



COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS REWARDED IN 2011 WITH  
THE MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

**Municipality of Olgiate Olona - Press release of June 26, 2021**

**62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the plane crash of June 26, 1959:  
message of Olgiate Olona Mayor**

As already happened in 2020, this year too we have regretfully decided not to meet physically to commemorate the plane crash of June 26, 1959. My affectionate greeting above all to the relatives of the victims and to all those who are used to attend the commemoration to keep the memory of this sad event alive, a disaster which struck our country 62 years ago, leaving an indelible mark in the collective memory of Olgiate Olona community that I represent.

I thank the organizers of the commemoration to whom my applause and appreciation always go for the passion and dedication in remembering our unfortunate brothers and sisters who were aboard the TWA aircraft and who ended their earthly existence in the sky of Olgiate Olona.

A special thought also goes to our students in the eighth grade and their teachers involved in the educational project in memory of the plane crash which this year - due to the restrictions imposed for the containment and prevention of the covid-19 emergency - unfortunately has not taken place.

Today I think it is right to remember also all the friends linked in different ways to the sad event of June 26, 1959, who passed away in the recent months, in particular our fellow citizen Giuseppe Cerana and Antonio Monti from Vergiate, eyewitnesses of the plane crash who took part in the rescue operations: their constant presence at the commemorations of these years, their emotion and their silences have taught us so much, and for this reason they will always have a special place in our hearts.

We have lived in an emergency for a year and a half. To date, we have not yet left behind one of the most difficult periods of recent decades, but we seem to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We look to the future with great hope!

The coronavirus pandemic has profoundly changed us, it has limited our social life and reminded us that we are vulnerable people, but at the same time it has also left us a great lesson that we must treasure: in the difficulty, it has made us understand that only all together, with the commitment of all and with unity of purpose, can we overcome obstacles that at first may seem insurmountable.

For me it is a great honor to be the first citizen of the people of Olgiate Olona: in this long period of pandemic, my fellow citizens have shown great civic sense and strong solidarity. The same solidarity that our grandparents had towards the relatives of the victims who rushed to Olgiate Olona in the days of the crash in that distant June 1959.

Solidarity is a feeling of brotherhood, of moral help between the people of a group, of a community, and the family of those who care about the memory of June 26 has no limits of time and space. Today, once again, it is solidarity that makes us feel close to all those who lost their loved ones in the plane crash of June 26, 1959.

Each of the seventy immortal lives has left a great void: our closeness to the families of the victims and our collective prayer can somehow fill that void with love and hope. This is my sincere wish on this day of remembrance.

**Dr. Giovanni Montano**  
Olgiate Olona Mayor