no pandemic, our lodge and this Order will continue to fight for the rights of our Italian heritage.

Fraternally,

Gary Caparco





## 2020-2021 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ..... GARY CAPARCO  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT ..... JAMES RAFFA  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT ..... FRANK FRANCHI  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ..... FRED BELLISE  
ORATOR ..... JAMIE SAN FILLIPPO JR.  
RECORDING SECRETARY ..... WILSON ARANA  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY ..... WILLIAM MURPHY  
TREASURER ..... FRANK TISCIONE  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY ..... JAMES SAN FILLIPPO

### TRUSTEES

ROBERT YOPP, PRINCIPLE

PETER D'ANGELO  
CHARLES DiPRIMA

MATT FARINO  
AL FERRARA

VINCENT FRANCHI  
PETER MARESCO

### MASTER OF CEREMONY

ROCCO NAPOLI  
KENNETH GEICK

MIKE PARESI  
DONALD VISCONTI

### SENTINELS

PETER GISONDA

JACQUES PASTERMACK

### CHAPLIAN

FR. ANTHONY HEINLEIN & SAL POLITO

## NYS GRAND LODGE POSITIONS

NAT'L DELEGATE, NYS CSJ EXEC BOARD & CORRESPONDING SEC . . KEITH WILSON  
NYS CSJ EXEC BOARD ..... EDWARD P. BOCHYNSKI  
DISTRICT II STATE DEPUTY (Columbus Lodge) ..... AL DeBLASIO  
DISTRICT II STATE DEPUTY (Cellini & JMM) ..... TONY VENTIERA

## PAST PRESIDENTS

FRED BELLISE, (2018-20)  
ANTHONY MUSARRA, (2016-2018)  
PHILLIP GUERRERI JR. (2014-2016)  
EDWARD P. BOCHYNSKI (2013-2014)  
KEITH WILSON (2011-2013)  
ANTHONY VENTIERA (2009-2011)  
FRANK GATTO (2007-2009)  
SAL PATRONE (2006-2007)  
JOSEPH CARBONE (2004-2006)  
ANTHONY RAGNO (2002-2004)  
FRANK MUSARRA (2000-2002)\*  
ED BOCHYNSKI SR. (1999-2000)\*

VINCENT DE ROSA (1997-1999)\*  
JOHN JUBA (1996-1997)\*  
ANTHONY J. MUSARRA (1993-1996)\*  
ANTHONY SCOTTO (1993-1993)\*  
DAN A. COLANTONE (1991-1993)\*  
SAM NOVARTO (1989-1991)  
NELSON GIORDANO (1987-1989)\*  
ARMOND VELLA (1985-1987)\*  
MICHAEL IANNONE (1984-1985)  
JACK TRINCA (1982-1984)\*  
GREG GIAMMALVO (1980-1982)  
JOSEPH MAGLIATO (1979-1980)\*

\*DECEASED

PHIL FASULLO (1978-1979)\*  
JOSEPH CANGEMI (1977-1978)\*  
VINCENT FLORIANI (1976-77)\*  
CARL CARDASCIA (1975-1976)  
FRANK DI DOMENICA (1974-1975)\*  
NICHOLAS VIGLIETTA (1972-1974)  
JOHN D. DORSI (1970-1972)\*  
LOUIS AGRESTA (1969-1970)\*  
JOSEPH SALADINO (1968-1969)\*  
DOMINICK BARANELLA (1967-1968)\*  
ANGELO RONCALLO (1966-67)\*  
P. VINCENT LANDI (1964-1966)\*





**A Year in Review**  
**Fiscal 2020 - 2021**





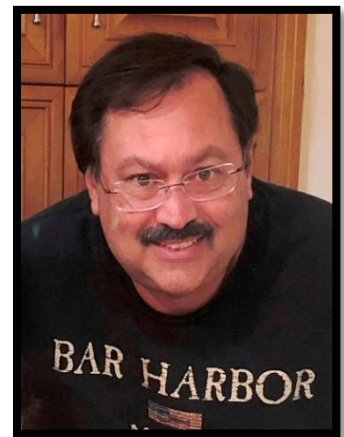


## Chairman's Message

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

Through God's gift, we have lived through and survived the COVID-19 virus. As we come out of the darkness of this virus and into the light we pause to remember and thank the doctors, nurses, police, fireman, postal workers, grocery store workers, and all essential personnel who were at the front line risking their lives to help others in the fight against this virus.

In 2020, we witnessed the effects of this deadly virus from mental health conditions, to financial hardships, to unfortunate deaths. Recognizing that small business owners, who are the back bone of our scholarship program, were financially hit the most, we have produced this year's commemorative journal without asking for contributions from our community partners.



As many of you know my Dad was involved in the scholarship program for over thirty years and now I have been involved the past ten. During the summer of 2020, this program celebrated its 42nd year. My friend, Bill Murphy led the charge to ensure that another 13 students received their awards despite the challenges of the pandemic. Cumulatively, we have provided education grants to over 634 college bound students in our community.

Because of the high number of deaths that touched our *Columbus Lodge Family*, this year's journal will have a different spin. This is a commemorative issue to pay tribute and remember all those essential workers and all those in our fraternal family, both as direct members and indirect members, who lost their lives. No donations are being accepted for this issue and due to pandemic protocols the journal is only in PDF form. No hard copy distribution is planned.

As Americans, we will rise above the challenge and we continue to flourish as one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all. God Bless!

Fraternaly,

**Edward P. Bochynski**

Past President & Commemorative Journal Chairman



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# THE YEAR 2020: A COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Ed Bochynski, January 24, 2021

On March 13, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency. The rest of the year the **CORONAVIRUS (or CONVIR-19)** presented our Nation and the World with many challenges. The rapid rate that this virus spread with no definitive cure led the U.S. to choose containment. A travel ban to/from China was soon extended to Europe and other parts of the world. As the overflow of patients in hospitals spread throughout the globe, lockdowns by governments from Italy, Europe, and every continent soon followed.

The Tri-state region experienced one of the first upsurges in our Nation; from March thru May because of international flights. The lockdown theory was used to slow down the rate of growth of this virus, avoid lack of supplies, and minimize overcrowding in our hospitals. The Javits Center and Arthur Ash Tennis Center were converted into field hospital to handle patient overflow. Northwell Health was called upon to help staff doctors and nurses while maintaining staffing at their own hospitals. Nonessential employees were asked to work remote.



*Michael J. Dowling, CEO of Northwell Health, NYS's largest health care provider, says the best response to the coronavirus outbreak is to "stay calm, we've been through worse."*

As we adjusted to the "new normal" (I hate that phrase) it's time to discuss the work of OSDIA. National President Nancy Quinn followed government mandates and suspended all in-person lodge meetings, installations, and fundraising events. Newly elected Columbus Lodge President Gary Caparco followed protocol and shutdown the lodge for the safety of all. He connected with the membership through on-line meetings, calling-posts, and an upgraded website. By January 21, 2021, over 409,000 Americans died from complications related to the CORONA VIRUS. Those who saw this first hand will tell you that many more died from indirect causes that may have been triggered as a result of this virus.



*Columbus Lodge member Eddie Bochynski, as shown on NBC's Heroes in Healthcare Memorial Day special on NBC. Eddie works at Northwell Health Laboratory and was involved in COVID-19 testing.*

Another National upsurge evolved in December 2020, followed by FDA approval of several vaccines. Distribution began mid-December and by January 22nd, over 1,036,000 New Yorkers, statewide, received their first vaccine dose and 136,000 their second dose. As the vaccine distribution continues throughout the State and the Country experts are hopeful this will eliminate the spread of the virus and that restricted gatherings can be eased by mid-2021. At last there may be hope.

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## TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF OUR FALLEN MEMBERS

Our destination is a place far greater than we know. For some the journey's quicker. For some the journey's slow. And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward. And find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord.

### *We remember you . . .*

**Jean M. Roncallo, Esq.** (daughter of founding member and Past Pres Angelo Roncallo) - Jan. 2020; 60 years old.

**John Venditto** - March, 2020; 70 years old.

**Michael Capogna** - March, 2020; 55 years old

**Anthony "Tony" Romeo** - April, 2020; 89 years old

**Lou Garcia** - April, 2020; 84 years old.

**Anthony "Tony Crabs" Ammirati** - May, 2020; 89 years old.

**Joseph Belesi** - June, 2020; 73 years old.

**Victoria "Vickie" Fasullo** (wife of 12<sup>th</sup> President Phil Fasullo) - September, 2020; 80+ years old.

**Janine Juba** (Daughter of 23<sup>rd</sup> President John Juba) - June, 2020; 43 years old.

**Vincent Ventiera** (October, 2020); 83 years old.

**Frank Musarra** (26<sup>th</sup> President) - Nov 24, 2020; 59 years old.

**Joseph "Sonny" Casalino** - December 2020 ; 90 years old.

**George Lauro** - December, 2020; 84 years old.



# JOHN VENDITTO

## “His Love of Heritage Ran Deep”

The former Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor and 42-year member of the Columbus Lodge #2143 left us on March 17, 2020. **JOHN VENDITTO** was 70 years old.



Quality of life, beautiful Parks, *Music Under the Stars*, and Italian feasts all have his thumb print. He was supervisor for nearly 20 years while always holding the Township of Oyster Bay people near and dear to him. It's been said by many Columbus Lodge members that John Venditto will be remembered “as one of the greatest Supervisor in the Town of Oyster Bay history.”

John was born on June 19, 1949 and as a young man, he received a law degree from St. John's University (1975). John joined the Columbus Lodge in January 1978 and immediately got involved in lodge politics. He quickly ascended up the ranks to Chair Officer (1981); serving as Orator under Venerable Jack Trinca. That same year, John became a Township of Oyster Bay Councilman and would later serve as Town Attorney. As the 1980s moved along, John's career obligations increased. He finished his lodge Council commitments but did not seek reelection however John would serve as delegate to NYS Grand Lodge Convention.

When a revitalization plan emerged in 1996, John remembered his lodge brothers and Italian heritage. He conceived an idea for an Italian street fair. Instinctively, he got his fellow fraternal brothers at Columbus Lodge involved and the *Italian Feast & Festival* was born. For over 25-years this festival has blossomed into a major event for local merchants drawing over 35,000 participants per year. “It's something all the North Massapequa residents, not just the merchants, should be interested in” said John Venditto in 1996.

John serviced as TOB Supervisor from 1998-2017. During his tenure he established a record for caring about the quality of life for the TOB people. He protected the public from greedy developers. And he made sure the Township was run smoothly.

Despite all his obligations as Town Supervisor, John supported the lodge by attending many events. The Scholarship luncheon was of particular importance because he wanted to congratulate each award winning high school student. John also showed support by sponsoring a gold page in the annual scholarship journal.

In 2010, Past-President Tony Ragno proposed and orchestrated a golf outing that honored John for his dedication to the lodge and his Italian heritage. The officers and membership embraced the event with an abundance of participants and volunteers. Their efforts would produce the lodge's most successful golf outing to date. “Not surprising, John's a good guy,” remarked Past-President Dan Calontone at a Council meeting.

In 2013, John was presented with the lodge's first *Humanitarian Award* for his decisive actions that saved lives during *Superstorm Sandy*, the prior year. In 2014, John did not miss an opportunity to attend Columbus Lodge's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

John considered himself gifted by the children he raised. Both Michael & Nicholas are successful attorneys. Michael is also an active member and former Councilman. And Joanna is a segment producer at Fox News.



*In a March 1999 photo: John Venditto presents newly installed President Ed Bochynski Sr. with a Citation in recognition of his community service.*

“John was a proud member and always spoke highly of the OSIA and believed strongly in its many programs, scholarships, and community activities. I have fond memories of many social functions and conventions where I spent time with members and their wives. John was a man of great accomplishments who devoted his life to service and helping others. However, his children are his greatest legacy. They will forever continue to make him proud,” wrote Christine Venditto, wife of John Venditto, in a letter addressed to lodge President Gary Caparco and the lodge membership.

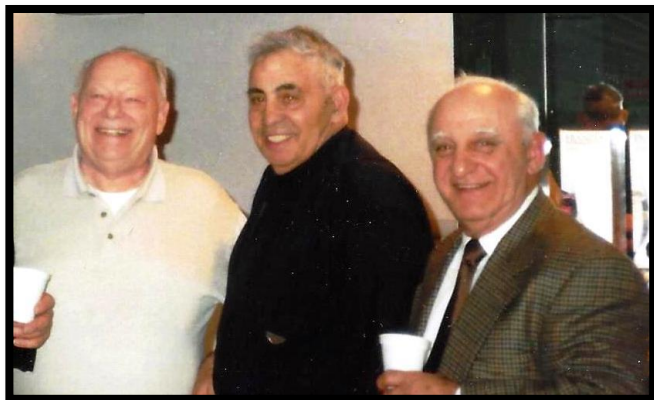


## ANTHONY “Tony” ROMEO

### “A Humble Servant”

**TONY ROMEO** left us in April to join our other recently departed members. His departure during the pandemic didn't seem fitting for this quiet man who serviced this lodge for nearly 55-years. Tony joined in the lodge's inaugural year (1964) during the second wave of installation in June, and was given membership #485. Tony was often overlooked because of his quiet demeanor and his wife accomplishments; Teri was founding of the NYS Grand Lodge *Gift of Site* program and past-Ladies Auxiliary President. Tony served many officer positions, raising to the rank of Trustee and represented the lodge as Delegate to several State Convention.

Tony was a legendary electrician at Safe-Way Electric for over 50-years. Those professional skills were counted on whenever electrical concerns arose. His dedication to Columbus Lodge so ran deep that never forgot his daughter Maribeth was awarded a scholarship during the 1980s. Through his company Safe-Way Electronics, a scholarship journal ad was sponsored for decades to support future children. He also ensured his daughter gave back by contributing a journal ad for many years.



*In an April 1998 Photo (L to R): Past Presidents Ed Bochynski Sr. & Nellie Giordano, and Tony Romeo at the lodge's Palm Sunday breakfast.*

Not flashy or out spoken on lodge politics, Tony's dedication to Columbus Lodge was demonstrated when he contributed the lodge's first Navigator Newsletter issue and classic photos from the early years to the lodge's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal. Tony collected each Navigator since the lodge's inception.

Tony Romeo's for soft spoken manor, yet firm beliefs will remember along with his humor, his warm smile, the good times, and the laughs. Because of COVID-19, it is regretful that the membership was unable to perform its ritual for a final good bye. On April 12, 2020 Covid-19 took Tony from us at the age of 88.

## DR. MICHAEL CAPOGNA

### “A Giving Person”

A doctor of Chiropractic Medicine., volunteer & lifetime member of the Wantagh Fire Dept., supporter of the Columbus Lodge education program, and supporter of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, **MICHAEL CAPOGNA** spent his life serving, protecting, and healing the people around him before he became a victim of the Covid-19 virus and left us during the height of the pandemic on April 6, 2020. He was 55 years young.



*Oct. 2012 Photo: Michael Capogna (third from the left) receives an award on behalf of all his brothers for their dedication to the lodge's mission to education and charitable endeavors. President Keith Wilson (far right) presents the award.*

Born Sept 29, 1964, Michael grew up in North Massapequa. During his summer breaks from college, he worked with his father in construction where he severely injured his lower back. A chiropractor was the only doctor able to relieve his pain and get him back on his feet. This sparked his interest in the field.

Michael completed his Bachelor's degree in Psychology at St. John's University and continued his education at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa where he graduated with honors in 1991. In 1994, after three years as an associate doctor, he opened Capogna Chiropractic Center in Wantagh where he would spend the next 26 years in private practice.

In April 2009, Michael was sponsored by his brother Anthony and initiated as member #4,091 of the Columbus Lodge. His initiation made him the fourth Capogna brother to become a member. On October 10, 2012 all four Capogna brothers were honored by the lodge for their philanthropic kindness to the community they serve.

Michael served as an emergency medical technician for the Wantagh Fire Department Company 2 (1995-2005). During that time he was in charge of research and development of new ambulance equipment. A Fire Medic, he received many recognition awards.

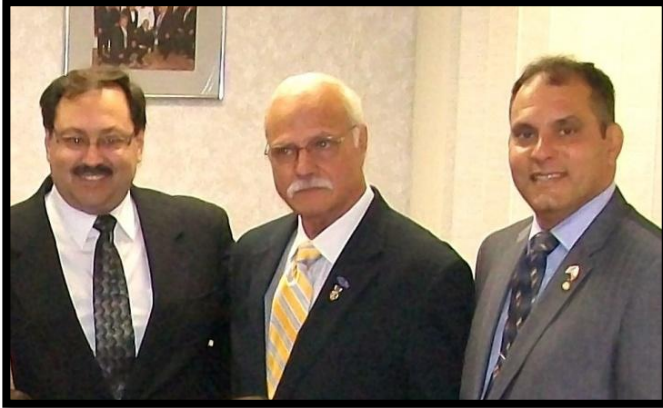
It's been said, those who have given of themselves to others will live forever in every single heart they've touch. Michael left us too soon but left us memories of a giving man who lived life by servicing others.



## JOSEPH V. BELESI

### “A Public Servant”

A two-time Purple Heart recipient from the Vietnam War era, a retired Nassau County Police Sergeant, Superior Officer's Associations Vice President, member of the Sons of Italy Columbus Lodge #2143, and Nassau County Legislator **JOSEPH BELESI**, passed away at the age of 73, on June 16, 2020 from Parkinson's disease.



*In a 2013 photo (l to r): Columbus Lodge President Ed Bochynski, Nassau County Legislator Joe Belesi, and current TOB Supervisor Joe Saladino at the lodge's annual scholarship awards luncheon.*

Born on March 5, 1947, Joe was drafted to U.S. Army in the 1960s and service during the Vietnam War; receiving two Purple Hearts. After an honorable discharge he began a lifetime career in public service. He joined the Nassau County Police and through hard work ascended to Sergeant.

In 2009, Joe began a second public service career when he successfully ran for Nassau County Legislator. A man of conviction, he took a lot backlash by many of his fellow men in blue when he voted in favor of a wage freeze for Nassau County police in order to reduce the over spending by the County. That vote impacted his 2011 bid for reelection, which he won by just 51 votes. He served out his term as legislator till 2013 and was hired as a consultant by the Town of Oyster Bay in 2014.

Joe Belesi's Columbus Lodge roots began in October 2007 when Pres. Frank Gatto swore him in as member #4011. The Farmingdale resident supported many of the lodge fundraising events but his primary interest was the scholarship program. Annually, he contributed a gold page to the lodge's scholarship journal and made sure he gave his time to meet all the high school award recipients at the annual scholarship luncheon. In recent years, Joe's illness prevented him from visiting the lodge. Joseph V. Belesi's conviction, integrity, and life of public service will be missed by many.

## JANINE JUBA

### “First Female Softball Player”

As First Vice President of Columbus Lodge, **JOHN JUBA** was well on his way to becoming the 23rd President when he began bringing his 16-year old daughter to the lodge softball field for weekly Sunday morning pick-up games. Janine had just earned a spot on the Farmingdale H.S. varsity softball team and Dad thought the completion of playing against adult men would be good for her. Dad was right.

During her three seasons, Janine was a graceful outfielder with a good glove, above average range, and an accurate arm. Her ability to hold her own, paved the way for another generation of women to compete on the lodge's championship caliber co-ed travel team during the first decade of 2000s. “At the time, we didn't know the impact she would have on us accepting co-ed softball tournament” said Dave Saviano.

In 1994, she graduated Farmingdale High School, received the P. Vincent Landi Scholarship Award, and began playing college softball at NCC. In 1996, she was within ear shot of her father's hospital bedside when he was sworn in as president of the lodge.



*In a 1994 photo: Janine Juba (center) flanked by her parents Past President John and Aurora Juba.*

Janine would eventually have a career with the U.S.P.S., move to Mastic Beach and, as a single mother, raise her daughter Aurora (named in honor of Janine's deceased mom). In 2010, Janine returned to the lodge with her daughter for the Children's Christmas Party. When John died in 2011, Janine reconnected with many of her Sunday morning softball chums. Like Janine, daughter Aurora excels in sports. Aurora earned a spot on her high school basketball and soccer teams in 2019.

While coping with COVID-19 virus, on June 12, 2020, at the tender age of 43 years young, Janine lost her battle to prostate cancer.



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## ANTHONY R. AMMIRATI

### “Tony Crabs”

The year of the pandemic included the loss of **ANTHONY AMMIRATI**, a member of the lodge for over 24-years, who left us left on May 12, 2020 at 89 years young. Born on Sept. 2, 1930, Tony grew up in Brooklyn, moved to Bellerose, and then settled into Farmingdale with wife Amelia. A young Tony was drafted into the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. Upon completion of his duty he received an honorable discharge.



*In a 2013 Photo (l to r): Palm Sunday Chairman Mike Bonavia and Anthony “Tony Crabs” Ammirati at the Sunday breakfast.*

Tony joined the lodge in March 1996 and was given membership #3574. The long time member was always quick with a joke and fun to be around. He volunteered on many committees but stayed clear of lodge politics. He regularly assisted at the Lions’ Den and Children’s Christmas Parties. Tony and Amelia regularly attended social dances, enjoyed a card game or two, trips to the casino, and the Day at the Races but his passion was fishing. He earned his nickname “Tony Crabs” because of his loved catching *Blue Claw Crabs*. According to long time member Mike Bonavia, “Tony had the best crab sauce anywhere.”

Over the years, Tony Ammirati’s presence became a fabric at Columbus Lodge. He will be dearly missed.

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## JEAN MARIE RONCALLO

### “Angelo’s Daughter”

This was the first “Columbus Lodge Family” loss of 2020. **JEAN MARIE RONCALLO** died peacefully on January 30, 2020 of ovarian cancer, at age 60. Born on March 15, 1959, Jean was raised in Massapequa, received a law degree from Georgetown University, then passed the Bar exam in 1988. For the bulk of her 32-year career, she settled into various positions with the Town of Oyster Bay.

Jean is the daughter of lodge foundering member and Venerable Angelo Roncallo. Angelo had a distinguished career as a U.S. Congressman, and NYS Supreme Court Judge.

Since Angelo’s passing on May 4, 2010, Jean reconnected with members of her father’s lodge. She began sponsoring a gold page memorial ad in the Columbus Lodge Scholarship Journal each year until her passing. She was passionate about supporting a program that gave young people a chance to reach for their dreams. In addition, she attended many lodge events including the testimonial for Fr. James Lisante in 2011 and the lodge’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in 2014.

Jean Marie Roncallo will be remembered for her beautiful laugh, warm smile, and generous heart.

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## VICTORIA FASULLO

### “First Lady of Our 16th President”

**VICTORIA FASULLO** died from COVID-19 on Sept. 19, 2020. Victoria was the wife of Past President Phil Fasullo, a charter member (#52) of the Columbus Lodge #2143 since 1964. When Phil became a member, Victoria soon followed by joining the Ladies Auxiliary.



*In a ‘70s photo (l to r): Columbus Lodge President Phil Fasullo, an unidentified OSIA State Chaplin, and First Lady Vickie.*

Known to all as Vickie, she became First Lady of the lodge when Phil was elected its 12<sup>th</sup> President in 1978. As first lady she held the office in high esteem and was supportive of her husband during a difficult financial period in lodge history.

During the next forty years, Vickie joined Phil at State convention whenever Phil served as a Delegate, attend lodge picnics, dances, and lodge galas; most recently the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in 2014. In recent year Phil and Vickie split their time between their Massapequa and Florida homes. Since Phil’s passing in 2016, Vickie has been absent from lodge events.



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## JOSEPH CASALINO III

### “A faaaan-tastic Fraternal Brother”

**JOEPSH CASTALINO** passed away on Dec. 15, 2020 at age 90. Joe was installed as Columbus Lodge member #3742 in 1999 and for over 20-years he enjoyed all the lodge’s recreational activities. Known as “Sonny” to many, Joe and his wife Antonia were frequently seen at many social dances, casino trips, and lodge picnics. No matter what the circumstances or how he felt his favorite response was always “faaaan-tastic!”

Born in Brooklyn on August 17, 1930 and raised in the Greenpoint/Williamsburg area, Tony was a proud member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, home of the annual Giglio festival. Years later, Joe would have the opportunity to lift the Giglio statue both in Brooklyn and in Nola, Italy.

Joe moved to Ozone Park when he was 16-years old and graduated Woodrow Wilson High School. At 20-years old was drafted into the Army, served almost two full years as a mechanic in the Korean War repairing tanks and vehicles.

Joe met his future wife, Ann at a friend’s wedding. He was the Best Man and she was the maid of honor. In September 1957, they were married at St. Killian’s Church in Farmingdale. They enjoyed 63 years of marriage. Joe had a career as an Operating Engineer for Local 138 before retiring.

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## Vincent Ventiera

### “Insurance Man to the Rescue”

On Oct. 16, 2020, the Columbus Lodge received the news of the passing of **VINCENT VENTIERA**. Vincent is the brother of Columbus Lodge Past President Tony Ventiera and is the son of the late Hon. Carmine Ventiera, a past NYS Grand Lodge President and Bene Emeritus Award recipient.

Although only becoming a member in recent years, Vincent was well known for providing building insurance for a reasonable cost. One member recalls a past president insisting he could get a lower rate on the insurance policy only to present higher premiums to the Council. Vincent was contacted the following year and a new policy was written at a reduced premium rate.

Vincent was not actively engaged with lodge politics or most activities however he was kept apprised of important matters by his younger sibling Tony. At Vincent’s wake, both Past-President Keith Wilson and lodge Chaplin Fr. Tony Heinrich gave memorable tributes after the lodge’s ritual.

## GEORGE LAURO

### “A Servant of the Lodge”

December 2020 was a horrible month for our members as we said good bye to **GEORGE LAURO**, who left us on December 17, 2020, he was 84. George was a 24-year member with Columbus Lodge, having been installed as member #3576 in 1996. George was an officer on the Council until 2012, ascending to the position of Trustee.

Born George A. Lauro on June 28, 1936 he lived in South Richmond Hill and Ozone Park, Queens before moving to Plainview, LI where he would raise his family and spend the rest of his life. He served in the U.S. Army and was married to Joanne.



*In a 2010 Photo (l to r): Neil Cecora, George Lauro, Carmine Rosato, and Jimmy Raffa volunteering at the lodge Children’s Christmas Party.*

George was a proud member of the Order Sons of Italy. He served on numerous Columbus Lodge committees and enjoyed socializing at many lodge dances, picnics, and day at the races. In recent year, George found himself in a battle with cancer but insisted on attending lodge events. Like many who died this year, the COVID restriction prevented the OSIA rituals from being performed.

George Lauro will be remembered as a quiet, friendly fraternal brother who was willing to lend a hand.

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## Louis Garcia

### “Almost a Decade”

Installed by President Tony Ventiera as member #4150 on September 22, 2010 of the Columbus Lodge #2143, **LOUIS GARCIA** became an early casualty of the CORVID-19 virus on April 12, 2020, he was 84. The Bethpage resident was preceded in death by his wife Rosemary. As a result of early COVID restrictions, no OSDIA ritual was performed.



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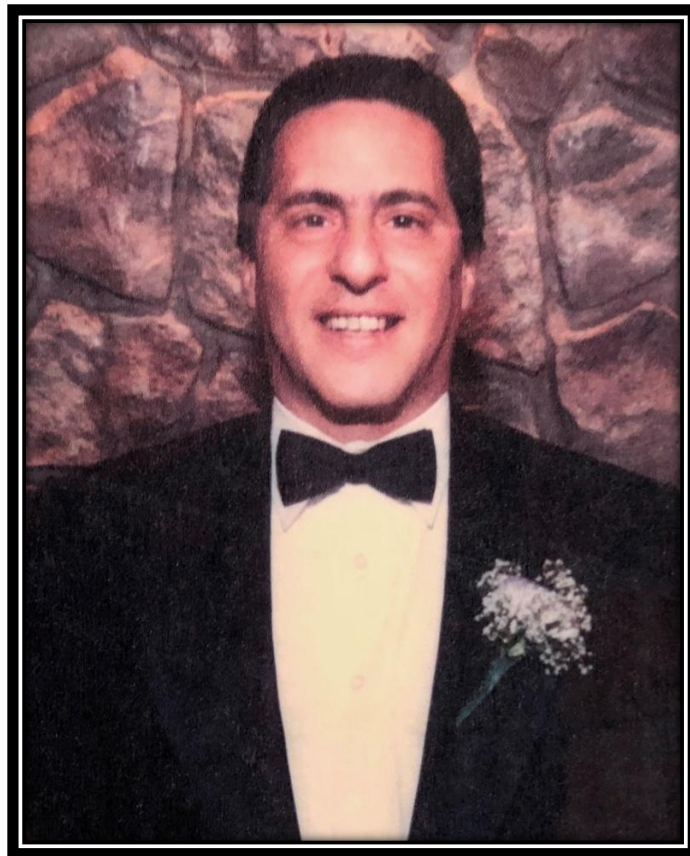
# Memory of **FRANK MUSARRA**

**(Oct. 05, 1961 - Nov. 25, 2020)**

**26TH PRESIDENT OF COLUMBUS LODGE (2000-2002)**

**NYS STATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2011-2012)**

**NYS COMMISSION OF ARBITRATION (2014-2015)**



From

The Members of Columbus Lodge #2143



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# Remembering FRANK MUSARRA

## *“Dedication and Devotion for Forty Years”*

**FRANK A. MUSARRA** was installed as the lodge’s 26th president on March 5, 2000 and served two terms (2000-2002). He has the distinction of being part the first *three-generation presidents* in OSDIA history. His father Tony served from 1993-96 and his son Anthony served from 2016-2018. That distinction, in part, earned the Musarra family a nomination and an impressive *first runner-up* finish for the 2016 NYS Grand Lodge Family of the Year Award.

Born October 5, 1961, Frank was raised in Farmingdale, NY. He served in the NYPD until an injury forced disability at a young age. He married Carmine, moved to North Massapequa, and raised five children. His ties with the lodge began in the 1970s when then-Venerable Nick Viglietta hired him to work in the catering hall kitchen. Installed as a member in 1981, Frank was given membership #3058. As an officer of the lodge, Frank faced obstacles, challenged elections, and setbacks during his climb up the ranks. When he reached the pinnacle in 2000, the 38-year old newly elected president was forty years younger than his predecessor and represented the dawning of a new generation. Frank stated, “I possess a youthful and innovative perspective towards the lodge.”

During his first six weeks in office, President Musarra’s completed the final negotiations and signing of a new tenant then forged a strong business relationship that ensured timely rent payments. He integrated younger members into key committee positions as part of a transition plan to get younger members prepared for leadership roles; two of these men became future presidents. Faced with inherited funding depletion, President Musarra gained support from the membership to pass fiscal reform including restructuring of membership dues, lifetime membership regulations, a hard line stance on a balanced budget, and created a new BINGO committee as an attempt to increase revenue.



*In a 2014 photo: Frank Musarra (center) receives recognition & honored at the Columbus Lodge’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.*

By the end of his second term in 2002, President Musarra had set in motion a course for belt tightening and fiscal responsibility. These actions directed the lodge down a path of financial stability. Two years later, in 2004, Frank was selected as a Lifetime member of Columbus Lodge. As Frank aged into his fifties, he remained an active voice and possessed a quiet behind-the-scene influence. He made himself available to advise current presidents and officers. And paid respects to many deceased members and their wives.

Post-presidency, Frank was regularly appointed to serve on key committees including By-Laws, Tenant, and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. He served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee the past six years (2015-2020) till his passing. He also supervised extensive building repairs. At the Grand Lodge level he often represents the lodge as a convention delegate; served on the NYS Grand Lodge Nominating committee (2011 and 2012) and NYS Grand Lodge Commission of Arbitration (2014 & 2016). Frank Musarra died of a sudden heart attack in his North Massapequa home on November 25, 2020; he was 59 years old.



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**COLUMBUS LODGE #2143**  
**Active Membership Longevity List**  
**25 Consecutive Years or More**  
**1964-2021**

**1964-71**

**(MEMBER 50-58 YEARS)**

Nick Viglietta, #286- LM  
Salvatore La Gumina, #28-LM  
Pete Gisonda, #396-LM

Jack LaGrassa, #539  
Jack Bove, #858  
Richard Fitzpatrick, #1053

Carl Cardasia, #1611- LM  
Michael Iannone, #1730- LM  
Fred Marfoglio, #1758

**1972-1981**

**(MEMBER 40-49 YEARS)**

Philip Daniel, #2194  
Angelo Arestive, #2297  
Joseph Riccardo, #2322  
Greg Giammalvo, #2418  
Sam Novarro, #2571-LM  
Paul Riccobono, #2803  
Francesco Lombardi, #2824  
Eddie Esposito, #2862-LM

Angello Delligati, #2874  
Daniel Philips, #2914  
Sal Moschella, #2917-LM  
Anthony Montano, #2924  
Carmile Gargiullo, #2940  
Arthur Del Re, #2943  
Ray Colucci, #2979

Tony Novarro, #2987  
Frank DiVittorio, #3001  
Robert Rottkamp, #3006  
Joe Bermudez, #3019-LM  
Leonard Mormeno, #3037  
Fred Penna Jr., #3039  
Louis Miritello, #3057

**1982-1991**

**(MEMBER 30-39 YEARS)**

Loreto Capogna, #3170  
Richard Ravalico, #3178-LM  
Peter De Liso, #3198  
Anthony Mignone, #3224  
Frank Janoscak, #3227  
Joseph Pontieri, #3231  
Steve Labriola, #3286

Sam Cardillo, #3308  
Brian Sanders, #3314  
Joseph Pasale, #3327  
Frank Tiscione, #3330-LM  
Perry Coletti, #3342  
Edward P Bochynski, #3343-LM  
Stephen Bucaria, #3351

Tony Ragno, #3361-LM  
Joseph T. Cangemi, #3363  
Joseph Contorno, #3366  
Dominick Nesci, #3390  
Patrick Eanniello, #3405  
John DeGregorio, #3406

**1992-1996**

**(MEMBER 25-29 YEARS)**

Tony Ventiera #3440-LM  
Louis Capponi, #3447  
Arthur "Art" Venesia, #3449  
Edward Di Cicco, #3463  
Paul De Stefano, #3468  
Frank Nocerino, #3477  
Paul Calissi, #3484  
Joe Carbone, #3539-LM  
Nicholas DeStefano, #3485  
Leonard Scudera, #3489

Mike Bonavia, #3502  
Frank Gatto, #3507-LM  
Michael Mastellone, #3527  
Michael DeSantis, 3543  
Joe Smeraldi, 3544  
Sal Petrone, 3546-LM  
Lenny Mele, 3547  
Vincent Castrataro 3549  
Charles DiPrima, 3557  
Pasquale Palumbo, 3566

Anthony Carbone, 3567  
Frank Beltrani, #3568  
Michael Viscuse, #3580  
Ed Mangano, #3582  
Vincent "Jimmy" d'Accordo, #3584  
Ed Bader Jr., #3593  
Rocco Napoli, #3600  
Joe Del Vecchio, #3610  
Neil Ferrara, #3615  
Mauro Gasparini, #3618



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## MOTHER CABRINI

### Honored with Bronze Statue

After a two year battle with NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio, a bronze statue honoring Mother Cabrini was unveiled by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in Battery Park on Columbus Day, Oct. 12. The monument was one of perseverance and vision by the Catholic and Italian communities of New York.

The monument of Mother Cabrini was erected in Battery Park facing the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York Harbor. Mother Cabrini (1850-1917), who hailed from Saint Angelo Lodigiano, Italy, and came to the U.S. in 1889. She became a U.S. Citizen and thus, when she was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1946 as the Patron Saint of Immigrants, she also became the first Saint from the Americas.

Mother Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and founded 67 schools, hospitals, and orphanages in the United States. Mother Cabrini's devotion to education also figured into the design — the girl in the boat is carrying a book. The boy is carrying a musical instrument known as an ocarina, representing the music and culture that immigrants bring with them from their native lands when they come to America.

From the beginning the goal was to pay tribute to Mother Cabrini by incorporating facets of her life in Italy into the design. The bronze statue in Battery Park depicts Mother Cabrini in a small boat with two children. The boat depicted in the statue is meant to represent a paper boat. As a child, Mother Cabrini enjoyed visiting her uncle, who lived near Venera River. She made boats out of paper and filled them with violets, her favorite flower, before casting the flower-filled boats into the river and watching as the currents carried them away. She wanted the boats to serve as her missionaries to the world.

The artwork, which has a granite pedestal, stands on a bed of stones taken from a river near Mother Cabrini's home in Italy. The stones were obtained with the help of Mother Maria Barbagallo, who is in charge of a museum dedicated to Mother Cabrini in her hometown.

The selection of the artist Biagis to create the Mother Cabrini statue was made by a Commission which included co-chairmen Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Angelo Vivolo, president of the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

"I had been appointed to the Mother Cabrini Statue Commission a year ago, one of eighteen members, an incredible honor!" said Joseph Sciamé, a member of the Commission and currently OSIA National Foundation

President and Sons of Italy Past National and NYS Grand Lodge President.



A Saint Mother Cabrini statue was unveiled in Battery Park on Columbus Day, October 12, 2020. The statue is a remembrance and thank you for the immigrant children she helped by creating orphanages, schools, and hospitals over one-hundred and thirty years ago.

A Mother Cabrini statue became a point of controversy after Mayor Bill de Blasio commissioned a study into existing statues and monuments in the City, then set aside \$10-million to craft new monuments better representative of the city's ethnic and gender diversity. The city-run program *She Built NYC* was to erect new statues. In a formal voting of New Yorkers, Mother was by far the popular favorite, receiving more than double the number received by the runner-up candidate. However, the selection committee, chaired by the Mayor's wife, Chirlane McCray, decided not to choose Mother Cabrini for the statue series.

The Mayor's office came under heavy criticism from many New Yorkers including the Catholic and Italian communities in the five boroughs as plans for a Cabrini monument was stopped. The public outcry and pledge by Governor Cuomo on Columbus Day (2019) that a Cabrini statue would be build in a prominent area on public grounds in NYC enabled the dedication a year later.

A spokesperson for NYC Mayor De Blasio stated he due to out-of-state commitments he was not able to attend the ceremony.

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### Cabrini Honored At U.S. Post Office

After passing both houses of Congress, on December 3, 2020, President Donald J. Trump signed into law the renaming of Dyker Heights Post office to *Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office*. Last year, U.S. Rep. Max Rose introduced legislation to rename the post office after the Italian immigrant & New Yorker.



# **PETER KING**

## **U.S. CONGRESSMAN**

### **Retires at the end of 2020**

A long time friend of the Columbus Lodge #2143, Congressman Peter King, retired at the end of 2020. Because of the pandemic, we did not have a chance to give him a proper thank him.



*In a 1990 photo: Peter King (left) with NYS Grand Lodge President and the 7<sup>th</sup> President of Columbus Lodge, Nicholas Viglietta.*

**PETER THOMAS KING** (born April 5, 1944) was born in Manhattan and raised in Sunnyside neighborhood near Queens. He is the son of Ethel and Peter, an officer in the NYPD. His paternal grandparents were Irish immigrants and maternal grandfather was Welsh.

Peter graduated St. Francis College (BA) and earned his JD from Notre Dame Law School (1968). The same year he served in the Infantry Regiment in the NY Army National guard and was honorably discharged in 1974. During this time he served in the Nassau County D.A. office.

Peter King first sought public office and won a Hempstead Town Council seat in 1977. He was elected Nassau County Controller in '81, '85, and '89. As controller he displayed independence, often criticizing the budget proposed by Republican County Executives – a trait that would embrace him to voters throughout his career.

Many believe the connection he had with the Italian-American community was based on his empathy for the same bigotry and persecution his immigrant Irish grandparents faced. His understanding and compassion would endear him to the Italian community and served as a gateway to the Columbus Lodge #2143, Sons of Italy. In 1992 Peter King ran for the Third District congressional seat.

With over half the voters on the South Shore of Italian decent, King needed their support and got it for his first election to U.S. House of Representative. He got it and would never forget his Italian brothers.

During the next twenty-eight years, Peter King attended Columbus Lodge events, sponsored the lodge's scholarship awards grants for graduation high school students, and endured himself to his constituent by approaching Washington D.C. with the same independent, common sense approach that got him elected.

King would continue to face opposition but was reelected, often winning by double-digits. He continued to represent the South Shore of Long Island that includes parts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties only to change to 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district (2013).

During his time in office, King was formerly Chair of the House committee on Homeland Security, where he drew attention in early 2011 for holding hearings on the extent of radicalization of American Muslims. He stepped down because of Republican conference term limits, but remains a member of the Committee. He also served on the Financial Services Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.



*Peter King (4<sup>th</sup> from the front-left) at the Columbus Lodge's 2018 Italian Feast & Festival with the Boys of Summer.*

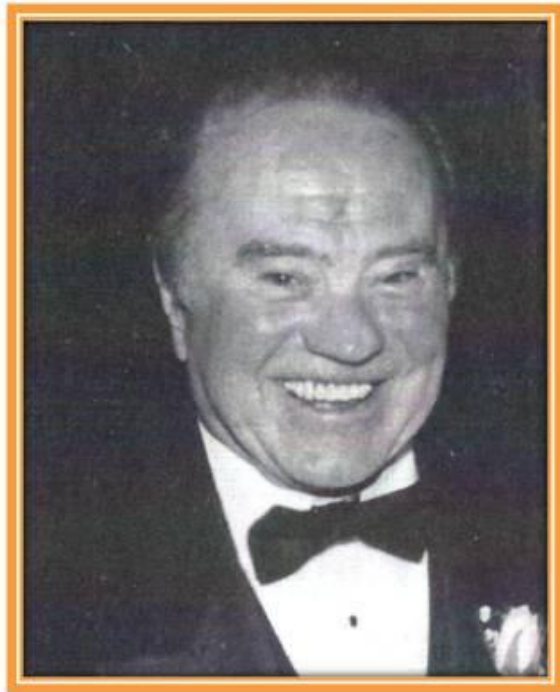
On November 11, 2019, Peter King announced he would not seek re-election in the 2020 elections and would retire when his current term expired in January, 2021. After 14 terms in Congress Peter and his wife Rosemary wanted to spend more time with their daughter Erin King Sweeney, her husband, and their grandchildren, who had recently moved to North Carolina. Pete still maintains a home in Seaford so perhaps we will see him at an upcoming Italian Feast.

On Jan. 21, 2021 it was announced Peter King joined Northwell Health as a governmental affairs and federal policy consultant.



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*In Honor and Loving Memory of . . .*



GIOVANNI CAPOGNA



MICHAEL A. CAPOGNA

**You will forever be in our hearts and will continue  
to be in our source of strength and inspiration.**

**All our love forever,**

*Loreto, John, Anthony  
And  
Your loving family*



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*In Loving Memory of . . .*

Louise Bochynski  
&  
Past President Ed Bochynski



Lovingly,  
Margie & Edward P. Bochynski  
PAST PRESIDENT 2013-2014  
NYS CSJ Executive Board 2016-Present



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**HON. ANGELO D. RONCALLO**

**1927-2010**

**AND**

**Daughter JEAN RONCALLO**

**1959-2020**



**Always Remembered**

**THE RONCALLO FAMILY**



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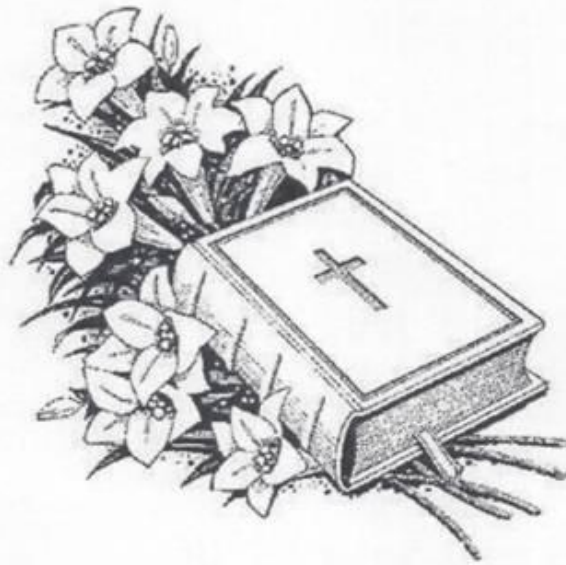
— In Loving Memory —

of

PAST PRESIDENT

**Anthony Scotto**

*OUR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU.  
YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS.*



ALWAYS REMEMBERED

**Your Loving Family**



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*In Loving Memory of . . .*

**STEPHEN D. LaSCALA**

**All our love forever,**

***Jo LaScala and Family***



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*– In Loving Memory –*

*John Michael Bove*

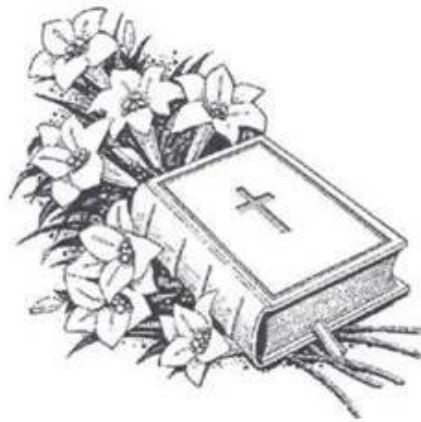
*and*

*Salvatore J. Bove*

*“Sonny”*

1923 - 2018

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS



**Pauline Bove & Family**

Past President Ladies Auxiliary



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*In Loving Memory of . . .*

**LOUIS BARRELLA**

Always Loved & Remembered

*Lenore Barrella*  
*Past President, Ladies Auxiliary*

AND

*Your Family*



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*In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Son*

**CAPT. JOHN S. MOSCHELLA - FDNY**

All our love forever,  
*Sal and Marjorie Moschella*

*9/11 Never Forget*



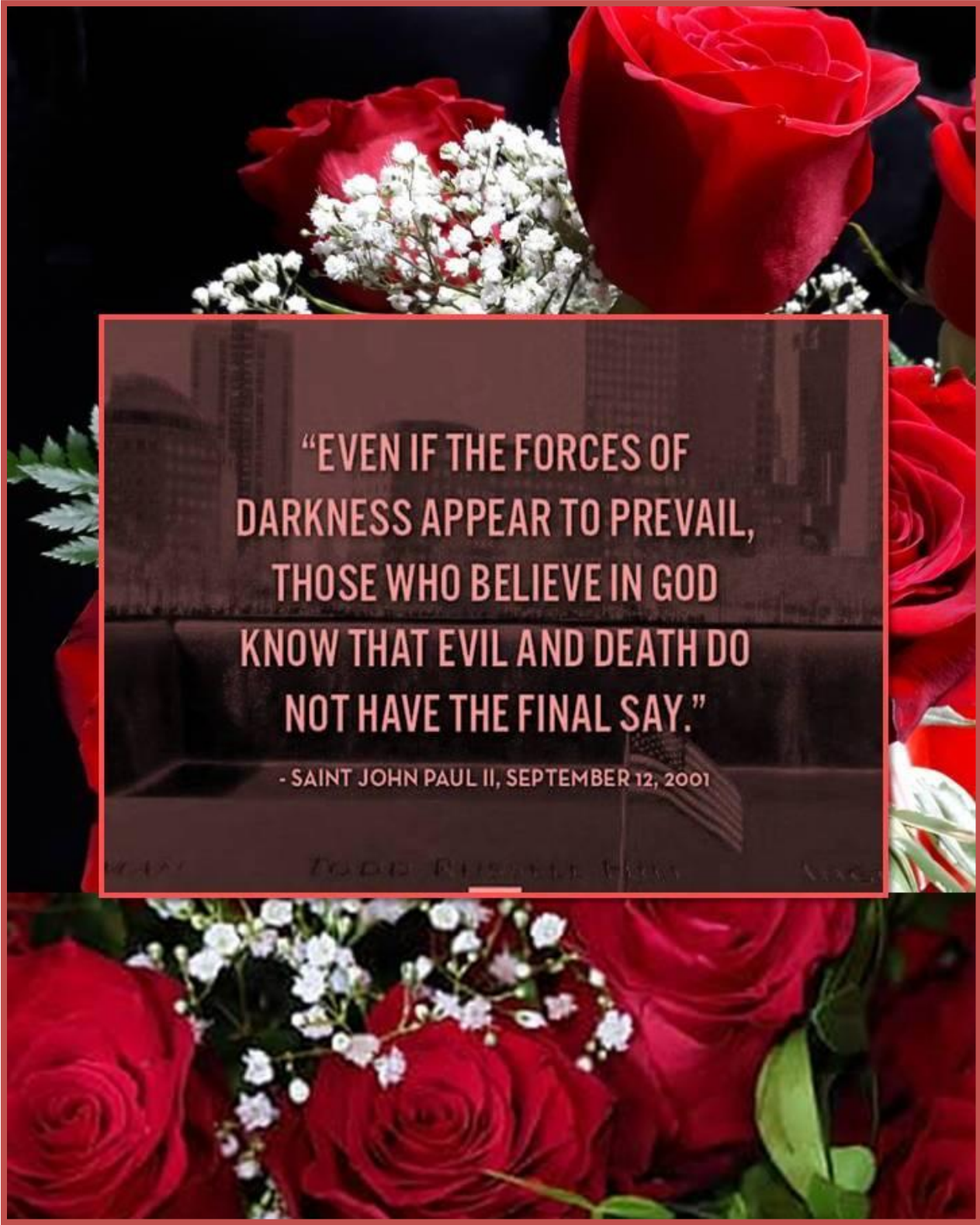
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**JOHN VENDITTO**  
**1927-2010**



**Always Remembered**





**“EVEN IF THE FORCES OF  
DARKNESS APPEAR TO PREVAIL,  
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD  
KNOW THAT EVIL AND DEATH DO  
NOT HAVE THE FINAL SAY.”**

**- SAINT JOHN PAUL II, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001**







