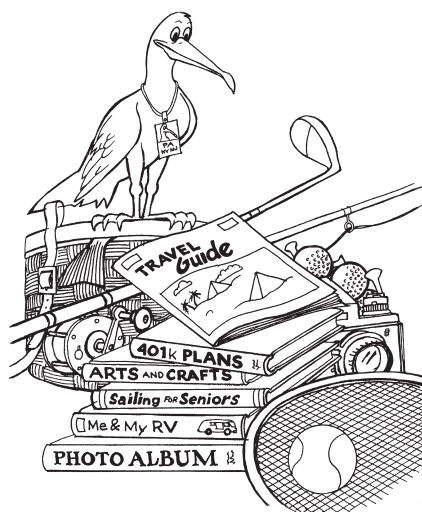


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"Don't forget Where You Put Your para-phernalia."



A Message From Your President

As I write to you for this Spring 2021 issue of our PARA newsletter, I do so with a solid dose of mixed feelings.

This will be my final *"President's Message"* to you, our PARA members. I have advised our Board that after serving as your President for a full decade it is time for me to step back from that role as of the end of the current term in July and return to sit as a regular Board member. For PARA, this now is a period of **transition**. Change is inevitable. Nothing is static. The old saying rings true: ***there is a time for every season***. And so, the time for my "season" of serving as your President has completed its cycle.

I am happy to advise you that the baton will pass to the very capable hands of **Karen Eastman**. As the next chapter in the PARA story begins, Karen will lead the Board with a fresh set of eyes, a renewed energy and an ongoing commitment to carry on the work of the PARA organization on your behalf as it has been done since our founding in 1989.

For me, these past ten years have provided a terrific opportunity to remain connected with so many of you (and to meet so many others for the first time) in a way that I dare say would not have been likely except for the opportunity to have been a member of the PARA Board. I am most appreciative for that. I hasten to add that your PARA Board and our Advisors have served you in an outstanding manner over these many years. They have been most helpful to me — and, in turn, to you — in contributing their own time, effort and experience to carry out the various tasks that need to be done to address the organization's multiple activities. I extend my sincere thanks to each and every Board member who has served over these past ten years. They each have contributed in their own way and they have made my job easier and most enjoyable. Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the special participation of one of our non-board members — our PARA webmaster. Joe SanSevero, virtually singlehandedly, has created, administered and updated the PARA website ever since he first introduced it to us in 2006. Over these years it has grown to become a major resource of information for all of us. In addition, Joe's work in personally assisting countless numbers of retirees over the years has been a huge help for all of us on the Board. Again, many thanks to Joe and to every Board member. These collective efforts from everyone have been so valuable in so many ways to so many of you.

As we look to the future, I know that all of this work will proceed without interruption as we persevere in our overall advocacy work on behalf of our PA retiree community. In addition, where we can help, we will provide

President's Message - continued page 2

Officers & Board of Directors

Past Presidents

Harold A Milley (1987-1993)

Al Rubbert (1994-2003)

Richard Helman (2004-2011)

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Rae Ann Hoffmann, Vice President
Bob Isaacs, Treasurer
Jerrilyn Raczynski, Secretary
Holly Blauser
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Louis P. Venech
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The Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc. does not provide, and this newsletter does not constitute, legal, accounting, tax or other professional advice. We recommend you contact your own legal, accounting, tax or professional advisor as neither The Port Authority Retirees Association nor anyone associated with the newsletter assumes responsibility for your relying on the information provided even though we have attempted to ensure that it reflects our understanding of what is presented.

President's Message - continued from page 1

assistance to individuals on matters of personal interest and concern to them. As our world inevitably changes, we will continue to focus our efforts on preserving the integrity of our earned retirement benefits and hopefully on reclaiming those aspects that may have suffered from some erosion over the years. We will also strengthen our technological resources as we improve our abilities to communicate with you in a timely and more robust manner. Finally – and most importantly – the core asset for this PARA organization is you, the members. We appreciate and value your ongoing support and we ask you to reach out and invite your PA friends and colleagues to become a part of this outstanding community.

I wish each of you the very best as we all look ahead to many more “seasons” together.

Dave Gallagher, President

Centennial Update

Centennial planning has finally given way to Centennial activity. On April 30th, 2021 the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey marked 100 years since the signing of the Compact creating the agency on April 30, 1921, with a small, in-person ceremony in front of the Oculus on the World Trade Center campus and the dedication of a bronze plaque and committal of a time capsule.

Suggestions for items to be included in the capsule came from across the Agency – from current employees and retirees. The capsule will be unsealed on or around April 30, 2121.

Comments were delivered by Chairman Kevin J. O'Toole and Executive Director Rick Cotton, and Vice Chairman Jeffrey H. Lynford, who paid tribute to Commissioner George McDonald, who passed away earlier this year.

A time capsule was committed in the stone behind the plaque and the Port Authority Police Honor Guard and Police Pipe and Drums participated in the service.

The social-distanced event was held just blocks from where the original Compact was signed inside the Great Hall of the New York Chamber of Commerce Building on Liberty Street.

Earlier the same week, on April 28, the Centennial was marked with the first of a series of four symposia led by the Rudin Center at NYU and the Voorhees Center at Rutgers. The symposium on the 28th, led by the Rudin Center, featured former Port Authority Executive Director Peter Goldmark as a keynote speaker.

A “pop-up” historical exhibition created by the New York Historical Society also was unveiled on April 30th. The exhibit – five connected large panels – will be displayed across agency facilities throughout the year. Exact details as to where it will be located will be shared in the future. The panels will also be displayed online on the Centennial pages of the Port Authority website.

There are more exciting things ahead – but the celebration has begun.

Alfred Doblin

Board Highlights

The fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on October 15, 2020, via Zoom technology as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Committee reports were given. Additional expenses were incurred on the construction of the new website but nothing significant. Dues collection was good and investments remain even. PARA made two \$2,500 contributions to the Food Bank and Children's Aid as discussed at the July meeting. PARA may now partially participate in the Port Authority Trading Post by putting items on for others to see and purchase, but we cannot purchase off the site just yet. The new website is an ongoing process and is being continually worked on. There is a myriad of information to transfer and reorganize into a form that the new web provider, GoDaddy, can input. There have been several questions from retirees regarding procedures to follow when your doctor does not accept Medicare. PA Benefits is not always responsive in a timely manner. The process varies among doctors, however, United Health Care generally pays covered service provided documentation is provided showing Medicare disapproval. Call United Health Care for more information. PARA civilian and police representatives continue to attend pre-retirement seminars to advocate for joining PARA. We are always looking for ways to reach potential new members. If anyone knows a retiree who is not a PARA member, we encourage you to suggest they join. The more members we have, the bigger voice we have.

The PA Centennial planning is well under way. There will be a series of events – some virtual, some in person where possible. There may also be exhibits with the New York Historical Society. A follow-up book to "Empire on the Hudson" is making good progress. The author is a professor at St. Peter's University and has been in touch with several people in the Port Authority for information and insight. PARA approved a By-Law amendment which will provide for payments by electronic funds transfer or wire transfer as some recipients no longer accept checks. Discussion as to a successor to President Gallagher is under way.

The first Quarterly Meeting was held on January 21, 2021, again via Zoom. Committees reported that dues collection was good in December and PARA remains in good financial shape. As CD's mature the Finance Committee will consider transferring funds to other forms of investment which provide a better rate of return.

Printing and postage remain PARA's recurring highest expenditures. The annual stipend for PARA's current webmaster was approved and expenses for the next audit cycle will be requested at the July meeting. Several newsletters have been returned for incorrect addresses. PARA attempts to follow up with emails where possible. If you or someone you know has had a change of address please notify PARA so that we may keep our records current.

We plan to include an article on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 in the fall newsletter which means accelerating the schedule for articles and personal experiences. An e-bulletin will be distributed shortly requesting articles and personal experiences. We encourage all contributions for this very significant edition. At this point, we are almost finished with the transfer of information to the new website. When this is complete, PARA will review for content and ease of navigation. If all goes according to plan, the site could go live within six months. There are no pre-retirement seminars planned thus far this year by HR, however, there may be an incentive offered which could result in around 600 retirees. PARA will monitor this and try to reach as many potential retirees as possible. PARA information will be included in the PA News as well.

Centennial planning continues. A display is being planned which will rotate through PA facilities. A centennial book, authored by Anthony Robins, is planned as well which will be available for purchase. At this time both Rutgers and New York University are developing virtual symposiums for the spring. A small time capsule will be placed at the World Trade Center with a plaque and suggestions for its content are being solicited. A video history project has begun as well and they are in the process of interviewing people for information. PARA continues to work with HR on the timing of responses to retirees. They claim they are doing the best they can at this time as they are short-staffed and restricted from hiring additional people. Filling the upcoming Presidency vacancy has not been easy. Several suggestions have been made which would alter the way the Board is governed and redistribute the responsibilities of the position. This will all continue to be discussed by the Nominating Committee in hopes of a resolution by the Annual Meeting, however, more time may be needed.

Jerrilyn Raczynski

Your Dues are Due

PARA dues (a very reasonable \$10 per year, but feel free to send more) are collected throughout the year on a calendar year basis. Each of our semi-annual newsletters includes a dues remittance form, but many people seem to forget to write a check and send it to us. If you're unsure if you've paid your dues, just go to the PARA website (<https://www.paranyj.org/Dues/index.htm>) and click on the link at the bottom of the page. This will generate an e-mail to PARA's Treasurer requesting your dues status. We thank you for your continued support of PARA.

Election of PARA Board Members

***It's that time of the year again,
when you get to vote for your members of the PARA Board of Directors.***

Re-elections

Up for re-election for three-year terms are:

Elizabeth DeLaura, Frank DiMola, Rita DuBrow, Al Graser, Cynthia Hadley-Bailey,
Rich Hellenbrecht, Dick Lee, and Donna Tucker.

Members who have paid their dues for 2021 on or before June 30, 2021 will be entitled to cast their vote. The names of the candidates up for re-election, as well as their proposed term of office, are listed on the enclosed Official Proxy Ballot Card on which you can indicate your vote for all, some, or none of the candidates, or you can submit a write-in candidate of your choice if the individual is a member in good standing. Just return your completed ballot in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope which must be received by June 30, 2021. If you have not already paid your 2021 annual dues,

you may include your check along with your ballot. We always encourage members to exercise their right to vote and play an active role in PARA.

The Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. Please let us know if you have intentions to attend by June 30, 2021 by mailing us notice at PARA, P.O. Box 2002, East Millstone, NJ 08875-2002 or by e-mail to: davegallagher@paranynj.org no later than June 30, 2021.

Travelers Aid

Travelers Aid volunteers, the heart and soul of our program, hold posts throughout Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) and John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

As a high-impact partner within the Port Authority's customer service efforts, these volunteers welcome passengers and provide information to thousands of travelers each year. Airport guests have a variety of travel-related challenges and volunteers are dedicated to helping passengers find their way with ease.

Travelers Aid, an organization rooted in helping travelers in distress, operates in locations throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada and Australia; many as associate members of the Travelers Aid International organization. Many programs also offer homeless outreach and housing support, while Travelers Aid JFK and Traveler Aid EWR exist to provide airport information. Together, we are committed to assisting all who encounter unexpected challenges in their journey.

Retired EWR General Manager Richard Heslin reflects on his time serving as a Travelers Aid volunteer, sharing, "I love the energy. My fellow volunteers and I are problem solvers and we are customer service driven. This is a great way to interact with and help passengers from all over the world, while remaining connected to the airports and to the Port Authority."

Come and experience the reward of helping others. Volunteer opportunities with Travelers Aid are waiting for you! Both EWR and JFK have available shifts and flexible hours during the entire week. Additionally, Travelers Aid follows social distancing and facial covering mandates/guidelines. Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials are accessible throughout both airports.

Please contact the EWR office at 973-623-5052 or email danielle@travelersaid.org and at JFK, 718-656-4870 or email jane@travelersaid.org.



A Day to Remember

On April 30th, I had the privilege of participating in the Centennial. The 100th Anniversary of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It was a day we had known about for many years, yet one we never thought would ever come. What a surprise to wake up and say, Happy 100th Anniversary to one of the most prestigious public entities in our country and beyond.

It was a beautiful day — light winds, clear sky, what more could you ask for. You could feel the atmosphere and hear the chatter. Something had changed. It felt like old times again.

The time came for the ceremony. The Pipe and Drum stilled the attendees. Chairman Kevin O'Toole, Executive Director Rick Cotton, and Commissioner Jeffrey H. Lynford, made strong and passionate remarks about the staff's tireless commitment to the agency and its ability to get the work done, not only for this generation but for generations to come.

As for me, it truly was *A Day to Remember*.

Karen Eastman



Looking for PA photos from the past!

The **Centennial Team at the Port Authority** is sending out a request for any high quality images of our facilities or events over the last 100 years. These images would be used to supplement a photo archive that the Centennial Team is using, and might be used in the photo history book about the agency that is being developed. As many of you know, most of the agency's photos were lost on September 11th, so collecting photos from PARA members would help to strengthen the photo database that currently exists. ***If you believe you have some pictures that would be useful for this, please reach out to Chase Palmer at ropalmer@panynj.gov or 551-220-8504.***



**Celebrating the PA's 100th Anniversary
(Eleven retirees at Napoli in Fort Lee)**



The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*

It's no surprise -- PARA's invitation to share memories of your service as we mark the Port Authority's Centennial this year prompted dozens of heartfelt messages. Many retirees extolled the "family feeling" of working for the agency and the opportunity to serve the public. The recollections extend back to the 1950's, recalling life at 111 Eighth Avenue, construction of major facilities, and first-person accounts of crises and recovery in recent decades.

They make wonderful reading, but together they are more than we could fit (or afford to print and mail!) with this Spring newsletter. The solution: we excerpted quotes in the pages that follow from a representative range of your responses. You can enjoy the full measure of everyone's submittals, which will be available to read and download on the PARA website at www.paranynj.org by the time you receive this newsletter. This will serve as a permanent archive of these many unique stories. You can submit your PA memories at PA100years@paranynj.org for inclusion in future updates of this website resource.

Not all the responses were celebratory. Many included recollections of the 9/11 attacks and the February 26, 1993 WTC bombing. They will be on the PARA website as part of our shared recollections of the Port Authority's Centennial, and we will feature excerpts in the Fall newsletter along with coverage of the agency's events marking the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Jeff Green:

The Introduction to Empire on the Hudson, Jameson Doig's epic history of our agency, captures its essence: "One important contribution of this volume is to recall us to a time when Americans had confidence that government could confront great problems with imagination and decisiveness and that bureaucracies could be at once honest, effective, and competent."

With rare exceptions, that description accurately captured the ethos of the Port Authority. As just two examples, no other organization, public or private, could have recovered from the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center as effectively as

we did, selling bonds within days and reopening within weeks, or stayed focused on its recovery, amidst concern for staff after 9/11.

But the Port Authority is more than that...it's the people, and the people were national and international leaders in their fields who were at least as competent as anyone in the public or private sectors.

We thought of the Port Authority as "Mother PONYA." It was drummed into us that we had one mission, to serve the people of the region diligently and with integrity. We could disagree on policy, but not be disagreeable. Together we worked hard, took our work seriously, while keeping a sense of humor.

Gus Preschle:

I spent much of my career working at the Trade Center. Starting as a Junior Operations Analyst in 1970. Most remarkable for me were the years 1985 through 1992 when I served as Operations Manager and then General Manager of the complex.

The Landmark facility was unique in many ways. We were in direct competition with the private sector. As the World Financial Center and other first-class buildings sprung up around us, we had to be creative, inventive, and always open to new ideas. Our 275 tenants — such as Fuji Bank, Dean Witter Reynolds, and the Commodities Exchange Center — demanded first-class

The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*



services, and we did our best to provide them.

Perhaps the finest display of teamwork was during the months that many of us worked with the Executive Director on 12- to 14-hour days to reopen the towers after the tragic bombing of February 26, 1993. An extraordinary team of specialists was pulled together overnight from within and outside the agency to assess the damage, muster the resources to make massive repairs, clean every square inch and help tenants move back in. We did it

because it was our job and we did it for our co-workers Bob Kirkpatrick, Monica Rodriguez and her unborn child, Steve Knapp, and Bill Macko whom we lost on the tragic day.

Tony Oliver:

I started with the PANYNJ on 10/31/1972 in the Mailroom located on 111 8th Avenue right after high school. I was given an assignment to work with the Secretary's Office soon afterwards as their personal mailman. We moved to the

WTC in January 1973. On April 4, 1973 I was designated to be one of the staff members to open the WTC doors for business as we welcomed the occupants. I worked for the PA for 39.5 wonderful years. I had the pleasure to introduce to the WTC and public the wonderful sounds of Latin Jazz and Salsa music. Director Albert Moncure gave me and Edward Calderon (RIP) special permission to do so and it was an immediate success and the public loved it.

Continued next page





The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*

Richard Lee:

At 6:30 am, on May 26, 1977 George Willig, better known as the “Human Fly,” started climbing up the side of 2 WTC. About 7:30am I arrived at my desk on the 69th floor of 1 WTC. Starting to sip my first coffee of the day I looked out my window at the South

Tower and incredulously at a figure climbing the wall. As I stared out the window, I heard a voice from behind me and someone with a heavy French accent asked if he could come over to watch the climber. To my surprise I recognized him immediately. It was Philippe Petit, who I watched walking

the highwire between the towers a few years earlier from this same window. He “happened” to be visiting the Public Affairs Department that morning, but their windows faced east so he couldn’t see the action from there. We watched for a while and then he said to me, “That guy is crazy.” I turned slowly to face him, smiled a little, and all I could think of saying was, “Are you kidding me?” He deadpanned he was serious. He thought walking up the side of the building was more dangerous than walking the wire. We watched a little bit longer and then before he left I got his autograph on a buckslip which of course I still have. What a great PA memory!



Karen Mandart:

I worked for the Port Authority for 36.5 years at various facilities including the PABT, the Holland Tunnel, JSTC (field office), JFKIA, and my last years at LGA. There were opportunities to move up regularly, which I tried to do when needed and open, but the lasting & most memorable in my lifetime with Mother PONYA was Job Sharing. It was a new concept and people were willing to work with us — to take a chance that it could work smoothly with no interruption in procedure, communication, and job performance. It saved my sanity since I hated the thought of leaving my child, but knowing I had to work as we all do. It was the best of both worlds — I didn’t feel as guilty leaving him — now for a

The Port Authority Centennial: Retiree Stories



shorter amount of days, and yet I still felt useful in the business world. It was a challenge, but so worth it and I and my son will be forever grateful that I got to spend more time with him in his “formative years!” Thank you Mother PONYA!

Steve Borelli:

Over a 37-year career at the Port Authority the one memory that is a constant are the numerous individuals that I got to know over those years. At that time, it was like a family and hence the phrase “Mother PONYA”. I went to a number of weddings, kids’ birthdays and get-togethers. Even today some of these relationships have

continued into retirement. The Port Authority afforded you the opportunity to work on projects that you may never have had a chance to do in the private sector. I was fortunate to work on a variety of projects ranging from the revitalization of the Port Authority Bus Terminal in the mid-Nineties, the sale of the World Trade Center, JetBlue Terminal 5, and the largest private investment deal at the Port Newark Container Terminal, to name a few. Where else could you get these opportunities?

Jacqueline Parker:

My career began as a “Pool Girl” — a secretary in training

who would fill in as needed until offered a permanent slot. I was interviewed by a woman, began working for a woman, and saw that many top-level positions were filled by women, so career ascension seemed natural. . . .



Continued next page

The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*

Soon I was promoted to Manager's secretary at the Bus Terminal. By then, I had enrolled at NYU and completed all the evening courses possible, so it was necessary to reverse my routine by working nights and attending classes during the day. The Port Authority not only paid for most of my tuition but worked with me to find the solution: working in the basement as an Information Agent.

After graduation, my first position was in the Special Services Division, where I presented lunchtime programs for employees, escorted dignitaries around the WTC (one of which gave me a chance to work in London's House of

Commons for a summer) and organized ceremonies large and small, including the Annual Medal Awards Ceremony. I was asked to create and manage a few projects to celebrate the 65th anniversary: a calendar dedicated to the history of the PA was a highlight and earned me a national award, as did the Birthday Party which was held on April 30. Cake was available to every employee that day, on all shifts, in all locations—even London and Tokyo! We also replicated a Veteran's Plaque that had been in the PAB—I told my team that long after we were gone, that plaque would still be on the 44th floor of the WTC. Little did I imagine. . .

Nancy Irons:

I was hired as part of the first group of civilian women toll collectors for Staten Island. There were several weeks of training, yes weeks! The training was more of an etiquette class than having anything to do with collecting tolls. We were taught to walk properly, dress properly—with white gloves, skirts, makeup, perfume, high-heels, and even told to wear the right jewelry. They taught us how to stand properly and made us practice; standing was required for our eight-hour shifts.

Us women from those early years walked the picket line for pay and benefits, filled the board meetings in the World Trade Center with raucous



The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*



protesting, fought for our rights to maintain our jobs when we were married and had children (I was the first to get married and have children while working) and we became a close group.

and a policy of promoting from within that enabled me to join the Airport Operations field. I spent the first 13 years of my very successful aviation career starting as an Airport Operations Agent. Thanks to my training experiences, and

were all PA airport employees. Through the course of my career, I came to know how widely respected and admired the PA was! People from the PA had a very positive influence in aviation in places like Tucson, Milwaukee, Denver, Louisville,



Ronald A. Fano:

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to one of the greatest organizations in the world! I was fortunate enough to start my career in the PA in 1964. I entered as a Building and Grounds Attendant at the Bus Terminal on 41st St. and 8th avenue. The PA had training courses, competitive exams,

a policy that let people learn, grow, and advance, I became Assistant Airport Operations Manager/ Terminal Manager working at both LaGuardia and Kennedy airports. Thanks to my PA career, I secured a position in Denver as Airport Operations Manager, a position I held for 19 years before I retired. There were 105 applicants for this position and the 3 finalists

San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco/Oakland, Dallas, and Saudi Arabia to name a few. Quite an accomplishment!

Frank Spinazzola:

I was a Senior Construction Inspector for 33 years (1956-1989). After I retired, my oldest daughter sent her youngest

Continued next page



The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*

daughter to college for engineering. Now she works for a demolition firm taking down all the buildings I put up (LaGuardia Airport-Central Terminal Building). I keep telling her to knock it off, but from the age of 12 she has never done as told.

Ronnie Taste:

Like many other fellow employees, I met my lifelong partner at the Twin Towers. Lori and I have been married for 33 years now — so just that alone was worth my time at “Mother PONYA”.

In addition, I recall feeling being part of a second generation (if you will) whenever I spoke with older employees still there in the 80’s. As a North “Joisy” Boy, the infrastructure of NY/NJ had always been my passion, so I loved hearing stories about the first generation of employees.

Liz DeLaura:

Recently the Port Authority celebrated its 100th anniversary. I looked back and realized that between my dad (Fred Fevola) and I, we had 70 years of PA service. My dad served for 34 years, retiring in 1972, and I had a 36-year career, retiring in 1995. During that time, the PA offered many opportunities which I managed to take advantage of. Some of those opportunities included college tuition reimbursement, advancement, and complete career changes. I met people from many departments and have had the pleasure of long-lasting friendships formed over the years, some have lasted over 55 years...Mother PONYA was unique in that retirees did not abandon their PA roots and continued to maintain contact with those they worked with over the years. That is evident in the number of luncheons (pre-pandemic) that are available to retirees, both locally and in Florida.

Mary Anderson:

I started working for Port Authority in March 1965. One



The Port Authority Centennial: Retiree Stories



of the best decisions that I have ever made. At this time, I met my friends Doris Wells, Maxine Hill, Synetta Anderson, and many others. We all shared a wonderful professional work relationship and friendship. Our friendship has grown stronger over the years.

It has been a real pleasure and honor working for Port Authority. I started as a Toll Collector and held various positions. I retired as a Bus Terminal Information Customer Service employee. I left the agency with many wonderful memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Thanks for providing a beautiful and professional place of employment. I will always be thankful.

Donna Maxwell - Senior Toll Collector, GWB:

My supervisor and I were working in the afternoon (4X12 shift). We saw this truck pulling a trailer over in front of the toll house. We watched and waited for the driver to get out and come to the toll house. While waiting the trailer began to move back & forth, side to side. We couldn't imagine what in the world was going on. Finally, the driver came in and asked if we could fill a bucket he had with water. We said, of course, but, what did he need water for? He told us to watch. He went back to his trailer and opened a side door which was facing the toll house. Out came an elephant head with his trunk. It was a small elephant. I

guess the elephant was simply thirsty. I went out to get a closer look and was able to pet the elephant's trunk. He was very cute and tame. The driver said he was taking him to the circus at Madison Square Garden.

Joe SanSevero:

PARA's webmaster since he created and launched our website in 2006, Joe recounted highlights of his work to implement innovative technologies at the Lincoln Tunnel:

The project I liked best was putting a leaky cable on the Tunnel walls (A leaky cable is a coaxial cable that has small sections of its copper shielding



Continued next page



The Port Authority Centennial: *Retiree Stories*

stripped away to allow radio frequency (RF) signals to escape). We would then use a special carrier wave to transmit all the frequencies of local radio stations into this cable which would leak into the roadway. This is why you can listen to your radio in our tunnels. As part of this project, I went to every tall building near the entrance and exit of the Lincoln Tunnel and measured the power levels of every radio station so that no one could complain about their station not being heard.

Dennis Lombardi:

"Public Service Means Doing the Right Thing." When I joined the Port Authority in 1984, I thought I was going to work in the maritime industry and I didn't give a moment's thought to the public service aspect of the organization. Sure, I knew that the Port Authority was a public agency, but I focused on my job and didn't see the bigger picture.

It took me a few years to find my calling doing leasing and operations and to realize I was working for the people of the region, and we usually did the

"right thing," not only based on finances, but also to promote jobs, tonnage, and other regional benefits. I loved being one of the good guys and doing the "right thing."

As I became more senior and got exposed to high-level negotiations, doing the right thing became harder, but the Port Authority staff I worked alongside always had that same do the "right thing" attitude. As the Port Authority turns 100 this year, I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to work with the best public servants in the world's best public agency.



THANK YOU RETIREES!

PARA's call for members to submit recollections of their Port Authority years prompted many retirees and several surviving relatives to submit wonderful, heartfelt stories. A handful are excerpted elsewhere in this PANYNJ Centennial issue. A special section of the PARA website will include the full text of all the submittals (received by April 12, 2021) from the following:

Mary Anderson
Kurt Andreas
(by his widow, Deborah Andreas)
Jim Anselmi
Daljit S. Bais
Lawrence Biehler III
(by his widow, Ann Biehler)
Robert (Bob) Bisaccio
Peter Bitwinski
Steve Borelli
Alice Bowens
Loretta (Pisano) Brath
Marileen Brown
Charlotte R. Cason
George Connors
Philip S. Cottone
Eugene J Daly
Henry DeGeneste
Liz DeLaura
Matthew DeSanto
Sandra Dickerson
John DiMilia
Karen Eastman
Ronald D. Fano
Bill Foley

Dave Gallagher
Alfred Geddes
Joseph Gemellaro
(by his widow, Mrs. Joseph Gemellaro)
Lawrence "Larry" Genovese
Irving Georges
Michele Garone Gersten
Leon Goodman
Jeff Green
Cynthia Hadley-Bailey
Rich Hellenbrecht
Rae Ann Hoffmann
Dave Hood
Mayer Horn
Nancy (Ewancio) Irons
Daniel Karas
Arnold Katz
J. Joseph Kelly
(by his widow Carol Kelly)
Richard Kopps
L. Michael Krieger
Margaret (Pallotta) Larsen
Richard Lee
Nick Lieto
Robert (Bob) Lockhart

Dennis Lombardi
Frank Lombardi
Jeanne C. Majors
Maria Malone-Hodges
Karen Mandart
Carmen A. Marino*
(by his son Robert)
Joyce (Nilsen) Martinsen
Susan Massarella
Donna Maxwell
Louis J. Menno
Tina Nannarone
Tony Oliver
Waguhi Ouess
C.B. "Pat" Patterini
(by his widow Frances Treiber Patterini)
Jacqueline Parker
Robert Parsekian
Joe Pellicone
Mary Percival
Ken Philmus
Dave Phraner
Santo Piro
Gus Preschle
Bill Radinson

Don Reason
Connie Reynolds
Peter Rinaldi
Steven Romano
Juanita Salicrup
Prakash Samarth
Joe SanSevero
Mildred Schneider
Carl Selinger
Herb Somerwitz
Frank Spinnazzola
Paul Svane
Rita A. Sweeney
Thelma Kilayko Sy
Devidas Tahiliani
Ronnie Taste
Jerry Tobias
Lou Venech
Paul Volz
Hugh H. Welsh
Norma Wesley
Harmon M. Williams
Chester "Chet" Yaszczemski
(by his widow Pearl Yaszczemski)
Tony Zeoli

Digital Exhibits at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum launched online exhibits earlier this year, several of which feature the World Trade Center before September 11, 2001. These are organized within "World Trade Center History" on the museum's website: www.911memorial.org/learn/resources/digital-exhibitions.

There is a section about World Trade Center Facts and Figures, the bombing on February 26, 1993, and a collection of stories and photographs under "Life of the Towers." As you scan through these sections you will see some familiar scenes, read stories of the world community that came to work at the World Trade Center, see everyday activities and some extraordinary ones (e.g., Philippe Petit's astounding walk between the Towers), and glimpses of arts and artists in the public spaces.

And for a completely different sort of highwire achievement, there is the "History of Mohawk Ironworkers at the World Trade Center Site," which for almost every one of us is just plain improbable.

Exploring these digital exhibits expands what we know the 9/11 Museum is there to present: the history of the attacks on September 11, 2001. They bring to life a sense of what the World Trade Center was for many of us, and for so many people around the world.

Rae Ann Hoffmann

2021 Major Milestones

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Port Authority of NY & NJ will have passed its Centennial – a once-in-a-lifetime anniversary. In addition to the celebration on April 30th, the agency is planning exhibits and on-line events throughout the year.

This year, 2021, also marks another anniversary: the 20th year since the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. PARA's Fall newsletter will be arriving in your mailbox around mid-November, after this deeply sad marker has passed. We will have stories of remembrance in the newsletter, but we want you to look for announcements of special events that will be available for virtual participation. PARA will send eBulletins as information comes in, so please make sure you are subscribed to receive these. To subscribe, go to www.paranynj.org, which will take you to the home page, then scroll down to the sign-up for eBulletins.

Those We Have Lost (In Memoriam)

Christopher Steven Kucan	03/19/2018	Kurt P. Andreas	01/19/2021
John Francis Rooney	04/18/2020	John Spolidora	01/23/2021
Margorie E. Love	08/02/2020	Harry R. Fischer, Sr.	01/30/2021
Charles Brian Rouwendal	09/13/2020	James (Jim) T. Kelly	02/01/2021
Eduino L. Silva	10/04/2020	Jesse LaPenne	02/11/2021
Anthony Winston Griffith	10/05/2020	Albert M. Simon	02/14/2021
Robert M. Germeroth	11/10/2020	William F. Hoover	02/17/2021
Winifred Elizabeth Kiernan	11/12/2020	John Jeremiah Sullivan III	02/21/2021
Anthony M. Panariello	11/13/2020	Peter Basile	02/23/2021
John F. Callaghan	11/14/2020	Stephan D. Skiba	02/24/2021
William "Bill" Czirjak	11/17/2020	Michael X. Harrington	02/25/2021
Edward K. McCabe	11/17/2020	Gary Richard Benacchio	03/06/2021
William E. Doubraski	11/23/2020	Herman A. Marks	03/16/2021
Scott A. Orgonas	11/26/2020	Lee J. Morton, III	03/19/2021
Luciano Sanchez	11/27/2020	Alfred G. Harvey	03/22/2021
Terence J. Tomlinson	12/07/2020	Verl L. Slutz	03/25/2021
Carmen (Rick) R. Sorvillo	12/11/2020	Carl A. Brunel	04/01/2021
Donald J. Botbyl Jr.	12/15/2020	Eric C. Koehne	04/05/2021
Dean F. Kowalski	12/15/2020	Scott Calandra	04/07/2021
Marcel G. Myers	12/18/2020	George Azrak, Sr.	04/08/2021
Thomas R. Rush	12/19/2020	Richard U. Eserjose	04/08/2021
Anthony Brooks	12/22/2020	Lawrence Rand	04/08/2021
Schuyler Warmflash	12/17/2020	William R. (Bill) Mantani	04/09/2021
Frank Guerra	12/27/2020	Oscar Suros	04/09/2021
Rosario (Sal) Lauria	12/30/2020	Alexander S. Harvey	04/10/2021
Rosemarie V. Smith-Vincent	01/03/2021	Zadick S. Coffino	04/12/2021
Genevieve A. Paulhus	01/08/2021	John W. Russo	04/12/2021
Patricia A. Tredy	01/09/2021	Carole A. Margeson	04/20/2021
Luigi DiPiazza	01/12/2021	Arthur Zins	04/20/2021
Richard G. Lukas	01/18/2021		

Names of deceased include those who were reported to PARA as of 4/30/2021

You can get more information by going to the following links and then clicking on a specific person's name.

https://paranynj.org/Memoriam/2020/In_Memoriam_2020.htm

https://paranynj.org/Memoriam/In_Memoriam_Archive.htm

In addition to this listing, please remember in your thoughts and prayers those members of our retiree community and their families who have been afflicted with COVID-19 and, most especially, those whose lives have been taken as a result of this deadly disease.