



# LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

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## A Farewell Message

By: **President Vincent Tummino**

*The two most loved jobs of my life,*

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Well, that end has arrived. This will be my final article as President. As of November 14th, I will have retired from the FDNY after more than 36 years of service. It was a long run, but it was very rewarding and left me with many memories. I met so many people in those years, and made many friends. There were many good times of laughs and kidding around and there were also many sad occasions.

I have made a decision and am ready to leave, but I am leaving with sadness in my heart. There is no better job in the world, then being a NYC Firefighter, money can't buy with what this job does to you. I have worked with many heroes and it is my honor to have been a part of such a great department.

I can still remember my very first run on Engine 26 in midtown Manhattan, I felt like a five year old left alone at Toys R. US. I knew then that this was what I wanted to be, however I never dreamed of staying this long. To all of you younger guys out there, I know you are saying 20 and out but believe me, you will be staying longer, it's in your blood.

Someone told me right after September 11th, that firefighters are born with a special gene in their body, and this is what makes them special. I believe that each and every one of you are special, you may not think so, but you prove it everyday. Each time you step on that rig and race to an alarm your life is at risk. Someday take the time and visit the FDNY library and look through and read the back issues of WNYF, you will be amazed of the heroics and events that this department has responded to in the past. Hollywood can make a best selling movie from each issue.

Along with retiring I am also stepping down as President of the Columbia Association, FDNY in accordance with our by-laws. After 15 years with this association and serving as your President for the past 9 years it has been a pleasure working for and with you. While my work will never be done, I will continue to promote our heritage and our Italian cultures through a new organization called the International Columbia Association, along with my dear friend and retired Chief of Department, Dan Nigro. We will both continue to fundraise and support your scholarship program.

***Farewell, May God bless you all and may you all have safe tours.***

**Your friend always,  
Vinny Tummino**

Visit Our Online Store & Shop For Official FDNY Columbia Association Merchandise.  
All Proceeds Benefit The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.  
[www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)



# 2006 COLUMBUS DAY PARADE!

The weather was just beautiful, as this year's Columbus Day Parade began with a pre-parade breakfast at the Au Bon Pain Restaurant on 44th Street. The FDNY Columbian Association's contingent was preceded by the New Paltz High School Marching Band. The Fire Department membership was lead by our President, Vincent Tummino, Commissioner Scoppetta along with the Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Operations Patrick McNally, followed by the officers, members, and friends of the association.

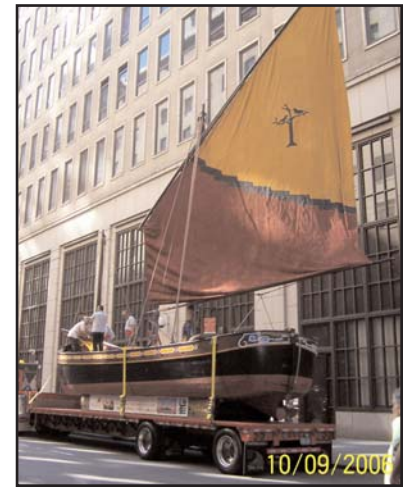


I would also like to thank the many friends from Italy who traveled here to be with us. There were a large group from the Venice area. The "La Dragaggi" the owners of the beautiful 44 foot boat that was shipped from Italy to be in the parade, and of course our dear friends from the "IL Vero Cuoro di Venezia" the sponsors of the Gondola racing team. (again led by Mr. Bepi D' Este)

We also had the Vice Mayor of San Cataldo, along with some of his colleagues, Firefighters from Milan, and Firefighters from San Francisco. There were an estimated 40,000 marchers and some One million viewers at this year's parade! A special "THANK YOU" to 343 flag committee and the family transport foundation.

Finally, in closing, I would like to leave you with a few thoughts. Always stand tall, be proud and defend our Italian heritage against those who mock and try to degrade us. Our creed should always be as follows: the United States of America, Italia and Italians are NUMERO UNO!!!

It was a beautiful day for all, mark your calendar for next year October 8th , 2007.



## "IMPORTED ITALIAN WINE RAFFLE" NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT - COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

Will raffle off one case (12 bottles) each to two winners at our annual Christmas party.

The wine was donated from our Italian friends,

Red Wine from the Lombardy Region "ROSSO d' ARMORE"

Tickets can be purchase from any board member or at any general meeting.

All donations benefit our scholarship fund.

Donations are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00.

For tickets call Vinny Tummino at (917) 757-6022.



# 2006 GONDOLA RACE

By: Steve Forlenza

On October 12, 2006 the Columbia Association 2006 rowing team departed for its annual trip to Venice, Italy. Each year since 9/11, our friends on the Island of Burano, Italy have invited six of our firefighters to compete in a Gondola regatta. This year the regatta was named "The Hotel Cipriani Cup". This regatta has been exclusive of the Buranian people for 100's of years and only after 9/11 were outsiders aloud to compete. In fact, New York City Firefighters are the only outsiders to ever compete in this competition. During the first few days of the trip, our firefighters endured arduous training. The top Buranian gondolier Bepi Suste orchestrated the daily training program.

Each day, after training, our excursion was filled with activities that were prearranged by our friends in Venice, along with team managers, Vinny Tummino and Dan Nigro. Our firefighters visited places such as the Piazza San Marco and Ponte De Rialto. During our visit to Venice, our firefighters dined at some of the finest restaurants in the city. Ristorante Antico Pignolo, Ristorante Do Forni, Ristorante Galuppi, Ristorante Al Gatto Negro da Ruggiero, Ristorante Locanda Cipriani, Ristorante da Romano, and the Black Nero were some of the restaurants visited by our firefighters.

Finally, "IL VERO CUORE DI VENEZIA" the Association that hosted our firefighters, presented our association with a donation to our scholarship fund. All of the best Murano glass Maestros manufactured a special glass work of art as a gift to the Association. These pieces sold at an auction that was held at the Hotel Cipriani in Venice. All of the proceeds from the auction were donated to the FDNY Columbia Association scholarship fund.

I would like to take this time to thank our friends in Venice for their hospitality and most importantly their friendship. As always your support of our association is greatly appreciated. Until next year! Choi!



**DECEMBER  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING  
CANCELLED**

**All Members are Invited to join  
the Board of Directors for  
"HOLIDAY CHEER!"**

*Dec. 14, 2006, 6:30 to 9:30 PM  
Puglia's Restaurant  
189 Hester Street, Little Italy  
Proper Attire Required  
RSVP (347) 556-9906*



## 2007 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

### \*Eligibility:

Those eligible include sons or daughters (step or foster included) of a member in good standing, or of a deceased member if said member was in good standing at time of his death. An application and statement must be completed to be considered.

### High School Awards:

Applicants must be in the eighth grade and applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2007. The High School placement exam will be administered on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the Fire Academy.

### College Awards:

SAT Exam taken between Septembers of Junior Year to March of Senior Year of High School, 9/1/05 - 4/1/07.

**Only the Verbal and Math Score will be considered for our 2007 award.**

Only applications in the graduating year will be accepted.

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2007.

### Applications:

Please contact Captain Craig Silvino at 631-271-2928.

Or your borough trustee for applications.

Applications are also available on our website,  
www.fdnycolumbia.com.

**\*Columbia Association NYFD Constitution and By-Laws Article VI Sec 6.6**

## CHIEF OF THE FIRE ACADEMY RETIRES

BC Nicholas Santangelo Retires after 30 years of service. Chief Santangelo entered the Fire Department in 1977 and was assigned to Ladder 104 in Brooklyn. He was promoted to Lieutenant in April of 1984 and was assigned to Engine 88. In June of 1990 he was promoted to Captain and assigned to Engine 80 in the Bronx. On October 3rd of 1998 he was promoted to Battalion Chief and assigned to Battalion 16. For the past 6 years he has been assigned as the Chief of the Fire Academy. Chief Santangelo has played an essential roll in the reconstruction of the FDNY. After 9/11 BC Santangelo was instrumental in training of over 6,000 probationary Fire Fighters, but that was only one of his many hats. His command included Annual Education Day, Tactical Training, Chauffer Training, FLIPS, Captain Development, BC Command Course just to name a few. And while training was his main concern, the Ceremonial unit was also his responsibility. The professionalism, admiration, reassurance, and traditions of the FDNY were second to none. We wish Nicholas nothing but the best in his retirement.



**Battalion Chief Nicholas Santangelo**



## Retirees' Corner

by Dennis DiTucci

Medicare premiums are going up, but you probably already knew that. What you may not know is that for the first time, higher income seniors will pay more than other enrollees.

The Standard Medicare Part B Monthly premium will be \$93.50 in 2007, a \$5.00 hike. Individuals with annual incomes greater than \$80,000 and married couples with incomes more than \$160,000 will also pay a surcharge authorized by a little noticed provision in the law that added prescription drug coverage to Medicare.

Submitted by:  
Dennis DiTucci



## 2007 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

### LOTTERY

by Keith Tanico

**It is that time of the year again. The lottery tickets will be going out on December 1, 2006. If anyone would like a specific number please call Keith Tanico at 917-337-7413. We Will only be selling 200 tickets numbered from 1 to 2000. First prize is \$10,000, 2nd prize is \$2,000 and 3rd prize is \$1,000.**

### ATTENTION:

As of January 1, 2007, all Columbia Association mail (except dues) should be sent to:

Columbia Association  
C/O Buddy Santangelo  
2024 Gerritsen Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

## Attention: Motor Heads!



We are going to host a Corvette Custom Car show in the Spring and we are looking for a large area that would accommodate about 100 show cars plus spectator parking. We are currently looking at Forest Park and the Science Museum in the World's Fair, both located in Queens and we are also looking at South Beach in Staten Island. If anyone is interested in helping that day or has a location for us to consider, please call Dennis DiTucci at 516-794-7669.



# NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION 1ST ANNUAL CIGAR NIGHT

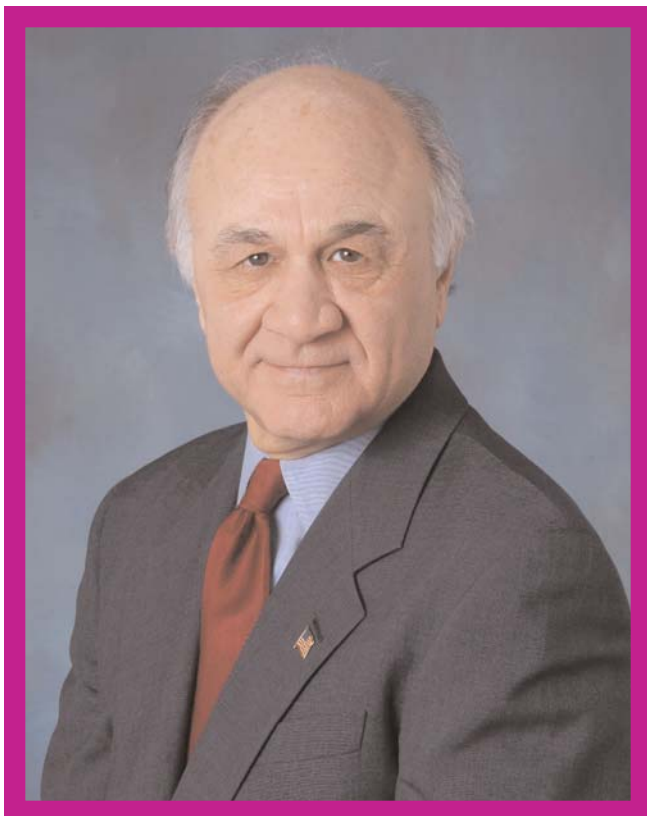
FRIDAY March 23, 2007 at 6 PM PROMPTLY  
**CLUB MACANUDO**

26 E. 63 Street - JUST EAST OF  
MADISON AVENUE

HOSTESS SERVED HORS D'OEUVRES  
AND OPEN BUFFET  
THOUSANDS WORTH OF RAFFLE PRIZES  
VERY LIMITED - 1st 100 PAID Guests  
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CONTACT: KEITH TANICO, @ 917-337-7413

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO :  
COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
Keith Tanico, 14 Ivanhoe Drive, Merrick, NY 11566



## Congratulations!

TO OUR FIRE  
COMMISSIONER NICHOLAS  
SCOPPETTA FOR RECEIVING  
THE "MAN OF THE YEAR"  
ALONG WITH BROADWAY  
STAR MELISSA ERRICO AS  
THE "WOMAN OF THE  
YEAR" FROM THE ITALIAN  
WELFARE LEAGUE AT A  
BEAUTIFUL LUNCHEON HELD  
ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 14,  
2006 IN THE ST. REGIS  
HOTEL.



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**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York  
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Brooklyn, NY 11229

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## LA SOTTO VOCE

The Newsletter of the FDNY  
Columbia Association  
La Sotto Voce is published  
four times annually.

### Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

#### Executive Board:

Board President	Bernard Santangelo	Bureau of Fire Investigations	917-613-1308
1st Vice President	Craig Silvino	Division 13	516-286-1796
2nd Vice President	Keith Tanico	Division 13	917-337-7413
3rd Vice President	Dennis DiTucci	Retired	516-476-3032
Treasurer	Eugene D'Auria	Division 3	516-662-8637
Financial Secretary	Joseph Smithwick	Division 13	516-662-3699
Recording Secretary	Chris Reginella	Engine 92	914-482-0118
Sergeant-At-Arms	Sal Belmonte	Battalion 35	516-233-8142
Manhattan Trustee	Joseph Trioloi	Division 1	718-751-6731
Queens Trustee	Sal Mirra	Engine 289	516-322-7588
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Ladder 83	718-213-7499
Brooklyn Trustee	Steve Forlenza	Squad 18	347-678-8445
Bronx Trustee			
EMS Trustee	Grace Cacciola	EMS Headquarters	516-852-3318
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.	
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.		

#### Committee Chairs:

Membership:	Joseph Smithwick	<b>Home Phone:</b>	<b>Work Phone:</b>
Lottery:	Keith Tanico	516-796-0975	917-337-7413
Parade:	Joe Triolo	516-867-4580	
Good & Welfare:	Dennis DiTucci	718-383-6429	
Scholarships & Dinner Dance:	Craig Silvino	516-794-7669 Retired	
Hershey Park:	Chris Reginella	631-271-2928	516-286-1796
		914-277-6044	718-430-0292

### 2006 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Brooklyn  
Jan 09, 2007 & June 12, 2007  
VFW Post, 2414 Garrison Ave.

Queens  
Feb 13, 2007 & Sept 11, 2007  
VFW Post, 19-12  
149th St. (between 19th & 20th)  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island  
March 13, 2007 & Oct 09, 2007  
Hillside Swim Club  
151 Sign Rd.

Bronx  
Apr. 10, 2007 & Nov. 13, 2007  
Guiding Star Council Hall,  
3243 Ampere Ave.

Long Island  
May 8, 2007  
American Legion  
250 Franklin Ave  
Malverne, LI

Christmas Party  
Dec. (date to be announced)

❖ Visit our website: [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)  
❖ E-mail the Columbia Association:  
[buddy@fdnycolumbia.com](mailto:buddy@fdnycolumbia.com)

