

## Message From Executive Director Chris Ward

**W**e are all aware of the extensive loss of life and widespread damage in Japan, whose citizens continue to struggle after an earthquake and tsunami struck the nation on March 11. Seeing the first tragic images, I know many of us thought of our sister airport colleagues at Narita International, which has since become a hub for relief efforts.

Some of you may remember that our friends at Narita International came to the U.S. shortly after 9/11 to express solidarity and show support. I am sure some of you are wondering what you can do to help now. If you are interested in assisting, you can donate \$10 by texting REDCROSS to 90999 or you can visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to find a full list of organizations providing disaster relief.

But perhaps the best way to contribute is through voluntary temporary payroll deductions that will be processed in pay periods 9 through 12. Your department business manager can provide a payroll deduction form for this time period, which should be submitted by Friday, April 8.

Your donations will be directed to the American Red Cross with the stipulation for Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami.

If you have any questions, call Payroll Accounting Manager **Thomas D'Alessio** at 12-6255.

## Get PA News

If you'd like *PA News* sent to your personal e-mail address, send a note to [panews@panynj.gov](mailto:panews@panynj.gov).

## LGA Hosts Medal of Honor Recipients

**P**ort Authority staff joined in honoring 40 winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor at LaGuardia Airport on March 24, where they boarded American Airlines' Flagship Liberty for a flight to the nation's capital for National Medal of Honor Day.

"I am so honored to have this opportunity, on behalf of the Port Authority, to welcome to LaGuardia Airport all these brave soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, our country's Medal of Honor recipients," Airport Operations Manager **Doug Stearns** said.

"We can never repay the debt this country owes them and their fallen comrades. All we can do is express our deepest, most sincere appreciation and extend our hands and our hearts in thanks."



*Doug Stearns welcomes the honorees to LaGuardia Airport.*

Mr. Stearns thanked American Airlines, which annually provides a plane for the honorees' flight to

Washington, where their heroism is celebrated with special events.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Congressional Medal of Honor.



*LGA Operations Group Supervisor Louis Casciello with a Battle of the Bulge veteran who came to honor the Medal of Honor recipients.*



*PAPD Lieutenant David Lim with Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Bruce Crandall, who was portrayed by Greg Kinnear in the motion picture *We Were Soldiers*.*

Bill Clark

Joanne Feltham

Nancy Farrell

## PA Board Honors Frank DiMola

**U**pon his impending retirement, the Port Authority Board of Commissioners this week presented an engraved plaque to Real Estate Director

**Frank DiMola** in appreciation of a 35-year career that began as Facility Operations Agent and also included Police Officer, Operations Services Supervisor, Assistant Manager Airport Services, Assistant Director of Aviation Operations and Security, and Assistant Director of Aviation Business and Commercial Development.

The Board cited Mr. DiMola's many notable contributions to the agency, among them his leading of the Aviation Department's participation in the agency's negotiations with New York City for renewing the airport lease



Mike Dombrowski

*Frank DiMola receives an engraved Port Authority Board of Commissioners tribute from Commissioner David Steiner on March 29 at PA headquarters.*

for LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International through 2050; his prominent role in the successful negotiation of numerous other agreements, including the Terminal 5 lease with JetBlue Airways; and his oversight as Director of Real

Estate of the agency's Waterfront Development and Harbor Estuary Programs, as well as planning for major redevelopment projects at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, the Hoboken Ferry Terminal and George Washington Bridge Bus Station, to name only a few.

The Board also noted his Police Meritorious Medal in 1980 and Police Commendation Medal in 1981, and his Civilian Commendation Award for his acts of bravery on 9/11.

## EWR Supports 'March Madness'

*The Port Authority and Newark Liberty International Airport joined the Welcoming Committee for GoNewark HoopFest last week when the city hosted the East Regional NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Tournament at the Prudential Center. More than 80 HoopFest and airport volunteers were assigned to EWR's three passenger terminals from Wednesday to Sunday to help travelers arriving for the tournament and related events. Among them (from left): Peter Kahn of GoNewark HoopFest; Nisi Sanchez, a Gateway Customer Care staffer; Oreoluwa Shogbola Jefferson of GoNewark; Velma Vaughn of Gateway; and Fred Roth of Travelers Aid. They are joined by New Jersey Airports General Manager John Jacoby.*



Felicia Davidson

## It's All About You

**P**A News is primarily about the agency's employees and retirees. If you want to submit something to be published, think "PA names and faces."

On Outlook, send it to panews.

From outside the agency, it's panews@panynj.gov.

PA News is published every Thursday and is archived – and searchable – on EmployeeNet.

## Calendar

### Runway Run

The 28th Annual JFK Rotary 5K Run – benefiting Gift of Life International and several other worthy causes – will be held at Kennedy International Airport on Sunday, April 10, rain or shine. To register, visit [jfkrunwayrun.org](http://jfkrunwayrun.org).

### Softball, Anyone?

The Port Authority Employee Softball League is looking for additional teams and players. If you're interested in entering an entire team into the league, you must do so by April 22.

Contact **Ray Bardeguez** at 917 939-0104 or **David Warren** at 973 792-3519.

### Jazz in Brooklyn

Retiree and jazz vocalist **Steve Cromity** and Quartet will perform Sunday, April 10, 6 to 9 p.m., at Two Steps Down, 240 DeKalb Ave. between Vanderbilt and Clermont.

For more information, contact him at [acorns4u@aol.com](mailto:acorns4u@aol.com) or 917 685-3508.

## Aiding Law Enforcement



Rob Caron

*Port Authority Police Detective George Fortaleza (2nd from right) presents a Crime Watch Award on March 17 to Joseph Cheron, an Air Serv Corporation employee at Newark Liberty International Airport who spotted a black box in the ceiling of a rampside restroom and immediately called PAPD when he opened it to find a 9 mm handgun. Thanks to his efforts, the weapon was returned to its owner, who had transported it legally on a flight from Arizona. With them are Air Serv Account Manager Keith Baniyas (left) and General Manager Ignazio Altizio. The PA's Crime Watch program rewards airport employees for aiding law enforcement.*