



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

Municipality of Olgiate Olona - Press release of June 27, 2022

**63rd anniversary of the plane crash of June 26, 1959:
commemorative speech of Olgiate Olona deputy mayor**

Thank you all for being here in front of the memorial monument of the plane crash of 1959. There we find again after two years without being able to carry out the public ceremony and one year without the educational project addressed to the students of *Beato Contardo Ferrini* school which I thank you very much: everyone, teachers and pupils. Special thanks go to all the students in the eighth grade who took part in the 12 editions of the project: over 1,200 young people involved to keep the memory alive. My affectionate greetings go to the families of the victims, many of them attended the ceremonies of the past and even today they are here with us.

These last two years have been difficult times of pandemic where the people of Olgiate Olona have shown fundamental characteristics: generosity, altruism and a big heart in helping others in difficulty. Me, that in this moment I'm representing our community, I am extremely proud of this as well as sentimentally moved. A big heart that our fathers proved to have in the tragic hours of the 1959 disaster: everyone took action to lend a hand, to contribute to the rescuing operations, dramatic operations to recompose the poor remains of the victims.

63 years ago, on June 26 at 5.33 pm, during a strong storm over the skies of Olgiate Olona, the Lockheed *Super Constellation* of the American company TWA, one of the most modern aircraft of the time, was hit by lightning which ignited the fuel vapours escaping from one of the tanks. An event as fatal as rare. The terrible crash of the plane killed 70 victims defined as *immortal lives* in the book dedicated to the disaster of Olgiate Olona. Precisely, these ceremonies make the event immortal and, above all, do make immortal the people who lost their lives here in Olgiate Olona, headed to Paris airport and then overseas to Chicago in the United States. Victims who remain immortal also thanks to the work of the organizers of the commemoration, thanks to Administrations who have succeed one another, and thanks to the students in the eighth grade with their meditations and their works.

Victims, names, souls who interrupted their lives here 63 years ago and left their loved ones: children, wives, brothers, sisters. Men and women who have not been able to complete their life path, who did not manage to become grandparents or fathers or mothers. And we are here to remember them, because it is an institutional duty, but also moral. Their lives, tragically broken 63 years ago, will be precisely immortal, thanks to generosity and faith of the people of Olgiate Olona.

Arch. **Paolo Maccabei**
Olgiate Olona deputy mayor